

ITTO INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON PHASED APPROACHES TO CERTIFICATION

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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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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

Historical background of the PAFC approach



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



Atelier de Libreville – October 2004





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

Certifications by PAFC Gabon

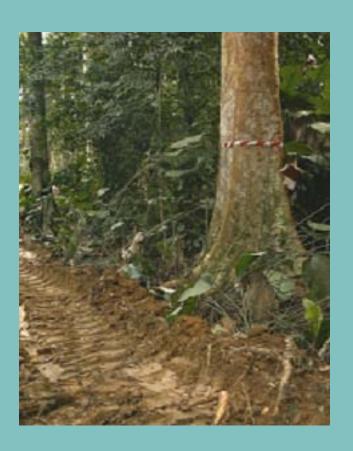
Certification of good forest management

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

Recognition of the PAFC by an international system



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.



