

Brazil develops national C&I

The development of criteria and indicators has advanced the cause of certification in the country

by
Marcelo Schmid¹
and
Steven Johnson²

¹ABIMCI

schmid@abimci.com.br

²ITTO Secretariat

SINCE the mid 1990s ITTO has funded over 20 projects throughout the tropics to foster the adoption and implementation of criteria and indicators (C&I) for sustainable tropical forest management. In 2002, one of these projects (PD 140/02 REV. 2 (M)) commenced in Brazil to develop a set of C&I applicable to forest management units in the country's natural tropical forests. These C&I were intended to complement a set for plantation forests being used by the national forest certification body CERFLOR to certify timber from Brazil's plantations as sustainably managed. The project was implemented by the Brazilian Association of Solid Wood Manufacturers (ABIMCI) with the support of various government agencies.

The resulting Brazilian C&I for natural tropical forest management were developed using the ITTO *Criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of natural tropical forests* as a framework. Their development took into account the opinion of a large number of forest-management-related professionals and institutions, primarily through four C&I discussion workshops held in 2004–05 in the main Brazilian Amazon states of Pará, Mato Grosso, Acre and Amazonas. The workshops were attended by a total of over 200 people, including all main target beneficiaries, such as forest owners, the tropical timber industry, and federal and state government institutions (see Figure 1).

The dissemination of the national standard will continue given the interest of several companies in the CERFLOR certification scheme and the wide dissemination of the manual for the application of the national standard. It is expected that CERFLOR will certify its first natural forest area in 2006.

In addition to the discussion process the C&I were subjected to two stages of field tests: a preliminary stage carried out during the period in which the C&I were being discussed, and a final stage after the consultative process was complete.

After the completion of the four workshops and the field tests the C&I were made available for public consultation



Introducing C&I: foresters receive field-training on the C&I manual. Photo M. Schmid

for a period of 40 days. The C&I development process took place under the rules of ABNT (the Brazilian organisation for technical standards) and with the input of the National Institute of Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality (INMETRO); when finalised they were adopted as the national standard ABNT NBR 15789, thereby completing the set of CERFLOR standards which comprise the National Program of Forest Certification.

Benefits for CERFLOR

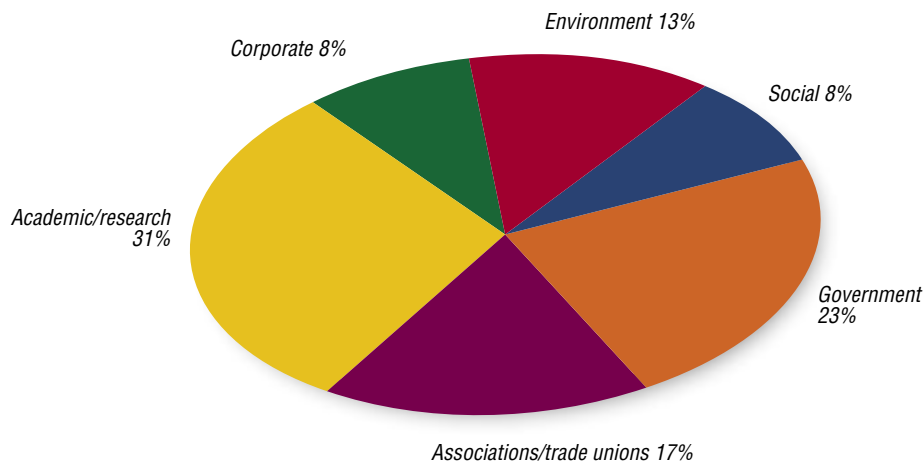
The project supported the participation of a large number of stakeholders in the development of the C&I; this also assisted the development and acceptance of CERFLOR. Without the support given by ITTO the national standard for natural forest management would remain unfinished, slowing the development of the CERFLOR program and its international recognition. Now CERFLOR is a complete system to improve forest practices, complementing national efforts for the sustainable management of natural and planted forests. The National Forest Management Standard has been widely disseminated within the Brazilian forest sector and some companies are starting to prepare their operations aiming to attain forest certification in accordance with the CERFLOR standard.

Tools for uptake

The project also developed tools to further facilitate the uptake of the C&I. The first of these was a manual for their application. A draft version was created based on the ITTO *Manual for the application of criteria and indicators* (ITTO Policy Development Series nos 9 and 10), ITTO's C&I reporting formats and the Brazilian national standard for plantations. This draft was studied and revised by

Representative

Figure 1: Participation of professionals by sector in the C&I discussion process



a working group composed of forest management experts, resulting in a preliminary version of the manual. This in turn was sent for review and inputs by an international consultant, Dr Markku Simula, and submitted to two field tests in different forest management areas to assess its applicability in the forest.

The results of the field tests and the findings and recommendations of Dr Simula were presented at a workshop attended by key invitees. Based on the discussions and recommendations of the workshop, a final version of the manual was prepared in Portuguese. This was translated into English and Spanish, edited and printed and is now being disseminated to relevant forest organisations and professionals.

With the success of this project in Brazil and the establishment of a new national standard based on the C&I available in Portuguese, Spanish and English, it is hoped that other countries in the region will be able to benefit from the project outputs in the development of their own forest management standards.

The final version of the C&I manual was used in four training courses conducted in three Amazon regions to prepare forest auditors for the assessment of natural forest management. These courses proved popular, with 119 professionals receiving training in the application of the C&I manual in field conditions and in auditing forest management units in accordance with the CERFLOR standards.

The dissemination of the national standard will continue given the interest of several companies in the CERFLOR certification scheme and the wide dissemination of the manual for the application of the national standard. It is expected that CERFLOR will certify its first natural forest in 2006.

Grant for partnership

Under its initiative to foster private-sector/civil-society partnerships, ITTO recently awarded a grant of US\$45 000 to support a partnership between ABIMCI and a private company, Indústria de Madeiras Manoa Ltda, located in the state of Rondônia in the western Amazon. Using this grant, technical assistance will be provided to forest managers to enable them to implement sustainable forest management (SFM) in forests owned by Indústria de Madeiras Manoa, with the ultimate aim of obtaining certification for the forests.

The partnership will make use of and help validate the tools and documents developed under ITTO PROJECT PD 140/02.

Lessons learned

The private sector in Brazil faces many difficulties in implementing SFM, including problems related to the bureaucracy of governmental organisations, the misinterpretation of laws, land-use conflicts, and NGO pressure. Nevertheless, advances are being made. The

following lessons learned in implementing ITTO PROJECT PD 140/02 should be considered in any future ITTO actions in the country:

- the characteristics of the national forest sector need to be taken into account, particularly the slow evolution of mechanisms governing the development and use of natural resources, disputes over land occupation (invasions, document adulteration, new settlements, etc), and the lack of capacity within governmental organisations responsible for control and regulation;
- the choice of an experienced project team, with knowledge of all the technical, administrative and political aspects related to the management of tropical forests; and
- the need to establish partnerships involving key private companies seriously concerned with technical and economic aspects of forest management.

ITTO has had substantial success in promoting the implementation of C&I in many countries. With the success of this project in Brazil and the establishment of a new national standard based on the C&I available in Portuguese, Spanish and English, it is hoped that other countries in the region will be able to benefit from the project outputs in the development of their own forest management standards. This project will thereby help to promote synergies between governments, the private sector and other organisations promoting C&I and SFM in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Copies of the Brazilian C&I and accompanying national standard are available on request from ABIMCI through the first-named author.