

FOREST CERTIFICATION AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

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In the context of the modern forestry paradigm it is important to ensure sustainable forest management. One effective way to ensure this is forest certification. Forest certification includes two main components: certification of the forest management system and certification of the product supply chain. During the first, the compliance of forestry with the ecological, social and economic requirements is evaluated, the second concerns the tracking system of wood and other products supply from certified forestry to the consumer through all stages of transformation of raw materials into finished products.

Forest certification is an integral part of the organization of forestry management, which is established in the Forest Code of Ukraine. Now in Ukraine, certification is carried out according to the FSC and PEFC systems [1, 2]. The most common and recognized forest certification scheme is the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) scheme. The FSC is an international non-profit organization that promotes responsible forest management. The general principles and criteria of forest management developed by FSC have been used to prepare the national standard for forest management system of Ukraine and are used by FSC-accredited organizations for forest certification.

The development of forest certification in Ukraine shows significant European integration processes taking place in our country's forestry. Ukraine has adopted the FSC national management system standard of forestry, effective from March 30, 2020 [3]. In Ukraine, as of July 23, 2023, more than 4.54 million hectares in 93 enterprises have been certified in accordance with FSC requirements [1]. As alternative the PEFC certification scheme has been developed in Ukraine by Association of the National Voluntary Forest Certification System. The acquired knowledge and experience should become a prerequisite for implementing the principles of sustainable forest management into practice.

References.

1. Forest Management Certification. URL: <https://ua.fsc.org/ua-uk/forest-management-certification>
2. PEFC-International URL: <https://www.pefc.org>
3. The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Ukraine. Forest Stewardship Standards (FSS) V(1-0). URL: <https://fsc.org/en/document-centre/documents/resource/428>