

Summary of the standard setting process with timetable

Sep 2022- Sep 2023: Review phase

As per the standard revision protocols, both of NCCF and PEFC, periodic review of Standard was initiated by NCCF on 5th August 2022. As part of the above, the public consultation was started on 7th August 2022 to 9th September 2022 to obtain feedback from all the stakeholders to identify gaps, if any, and corrective action thereof. The stakeholder list was mapped but no comments were received. Based on the desk review, no major changes were observed in the national and international context.

Timeline and Key Activities

October 2023 – March 2024: Initial Planning and Gap Analysis

- **19th October 2023**
1st TWG Meeting: Chaired by Mr. A.K. Varma, Chairman, the meeting focused on strategizing the implementation of the PEFC plan to ensure compliance with the EUDR.
- **18th March 2024**
2nd TWG Meeting: During this meeting, Mr. A.K. Varma, also a member of the PEFC SFM-EUDR Task Force, guided TWG members in conducting a gap analysis of the SFM standard to align it with the EUDR. Additionally, the first SDG meeting was scheduled.
- **19th March – 1st April 2024**
SFM-EUDR Compliance Gap Analysis: The team developed the SFM-EUDR Compliance Gap Analysis assessment document, identifying key areas where the standard needed revision.

April – May 2024: Draft Development and Initial Consultation

- **5th April 2024**
1st SDG Meeting: The SFM-EUDR Compliance Gap Analysis was presented to SDG members for initial feedback and guidance.
- **6th – 15th April 2024**
Incorporating Feedback: Based on the input from SDG members, the TWG team revised the initial draft of the standard, incorporating suggestions to better align with EUDR requirements.
- **16th April 2024**
Review by Chairman: The revised draft of the standard was sent to Mr. A.K. Varma, Chairman, for further review and feedback.

- **26th April 2024**
2nd SDG Meeting: A second SDG meeting was held to gather final comments on the revised draft of the standard.
- **29th – 30th April 2024**
Final Draft Preparation: Following the SDG's feedback, the final draft of the revised standard was formulated, incorporating the necessary adjustments.

May – July 2024: Public Consultation and Feedback Integration

- **2nd May 2024**
3rd TWG Meeting: The revised standard draft was reviewed and finalized by the TWG before moving forward with public consultation.
- **3rd May 2024**
Public Consultation Announcement: The draft of the revised standard was publicly announced on the PEFC website and sent to PEFC for formal public consultation.
- **6th May – 4th July 2024**
60-day Public Consultation: The revised standard was open for a 60-day public consultation period, allowing stakeholders to provide feedback and suggestions.
- **13th – 16th May 2024**
Invitations to the stakeholders sent via emails seeking their feedback on the enquiry draft. Additionally, during the 30th General Assembly, discussions were held with PEFC Council members and international stakeholders regarding the enquiry draft. Feedback was incorporated into the document.
- **5th – 12th July 2024**
Only one feedback was received during the public consultation, from Mr. Suneel Pandey, VP of ITC. The feedback was carefully analysed, and the Chairman provided the necessary justification. A detailed discussion of the comments will take place in the upcoming 3rd SDG meeting.
- **15th July 2024**
At the 4th TWG meeting, it was agreed to proceed with finalizing the draft that was completed after the 2nd SDG meeting.

As per the originally planned timeline, we had intended to conduct a 30-day public consultation on the new standard. However, since no comments were received during the 60-day public consultation, we did not proceed with the 30-day public consultation. Furthermore, during the General Assembly Meeting in Paris in May 2024, and following discussions between the NCCF team and Mr. Hubert on October 10, 2024, it was agreed that NCCF should wait for the outcomes of the PEFC General Assembly scheduled for November 2024, as well as any additional updates or notifications from PEFC, before submitting the revised SFM standard for endorsement. As a result, the submission was suspended until further update.

- **15th January 2025**

The process then resumed, and the 5th TWG meeting was scheduled for December 24, 2024, to review the checklist preparedness for the endorsement submission and few changes made in the draft standard.

- **4th February 2025:**

The **6th TWG Meeting** was held for the technical review and revision of the documents. Key technical aspects of the documents were reviewed, and necessary revisions were made to ensure compliance with the latest standards.

- **7th February 2025:**

The **3rd SDG Meeting** took place to finalize the revised standards and to officially initiate a **30-day public consultation period**. The objective was to gather stakeholder feedback and ensure the standards met the required expectations.

- **10th February – 15th March 2025:**

The **public consultation** was conducted over this period. Despite multiple outreach efforts through emails, LinkedIn, and the NCCF website, **no comments** were received from stakeholders during this time.

- **17th March 2025:**

The **CAG Meeting** was held to finalize changes related to the **Accreditation Process**. The agreed changes were incorporated into the **CB Requirements document** to ensure alignment with the latest decisions.

- **19th March 2025:**

The **7th TWG Meeting** was convened to discuss the outcomes of the public consultation and review the **major decisions** taken during the **CAG Meeting** held on **17th March**. The focus was on understanding the implications of the decisions and ensuring they were properly reflected in the documents.

In parallel, the **4th SDG Meeting** was conducted to review the changes made in the **CB Requirements document**, specifically in light of the decisions made during the **CAG Meeting**. This meeting served as a final review before moving forward with the endorsement process.

- **25th March 2025:**

A **Special GB Meeting** was held to review the final changes made to the documents. Following the review, the revised **SFM Scheme** was officially approved by the following **General Body Members**:

- Mr. Atul Bagai
- Mr. A.K. Srivastava
- Mr. Sachin
- Ms. Ritu
- Mr. Anil Jauhri
- Mr. Suneel Pandey