

ITTO International Workshop on Phased Approaches to Certification



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19th April 2005

IFIA



- More than 300 enterprises
- More than 100 000 employees
- More than 30 million hectares



Certification

a) Situation in Africa

a1) Different systems :

✓ ISO14001

✓ Keurhout

✓ PAFC

✓ FSC

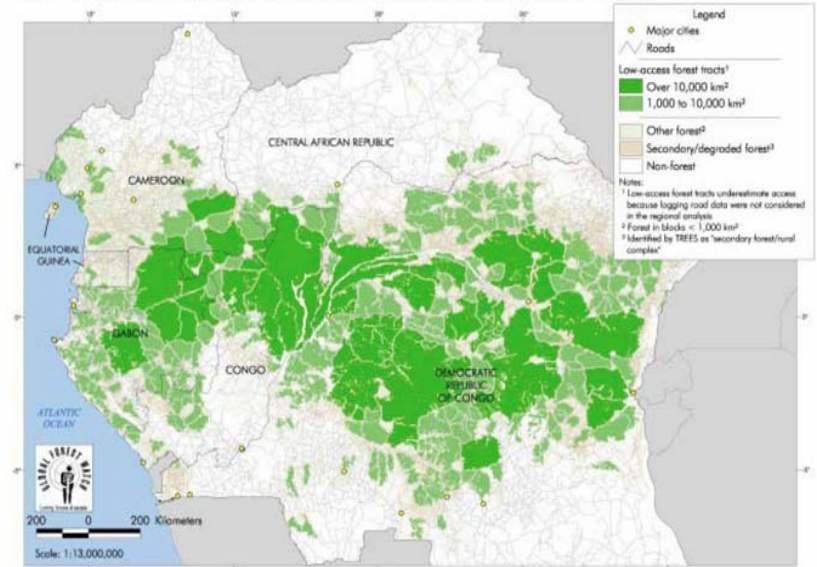




Certification

a) Situation in Africa


MAP 1 Coarse-Scale Estimation of Central Africa's Low-Access Forest Tracts



Sources: Forest cover from TREES (IC Joint Research Centre), 2000. Roads data from CARPE/WRI, National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) VMAP Level 0, WWF, and GFW. Cities data from ESR. Country boundaries from National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) VMAP Level 0.

AN ANALYSIS OF ACCESS INTO CENTRAL AFRICA'S RAINFORESTS

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A2) Surfaces certified :  **3.000.000 hect in Gabon**

 **5 millions hect under management plan in RCA, Cameroon, Gabon, Congo**

Certification

b) Is it the right tool ?

b1) A tool for marketing ?



Certification

b) Is it the right tool ?



b2) A tool for the Forest ?

➡ **The percentage of markets not interested is increasing**

- Local
- Regional
- International



Certification



b) Is it the right tool ?

b3) After 10 years of campaigning what is the result ?



Certification

b) Is it the right tool ?

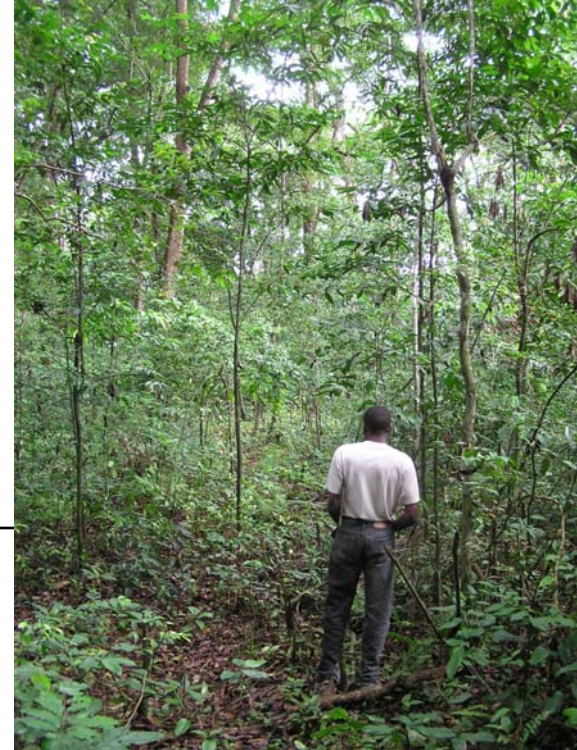
b4) Proposals

✓ Come back to the goal : SFM

✓ Help the small concessions

✓ Fiscal incentives

✓ Credit to promote investment



Conclusion :

Increase the demand and not ensure the supply is equivalent to a boycott



Thank you for your attention



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ITTO International Workshop on Phased Approaches to certification

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By J.J.Landrot, Secretary-Général

IFIA was founded in 1996 and brings together, through the trade and industry Associations, some 300 companies from Ivory Coast, Ghana, Cameroon, Central Africa, Gabon, Congo and Democratic Republic of Congo.

These companies employ directly over 100,000 people, and have indirectly helped to create an economic base for another million or more jobs

The forest sector is consequently helping to improve the quality of life and eradication of poverty for an estimated ten million people.

The concessions of the Members represent more than 30 millions hectares.

Certification :

A) Situation in Africa . Before talking about the principle and the efficiency of the system itself, I think it is important to report that 4 systems are currently operating, or on the way to work in Africa

1a) Systems already established and working in Africa:

- ISO 14001 (About 3 millions hectares)
- KEURHOUT (About the same area, because companies use both systems)

1b) Systems on the way to be established :

- PAFC based on ATO/ITTO PCI (The PAFC- Gabon is already recognised by PEFC)
- FSC (Some companies are already registered under the WWF Producer Group)

IFIA has no preference for one or another system but requests a mutual recognition and certainly not a war between the different systems.

2a) Surfaces under the management plan : about 5 millions hectares , in Central Africa, Cameroon, Gabon and Congo. Many of these plans have been deposited to the Administration and agreements are expected.

One must know that a 30 years planification is equivalent to a drastic reduction of the volume of production in the main species and consequently obliges a diversification of the forest, industry and trade production. This diversification needs very large and long investment and we will study later this big constraint to sustainable production.

B) Is Certification the right tool for African Forests ?

B1) A tool for marketing: It is now evident that Certification is renowned in Europe and North America and it is even a good marketing tool in the North part of Europe.

I would like to recall one of the tool's functions " to reassure the consumer that the product bought is coming from a good and sustainable managed forest"

But one of the limits of this market support is in the supposed links with the SFM : When you are requesting a retailer to sell exclusively certified wood products, he could be encouraged to replace wood products by other products without ecological request or obligation like metal or plastic.

I have the good example: The French-railways are now replacing Azobe sleepers by concrete sleepers because there is no FSC certified Azobe. The entire Azobe production is now exported to Middle-East or other markets which are not environmentally sensitive, and thus, we are loosing any chance of good influence on the SFM.

There is also a big discrimination in the requested levels of biodiversity between temperate and plantation forests and natural tropical forests. It is one of the big frustrations of the tropical

countries and one factor making tropical forest products non competitive. This fact is well-known but nobody protests. **Is it a way for helping developing countries ?**

B2) A tool for saving the Tropical forests ?

The other function of Certification is “ when you give the preference to a certified product, you are supporting the Sustainable Management of the forest where the product comes from.

The theory is good but is the function efficient ? It is the right question !

The theory would be good if...the influence is strong, and if...SFM in tropical countries could be implemented faster.

Unfortunately, there is a race between the share of increasing certification demand in limited markets and the share of increasing markets without certification demand.

Here, is the problem !

- In the majority of African countries the local market is increasing every year.
- Other markets, (regional or international like Far-East) are also increasing every year and still have very little or no interest in certified products.

Another point is the technical and financial barriers to the sustainable management of small concessions. It is not the place to develop this problem, neither to evoke the social apartheid created by this new discrimination between North and South, large and small operators. I can just say : **it is a concrete consequence that we have to solve urgently.**

B3) Today, and after 10 years of campaigning for Certification what are the concrete results on African forests ?

- I just spoke about a race. Effectively, there are two different races :
- The first one is between the chances for keeping sustainably managed forests and between the evolution of the semi-destruction of other forests.
- The second race is between the demand and the non interest for certified African wood products.
- unfortunately, year after year the part of the second players of both races (destroyed forests and markets without environmental interests) is increasing.

5 millions hectares with sustainable productions out of a total of 150 millions in the Congo Basin :

Is it a good performance ? Certainly not !

B4) Proposals :

B4a) Come back to the goal SFM, by direct actions in the field.

If the SFM is requested in the forest laws of all the African countries, application is very limited. The International community has to help the developing countries : Finances, (through the debts), training, and other direct help like financing the plans. (example :Central Africa Republic) , finance studies of secondary species, for processing low grades, etc...

B4b) Give concrete help to the small concessions : cooperatives, plan made by the administration before distribution, etc..

B4c) Fiscal incentives: The current fiscal system in Africa (taxes of superficies) and its very heavy weight, discourage the SFM.: African States and their Adviser/Donors have to study new systems.

B4d) Credit to promote investments : G8, CBFP (Congo Basin Forest Partnership) are studying how to cancel a part of the international debt of the African countries.

IFIA, in light of the fact that a credit-loan is impossible to obtain for a African timber company, proposes that a part of the debt will be sequestered as a guarantee for the African Banks offering loans for investments in the managing plan, in the added-value industry, in the training of the workers, etc... **IFIA feels that these credit incentives at low costs should be more efficient tools for SFM in developing countries, than Certification !**

C) Conclusion

As conclusion, I would like just to add that if Certification is a complimentary and commercial tool for giving a bonus (access and/or premium) to the product, it cannot be the main tool for promoting and improving SFM in tropical forests. Developing countries need a more direct and efficient tool.

And, last but not least :

**To increase the demand for certified products and
not ensure the supply is equivalent to a boycott !**