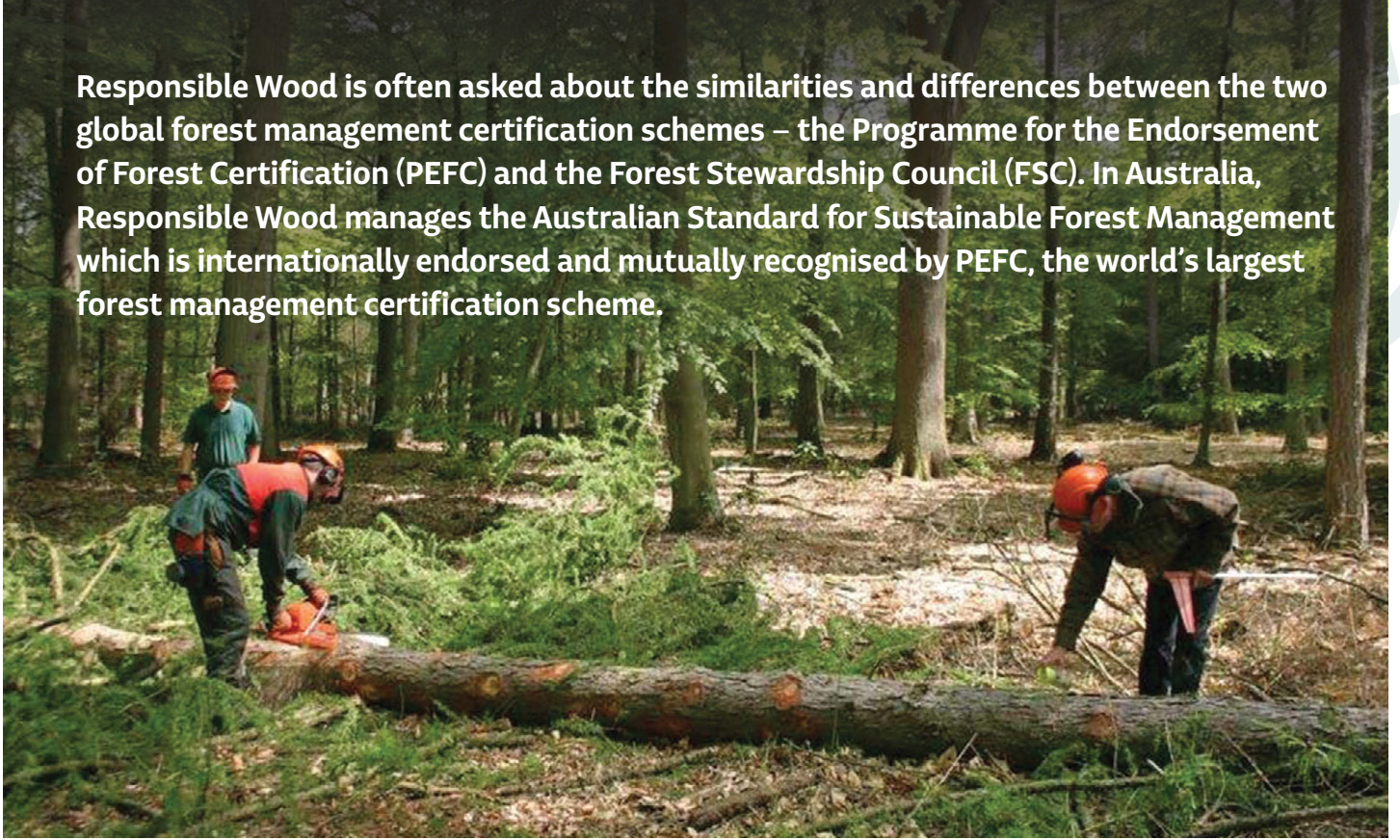


Responsible Forestry

Responsible Wood is often asked about the similarities and differences between the two global forest management certification schemes – the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). In Australia, Responsible Wood manages the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management which is internationally endorsed and mutually recognised by PEFC, the world's largest forest management certification scheme.



Worldwide, there are two internationally recognised systems for the certification of sustainable forest management and its supply chain – the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). For Australian forests and forest products, the PEFC certification is known as Responsible Wood, previously

Australian Forestry Standard and is the official Australian Standard for Forest Certification and Chain of Custody. Both PEFC and FSC claims are made on a wide range of products that use wood as a raw material: timber for the construction industry, energy and DIY sectors as well as paper and packaging products.

PEFC

PEFC is an alliance of national forestry standards – e.g. in Australia, Responsible Wood manages the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (AS 4708) and its Chain of Custody (AS 4707). PEFC was set up as an endorsement process, to assess independent national forestry management standards against internationally recognised criteria for sustainable forest management. PEFC bases its Sustainability Benchmarks on globally recognised principles, guidelines and criteria developed by international and inter-governmental bodies with broad consensus from interested stakeholders.

National certification systems seeking to obtain PEFC endorsement, must submit to a comprehensive and rigorous assessment process, including independent evaluation and public consultation.

A full and final report of this process is then made publicly available. National systems are required to review their schemes after a five year period. **PEFC uses internationally recognised requirements for certification and accreditation defined by the International Standardisation Organisation (ISO) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).**

Based on the recommendation of an independent consultant, the assessment, is submitted to the PEFC Board of Directors and the General Assembly for final endorsement.

