

DOUBLE CERTIFICATION FSC and PEFC – ESTIMATIONS FOR MID 2018

Briefing

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Several foresters in different parts of the world have chosen to use both FSC and PEFC certification for their forest management units to provide evidence for their sustainable forest management practices.

From a statistical point of view, this means that their respective certified forest area appears in both the PEFC as well as in the FSC statistics. This poses a challenge for the calculation for the total national certified area in several countries as well as for the calculation of the total global certified area, as adding up FSC and PEFC certified forest area leads to inflated figures.

In 2016 FSC and PEFC received a request of FAO, which is reporting to the UN on certification as part of the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, to provide data about double certification. PEFC and FSC then decided to jointly provide mutually agreed estimates for the total global certified area. The overview below is the third published. Earlier estimates were published for the end of 2016 and mid-2017.

By mid-2017 FSC reported a total certified area of 202 million hectares (mid 2017: 199) and PEFC of 308 million hectares (mid 2017: 304). In this period, double certification has increased from 71 million to 86 million ha, mainly due to increases in Brazil, Canada, Russian Federation and Sweden.

In terms of total global certified forest area in mid-2018, 424 million hectares were certified, a reduction of 7 million compared to mid-2017. While changes happened in many countries, the reason for this net-reduction can be found in Australia, where more than 15 million ha. of forests lost their certificates.

Currently, double certification exists in 32 countries (see table below).

Please note that the data provided only concerns forest area certified to FSC or a PEFC-endorsed system, and the below should be regarded as best possible estimates (*in the case of Canada, the 31 December 2017 data was used*). Please also note that in the case of Canada and the USA, the double certification data are a result of the operation of three schemes, two them endorsed by PEFC.

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Below agreed estimates for double certified forest area in mid-2018, and compared to agreed figures for mid-2017 by country (in hectares):

	Mid 2018	Mid 2017
Argentina	188.625	0
Australia	1.077.058	1.074.071
Belarus	8.036.556	8.023.853
Brazil	3.566.029	2.491.572
Canada	23.132.933	17.491.172
Chile	1.908.549	1.908.549
China	185.240	45.730
Czech Republic	51.792	50.751
Denmark	212.394	208.762
Estonia	1.126.015	1.063.407
Finland	1.581.434	1.281.799
France	51.594	24.612
Germany	972.369	895.682
Ireland	376.108	376.108
Italy	52.063	51.582
Japan	44.651	44.651
Latvia	844.106	843.928
Luxembourg	15.795	15.348
Malaysia	127.120	126.940
New Zealand	417.262	5.272
Norway	445.874	411.000
Poland	6.923.784	6.917.105
Portugal	243.548	249.782
Russian Federation	12.564.636	9.157.130
Slovak Republic	87.349	88.098
Slovenia	252.000	13.000
Spain	143.839	131.828
Sweden	11.200.000	7.200.000
Switzerland	240.386	208.949
United Kingdom	1.413.666	1.410.288
United States	8.782.900	8.819.910
Uruguay	391.134	488.142
TOTALS	86.656.810	71.067.491