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# ITTO INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ■ PHASED APPROACHES TO CERTIFICATION

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19-21 April 2005, Bern, Switzerland

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- PAFC-Gabon, the opportunity for worldwide promotion of a pan african certification and its ATO/ITTO PCI

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President

# Context of the Gabonese forest

- 80 % of forest
- Within the Congo basin, the planet's second green lung
- Rich biodiversity and strong endemism
- Abundance of Okoumé
- A new forestry code
- Recent creation of 13 national parks (10% of the country's territory)



# Presentation of Gabon's PAFC Scheme

- Background to the PAFC approach
- Gabonese and International legislation
- Good forest management certification
- Traceability certification
- Procedures for certification and accreditation of auditing companies
- Process for the validation the Gabonese PAFC scheme
- Recognition by international systems



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- Historical background of the PAFC approach

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# ATO / ITTO-based regional certification

- ▪ ATO's initiative in the 1990s
- ▪ Collaboration with CIFOR
- ▪ Field tests
- ▪ Validation of ATO / ITTO regional PCIs in Kinshasa in July 2002



# DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL PCIs

- ▪ Taylor PCIs to local specificities
- ▪ Work of National Working Groups
- ▪ Validation stage



# Pan-African certification feasibility workshop

- ■ Libreville regional workshop, December 2002 :
  - ■ “Develop an umbrella system for national schemes;
    - PAFC defines and approves regulations on the development of national schemes;
  - ■ Accreditation is performed by existing independent bodies.
    - ■ Furthermore, the drafting of national standards comes within National Working Groups’ area of competence based on the ATO standard.”







**Libreville workshop – October 2004**



ORGANISATION  
PANAFRICAINNE DU BOIS

**CERTIFICATION FORESTIERE PANAFRICAINNE**  
**ATELIER REGIONAL DE RESTITUTION DE L'ETUDE**  
**DE FAISABILITE DU 05 AU 06 DECEMBRE 2002**  
**LIBREVILLE GABON**



COOPERATION FRANÇAISE



# Atelier de Libreville – October 2004





PAFC GABON, L'OPPORTUNITE D'UNE PROMOTION MONDIALE  
DE LA CERTIFICATION PROFESSIONNELLE PANAFRICAINNE ET DE SES PCI OAB/OIBT



# The recognition of ATO / ITTO PCIs by the PEFC Council

- ■ INDUFOR comparative study;



# Creation of a PAFC association in Gabon

- ■ Association registered in Gabon
- ■
- colleges :
  - ■ Owners and beneficiaries
  - ■ Professionals
  - ■ Social
  - ■ Environmental
- ■ Development of the national certification scheme



# Gabonese and international legislative framework



# The Gabonese legislative framework

- The Gabonese scheme is based on Gabon's legislative framework and takes account of :
  - The forestry code
  - The environmental code
  - The labour code





# International conventions

- ▪ The Gabonese scheme must ensure
- ▪ Conformity with the main conventions of the International Labour Organization
- ▪ Conformity with the main international conventions ratified by Gabon
- ▪ Conformity with major conventions not ratified or in the process of ratification whose mainstreaming into the scheme is deemed to be important



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# Certifications by PAFC Gabon

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- ▪ Certification of good forest management
- ▪ Traceability certification



# Certification of good forest management



# ■ Requirements of PAFC Gabon

- ▪ Conformity with national and international legislations (major conventions)
- ▪ Conformity with Gabon's ATO / ITTO PCIs
- ▪ ▪ Progressive implementation of the ISO management 14.001 system



# Candidates for certification

- Companies with a forest management licence
- Private individuals with a forest management permit (alone or jointly)
- Grouping of forest managers having formed a partnership for developing a joint management and certification plan
- Community forests



# Traceability certification



# Requirements of traceability certification

- Evidence of the monitoring of logs and processed products
- Establishment of a system for managing flows of products/produce from certified forests
- Mandatory for any licence holder wishing to take advantage of certification
- Mandatory for any industrialist, artisan, merchant wishing to sell products/produce from certified forests



# Certification and accreditation procedures





# Certification procedures


- ■ Certification procedures are based on ISO and PAFC requirements
- ■ Certification granted by an independent auditing company (third party certification)
- ■ Duration of certificate : 3 years with yearly controls




# ■ Accreditation process

- Auditing by auditing companies based on international standards
- Control of experts' qualification and competence





# Validation procedure of the Gabonese scheme



# Validation of the Gabonese scheme

- National consultation phase (PAFC Gabon – other stakeholders)
- Dialogue
- Refining the scheme
- National validation phase
- National expertise for the scheme
- Process of recognition by international systems

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# ■ Recognition of the PAFC by an international system

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# Recognition by the PEFC Council

- PAFC Gabon is a member of the PEFC Council
- PAFC Gabon is considering asking for its scheme to be recognized by the PEFC Council.



# Recognition by other systems

- PAFC Gabon remains open to recognition of its scheme by other international systems
- PAFC Gabon will favour a regional approach pursuant to ATO recommendations.





An aerial photograph of a dense forest. The majority of the trees are green, but several large, rounded trees in the middle ground are in full autumn foliage, displaying vibrant shades of orange, yellow, and red. The text "Thank you for your attention." is overlaid in white, serif font across the center of the image.

Thank you for your attention.