

PEFC Council International

Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes



ITTO International Workshop on phased approaches to certification
20th April 2005

Ben Gunneberg PEFC Council

Promoting Sustainable Forest Management
for more info: www.pefc.org

PEFC and the phased approach to certification



- **PEFC Today**



- **Issues to be considered**

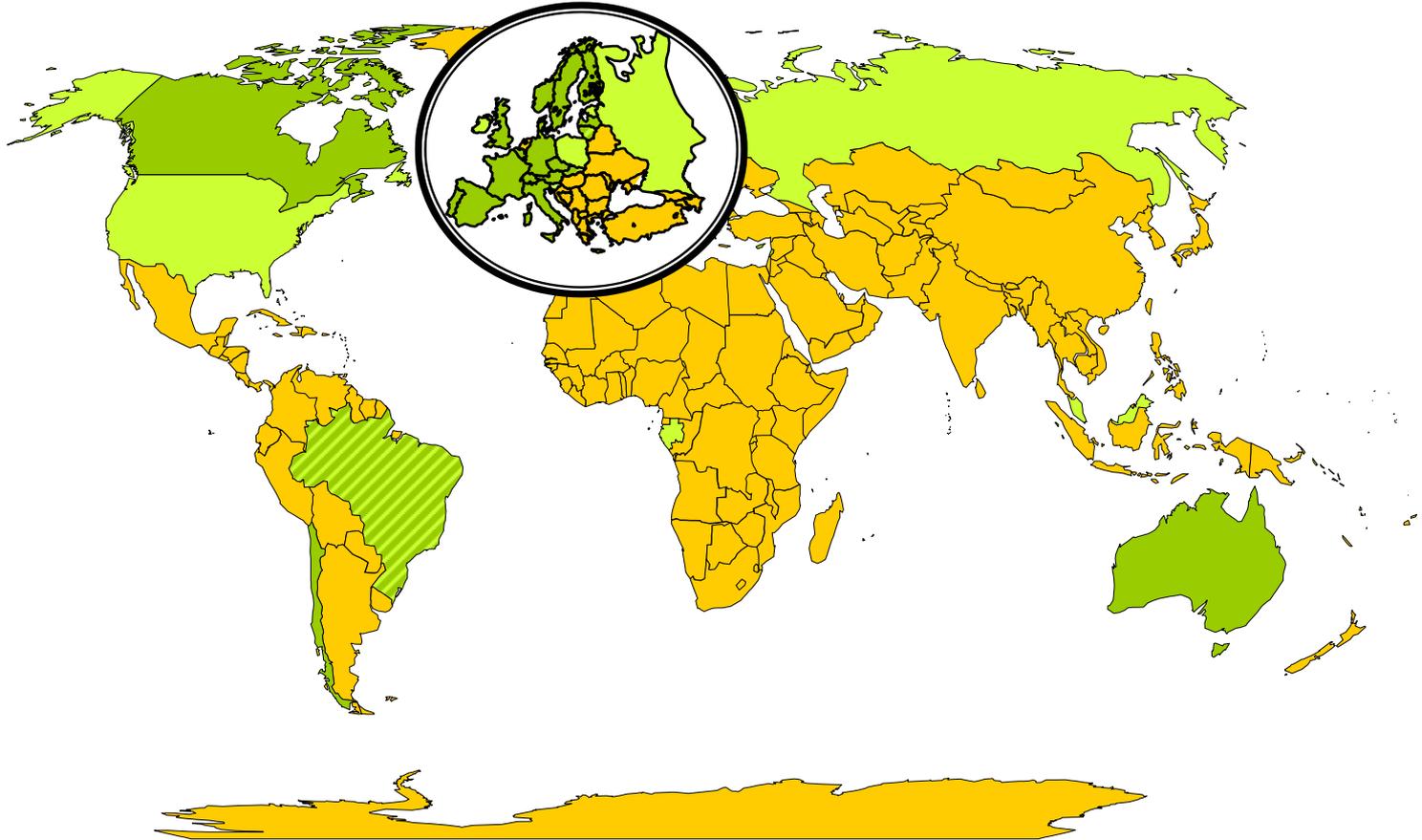


- **Conclusions and recommendations**

PEFC Council International today



PEFC Council International



**PEFC endorsed
schemes**

**PEFC members
undergoing endorsement**

**PEFC member schemes
not endorsed yet**



Members

The PEFC National
Governing Bodies are
the Members of the
PEFC Council



Extraordinary Members:

- CEI-Bois (Sawmilling and Panelboard Industry)
- CEPF (Woodland Owners)
- CEPI (Paper Industry)
- ELO(Landowners)
- ENFE (Forestry Contractors)
- FEBO (Timber Traders)
- FECOF (Community Forests)
- UEF (Forest Managers)
- USSE (Southern European Forest Owners)

General Assembly

The highest decision making
Forum

General Secretariat

Administration

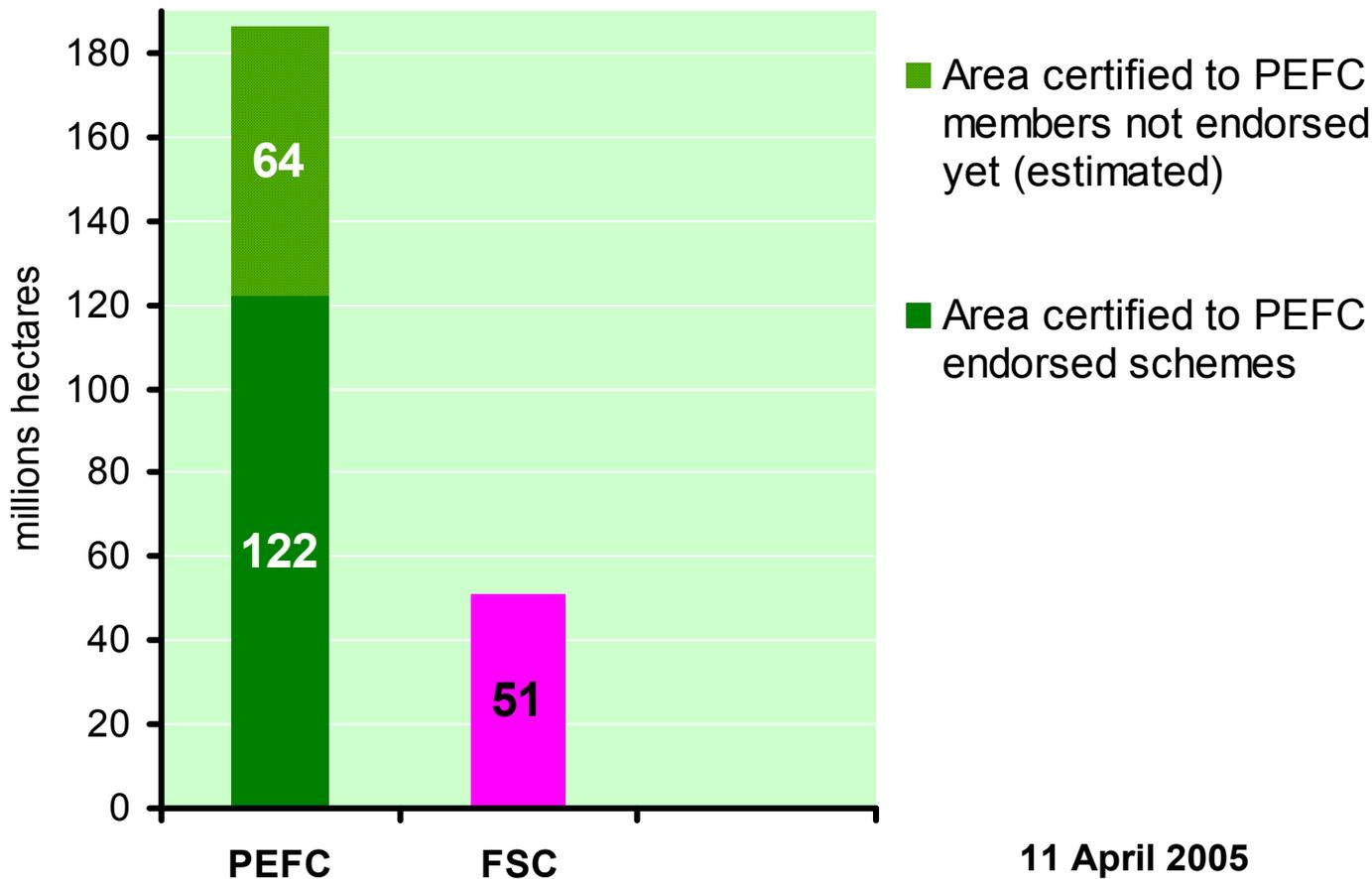
Board Of Directors

(3 + 10 Members)

18 schemes endorsed covering over 122 million hectares and more than 2000 C-o-C certificates

| PEFC / Countries | Endorsed certified forest area (ha) | Number of Chain of Custody certificates |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Australia | 1 092 678 | 1 |
| Austria | 3 924 000 | 272 |
| Belgium | 230 528 | 16 |
| Canada | 63 700 000 | 0 |
| Chile | 1 527 180 | 0 |
| Czech Republic | 1 935 228 | 198 |
| Denmark | 13 641 | 4 |
| Finland | 22 355 596 | 82 |
| France | 3 553 043 | 673 |
| Germany | 6 989 651 | 496 |
| Italy | 356 053 | 13 |
| Japan | 0 | 5 |
| Latvia | 31 364 | 14 |
| Netherlands | 0 | 2 |
| Norway | 9 231 700 | 5 |
| Portugal | 0 | 0 |
| Spain | 417 502 | 23 |
| Sweden | 6 412 149 | 58 |
| Switzerland | 316 850 | 157 |
| UK | 9 125 | 71 |
| Total | 122 096 291 | 2 090 |

Forest area certified against schemes associated with PEFC and FSC



11 April 2005

Issues to be considered



Issues to be considered

- **Costs**
- **Technical Barriers**
- **Phased what?**
- **Chain of Custody and communication**
- **Market acceptance and how to achieve it**

Why have a phased approach?

Costs ?

Phased approach can only alleviate cost problems in the short-term. There will be no cost reduction in certification costs (external or internal). Reduction in standard implementation costs are only short-term, until full compliance is required.

Technical barriers?

Any technical barriers for full implementation of standard have to be removed within the time provided by the phased approach.

Time?

Phased approach will provide time during which a producer can benefit from certification without bearing all costs and removing all technical barriers.

Phased approach will not remove the problems (costs and technical barriers) but will only provide time for their solution.

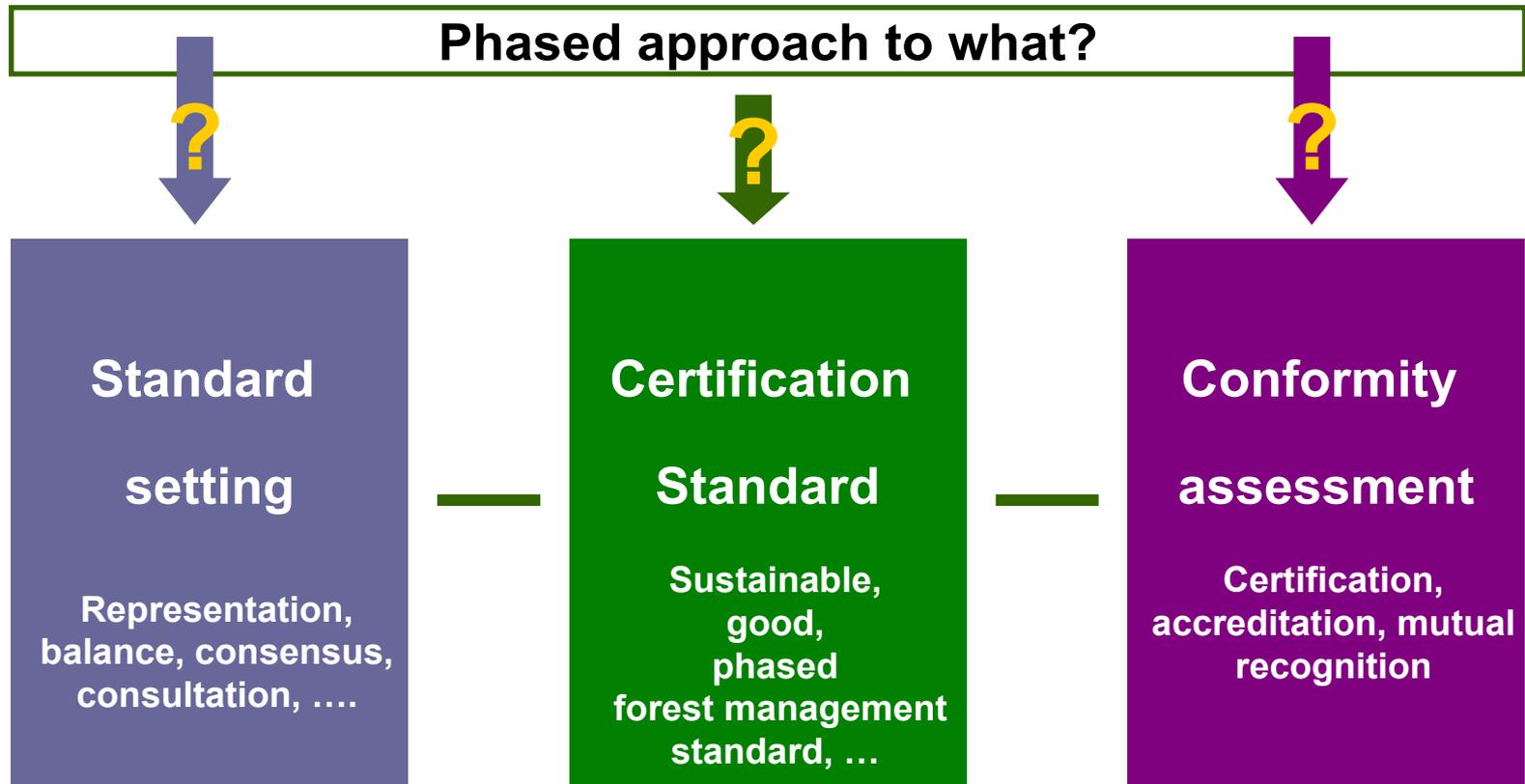
Is the phased approach new?

- **Costs, technical barriers and different level of performance amongst producers is not specific to the forestry sector or developing countries (there are many commonalities in other sectors and especially in environmental standards, e.g. ISO 14 001).**

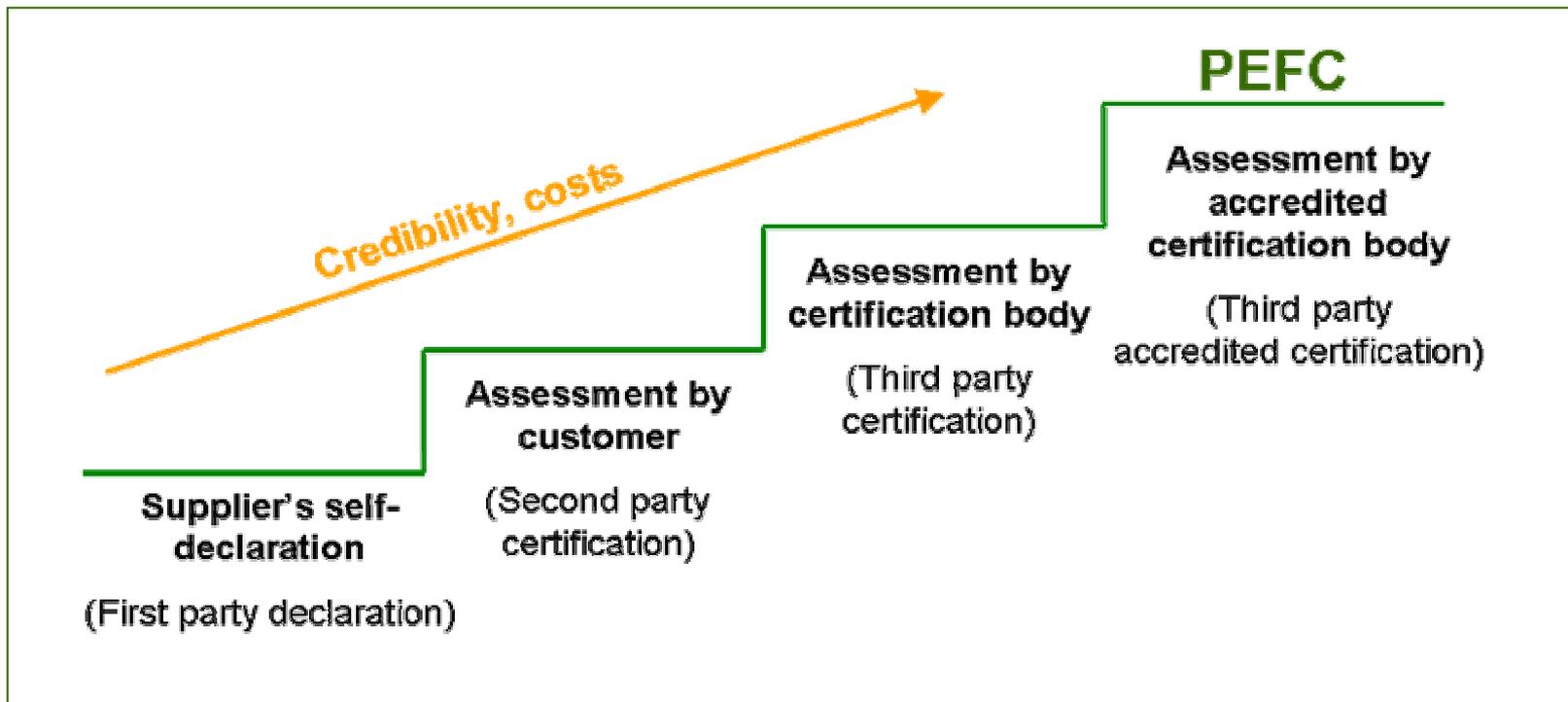
Do we need to re-invent the wheel?

- **A solution should be found within the internationally recognized framework for the “CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT”.**

What is needed in the conformity assessment?



Phased approach in conformity assessment



Are customers and consumers willing to accept any lower level than the **accredited third party certification**?

Phased approach in certification standards – What are the options ?

1. Management system requirements only (e.g. ISO 14001)

Each company's performance starts at a different level (legality is the minimum) but continuous improvement is the key requirement. This can be linked to an SFM standard

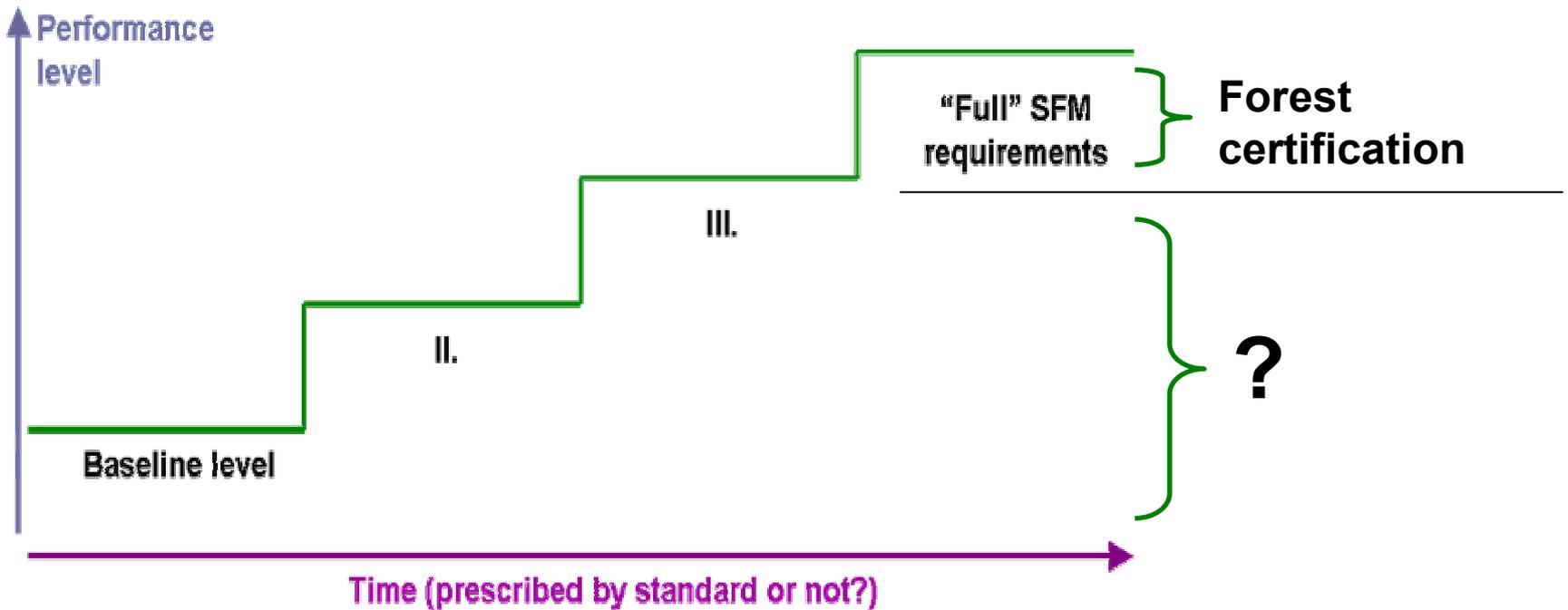
2. Phased approach in standards revision

Standard setting procedures also include periodic revision of standards (say every 5 years). Each revision could increase the performance level until an SFM standard has been reached

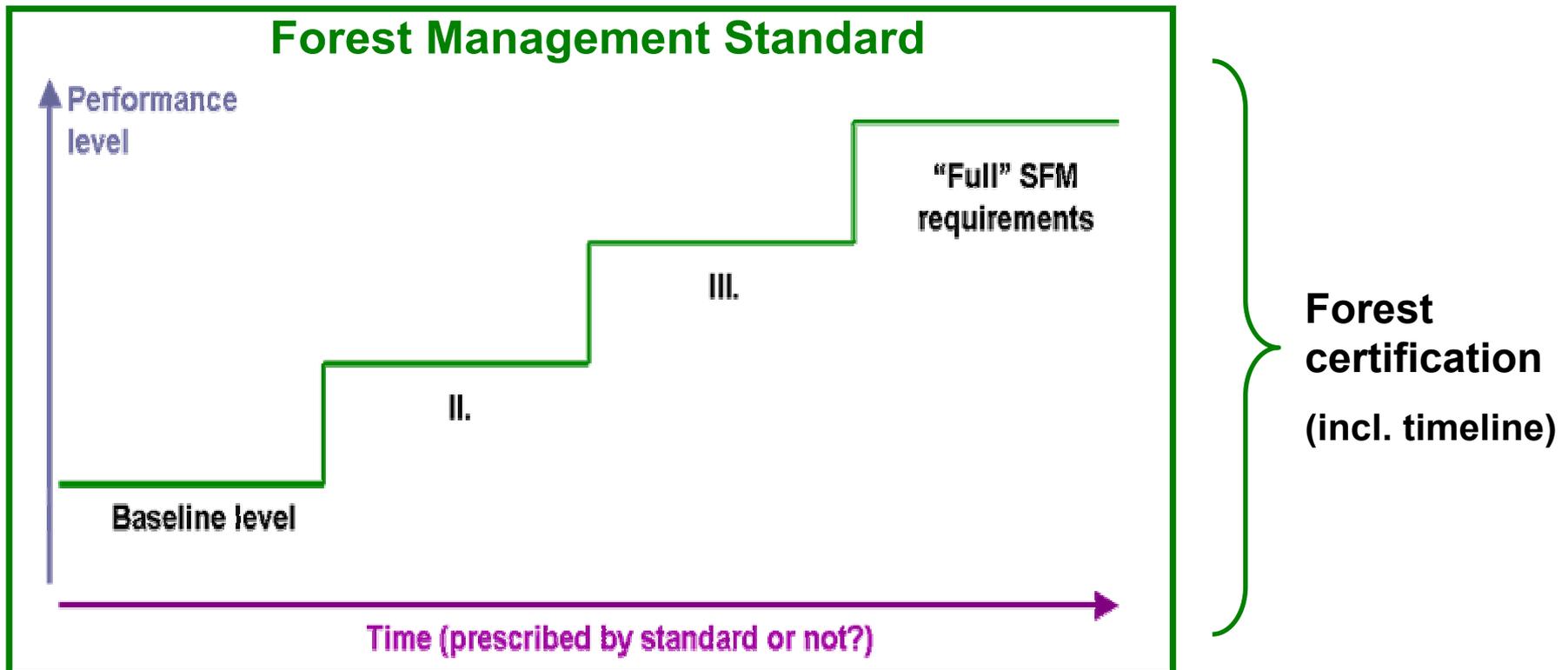
3. Phased approach in performance requirements

One standard including different levels of performance as well as timeline for meeting them.

Phased approach in certification standard



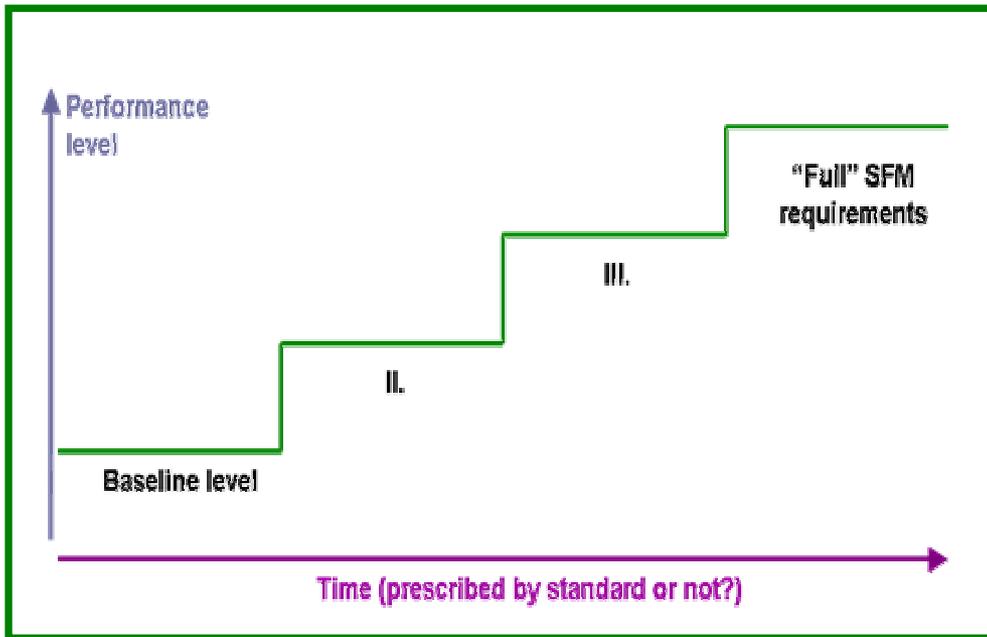
Phased approach within certification standard



Chain of custody, communication and market acceptance

- Differentiation between different steps could cause confusion on the market due to the proliferation of claims, logos or labels,
- Differentiation between different steps will require a separate chain of custody for each level and physical separation will be the only credible option.

Chain of custody, communication and market acceptance



What will be accepted by the customers?

- a) Individual steps? or
- b) Commitment to phased based standard?

If the latter is the case, is there a need to make a differentiation between the different steps as far as the chain of custody, communication and labeling is concerned? If the former is the case, differentiation will be required adding costs and possible confusion

Communication and market acceptance

As some customers, including governmental agencies, are currently reluctant to accept accredited third party certification with “full” SFM standards, how will they react to a lesser demanding phased approach?

- **Who will promote the acceptance of the phased approach on the market? (forest certification schemes, governments, ITTO, FAO, producers using phased approach, non-governmental organisations?)**
- **What are the advantages and risks for international forest certification schemes to incorporate the phased approach?**

Conclusions



Conclusions

- The phased approach will only be acceptable if key consumers and governments (especially government procurement policies) actively support the process.
- Credibility is paramount and so a phased approach with defined time limits within a full SFM standard delivered through third party accredited certification is the only credible option. Other options risk not being credible to most consumers.
- The cost benefits of the phased approach are still questionable as technical barriers and additional requirements for chain of custody, labelling and communication may need to be factored in.

Conclusions

- Certification systems can overcome the technical barriers and deliver if their efforts are actively supported by governments, key proponents and consumers.
- PEFC has started addressing the issue internally and, if demand and support can be demonstrated, can accommodate the phased approach as outlined, in its requirements for conformity assessment.
- PEFC is prepared and willing to work with ITTO and others to make the phased approach for tropical forests a reality.

Thank you for your attention

For more information see our
website www.pefc.org and
subscribe to the regular PEFC
Council Newsletter



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