

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Certification scheme in the Congo basin

TO EFFECTIVELY combat deforestation and illegal timber trade, Pan African Forest Certification (PAFC) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), with the support of the International Tropical Timber Technical Association (ATIBT), are pursuing their commitment to sustainable management of African forests.

This commitment is now reflected in the implementation of a regional certification scheme in the Congo Basin, which reinforces the existing offer.

PAFC, PEFC and ATIBT, through the "Fair&Precious" programme, support the sustainable, ethical and legal tropical timber sector as a natural and renewable resource, by promoting it to importing countries. Through their actions, they aim to achieve a common goal: to enable the proper management of tropical forests and timber by enhancing the environmental, social, economic and technical benefits, but also to engage with countries that continue to fight hard against the illegal timber trade.

To best meet current needs and preserve the ecosystem and biodiversity for future generations, PAFC and its partners are implementing a regional certification scheme for sustainable exploitation that respects the environment, wildlife and local communities.



More than ever, the countries of the Congo Basin are mobilised to improve the management of their forests, to develop their wealth and in particular their "renewable gold", and to protect their fauna, flora and forests by avoiding any illegal timber trade.

Home to the second largest forest on the planet, the Congo Basin, which includes Cameroon, the Republic of Congo and Gabon, is treated in an exemplary manner by a number of local forestry companies, such as Precious Woods,

which are committed to preserving this unique ecosystem. PAFC is part of this vision and also wishes to contribute to the promotion of sustainable forest management certification, alongside PEFC and ATIBT.

The primary ambition of the PAFC Congo Basin system is to expand the supply of certified timber by offering a single regional PAFC certification system for sustainable forest management. Composed of several standards, guides, procedures and annexes

developed locally, based on the requirements of the PEFC Council and adapted to the environment of the sub-region, this regional PAFC certification system will provide numerous opportunities for all companies wishing to commit themselves.

For the CEMAC (Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa), forest certification is one of the main reforms to be carried out in order to successfully implement the strategy for the sustainable industrialisation of the timber sector in the Congo Basin. This issue was again raised at the meeting of CEMAC Ministers on 28th July 2020, who expressed the wish that this organisation would take an active part in the implementation of this regional approach to the development of PAFC certification systems.

In order to continue to curb the bad practices that sometimes persist in the forests of the Congo Basin, PAFC encourages all forestry and wood processing companies in the Congo Basin to become certified. A PAFC certificate attests to good forest management and the traceability of timber and forest products from sustainably managed forests in the Congo Basin.

PAFC
<https://pafc-certification.org/>
PEFC Council
www.pefc.org
ATIBT
www.atibt.org
www.fair-and-precious.org

