

# ITTO International Workshop on phased approaches to certification

Group 3

# Group Work

- Session 1
- 1. Each country may have simple cost-effective national standards taking into account the international standards and market requirements, for developing/implementing phased approaches to certification leading towards SFM.

- 2. Public procurement policies can facilitate market access by adopting the following conditions:
- -Every government should develop its own guidelines and thresholds for certification systems or documentary proofs of legality and SFM to meet their requirements.
- Ideally, there should be commonality between public procurement policies.
- Certification should not become a trade barrier.
- Should recognize phased approaches of producing countries.
  
- Alternative evidence could be third party verification or documentary evidence accepted by the governments of consumer countries.

- 3. There is a need to define a common understanding and minimum requirements for verification of legality and forest certification.
- It should be pursued by consultation between producing and consuming countries and take into account the different existing certification systems.

# Session 2

- 4.1. Entry requirements
  - Governments and other stakeholders support, understanding and commitment to SFM and adequate national legal framework.
  - Verification of legal compliance by any methodology proposed by certification systems
  - Consultation process with stakeholders
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- 4.2. Timeframe
  - Timeframe should be agreed by certification systems, producers and technical assistance organizations and groups of interest.

- 4.3. Chain of custody
- There should be adequate tracking systems to ensure legal timber and uncertified production in a phased approach
- Chain of custody has to take place in some part of the process

- 5. Legal origin:
- The forest owner/manager holds legal use rights to the forest
  
- Legal compliance:
- Compliance from both the forest management organization and any contractor with local and national laws and codes of practice including:
  - Forest Management
  - Environment
  - Labour and welfare
  - Health and safety
  
- (The group agreed to the definition from Proforest)
  
- First party verification is not acceptable
- Verification of legal origin as the baseline requirements could be through supportive documents under phased approaches to certification

- 6. Forest operations and industries have to make their own claims off product through certification bodies control and supervision.
- Target groups are: buyers, end users, retailers, governments, decision makers, NGO 's and forest owners.
- Means of communication: seminars, workshops, press releases, bulletin, web pages, publicity.



- 7. The main causes why certification schemes are reluctant to adopt phased approaches are:
  - Risk of undermining credibility of the system and logo in the marketplace.
  - Fear that those undergoing phased approaches will have market benefits equal to those with full certification.
  - High costs for implementation of phased approaches within the system. Ex:
    - consultation processes, field testing, technical advisory, etc

- These barriers could be removed through:
- Reduction of costs by using existing tools inside the systems. Ex: FSC controlled wood standard, group (umbrella) verification of phased approaches, training local auditors.
- Harmonizing and recognizing different phased approaches. Ex: WWF, Proforest, TFT.
- Market incentives for “transition” products.

