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Madera

Field testing of ATO/ITTO Principles, Criteria and Indicators drafted by the Technical Committee of the Liberian National Working Group

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Report

By

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1. Context

The African Timber Organisation (ATO) and the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) are currently implementing a joint regional project entitled "Promotion of Sustainable Management of African Forests". The ATO/ITTO project aims at promoting the sustainable management of African forests through the application and implementation of the ATO/ITTO Principles, Criteria and Indicators with the support and participation of all stakeholders.

During the ongoing phase II, the project launched the development of national PCI sets for Liberia, DRC and Nigeria based on the harmonised ATO/ITTO regional set. The national PCI set for Liberia was drafted by the Technical Committee (TC) of the National Working Group (NWG) of Liberia with the support of a regional consultant from Ghana. This set was reviewed and validated during a multi stakeholder meeting organized in Monrovia from March 30 to April 01, 2009. This draft set of C&I must be tested in the field before finalisation.

2. Field tests objectives

Assess whether developed indicators, sub-indicators and verifiers are:

- Relevant to the Liberian forestry context
- stakeholders use-friendly
- applicable

During a national workshop, submit field tests findings to stakeholders for comments amendments and validation.

3. Experts team

Formally a team of three experts have be designed by ATO /ITTO to conduct the exercise of field testing:

- a) An International Consultant, Team leader and coordinator of the tests
- b) A Regional consultant: facilitating the testing process and enhancing local expertise and
- c) A National consultant for the consideration of the Liberia forestry context

In request of the Forestry Departement Authority aiming capacity building in this field, more local experts joined the basic team as follows:

- d) 01 local expert on laws and regulations aspects
- e) 01 local expert on environmental aspects;
- f) 01 local expert on economical aspects and
- g) 01 local expert on social aspects.

3.1. International Consultant duties

Formally, the international consultant duties were to conduct the field test and finalize the Liberia set of Principles, Criteria and Indicators (PCI) for Sustainable Management of Liberian forests. Specifically, the International Consultant had to:

1. Review the provisional national PCI set drafted by the NWG,
2. Develop the checklists for the field tests,
3. Participate at the field test,
4. Contribute to the elaboration of the final version of the national set of PCIs in Liberia.
5. Prepare and submit an assignment completion report

In order to build more national capacities on PCI area et let the PCI document validate at the national level, a national workshop have been organized at the end of the field testing process. Its aiming the restitution, discussion, amendments of field testing results and the validation of the national ATO/ITTO PCIV. This took place January 20-21, 2010.

3.2. Duties of the other experts

- The Regional Consultant had to insure that the final PCIV document is coherent with the regional vision.
- The national consultant had to insure that national vision and realities are taken in consideration within the final PCI document.
- Local Expert on laws and regulations aspects had to test the relevance and applicability of indicators and Verifiers of P1,2,3,& 4 regarding laws and regulations in force in Liberia.
- Local Expert on economical aspects had to test the relevance and applicability of indicators, sub-indicators and verifiers of P1&2 focusing on technical and economical aspects (harvesting, road and infrastructures constructions, sylviculture,...).
- Local Expert on social aspects had to test the relevance and applicability of indicators L'expert national sub-indicators and verifiers of P4 focusing on forest workers and local communities rights.
- Local expert on environmental aspects had to test the relevance and applicability of indicators L'expert national sub-indicators and verifiers of P4 focusing on forest workers and local communities rights

4. Methodology

The methodology adopted for this field testing could be broken down in 05 main steps (fig.1):

1. Step1. Revision of the Liberia set of ATO/ITTO PCI in comparison with to the regional set
2. Step2 Training of Liberian local experts on PCI field testing.
3. Step3. Field testing exercise
4. Step4. Data Analysis
5. Step5. Restitution workshop

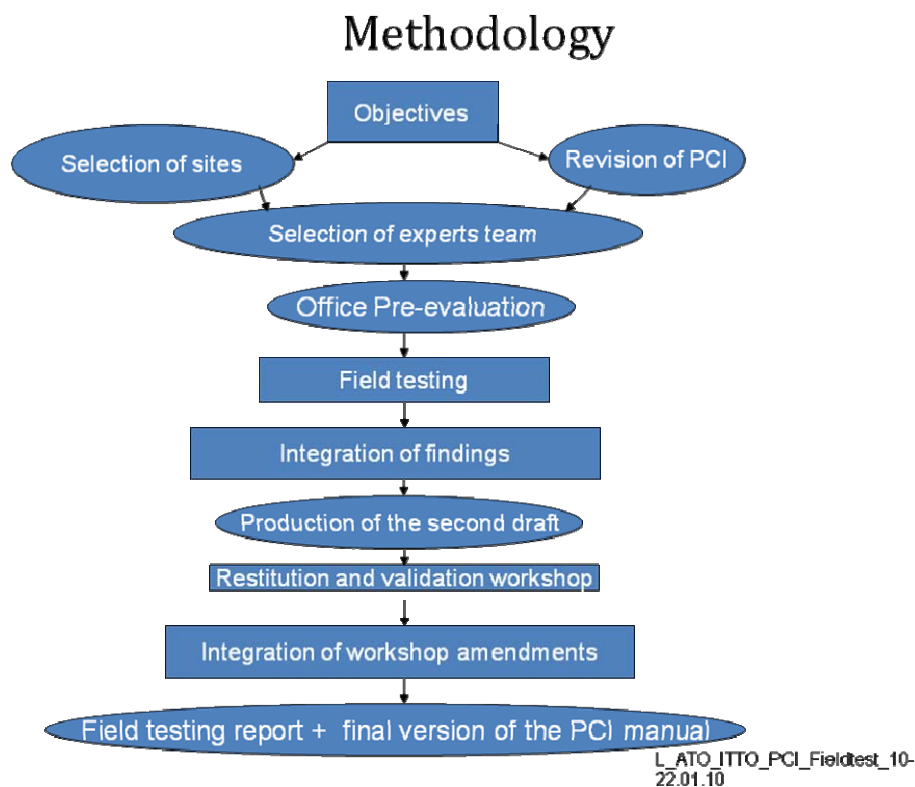


Figure1. General PCI field testing methodology

4.1. Step1 Revision of the Liberian national set of ATO/ITTO PCI

The Liberian national set of ATO/ITTO PCI was revised by comparing it with the regional set of ATO/ITTO standard as saved in table I below.

Levels	Sets	Principles	Criteria	Indicators	Sub-indicators
National	ATO/ITTO	1	5	33	44
	Liberia	1	5	32	46
FMU	ATO/ITTO	3	15	56	140
	Liberia	3	15	57	140

According to these results, The TC of the Liberian NWG added 1 indicator and 2 sub-indicators to the original regional ATO/ITTO set of PCIs

4.2. Step2 Training

Tuesday January 12, 2009 took place a one day training session on PCI field testing. A total of 12 experts were trained during this session (cf. Annex1). 02 slide presentations were made by Dr Marie Mbolo: a). PCI concept & b). PCI Field testing methodology.

The first presentation presentation was focused on the following items (cf. Annex7):

- What is PCI?
- Why PCI?
- Back ground of PCI development process
- What is:
 - a Principle?
 - a Criterion?
 - an Indicator?
 - a Verifier /Mean of Verification?
 - a Source of information?
- Who can use PCI?

In the second presentation, Dr Mbolo emphasized on the whole field testing methodology as summarized in the figure 1 below.

4.3. Step3. Field testing exercise

4.3.1 Field testing sites

For P1 FDA Interviews with FDA staff were conducted.

For P2, 3 & 4 the only forest FMU where logging activities were carried out at the moment of the field testing has been used as field testing sites: EJ&J forest management Unit with 57,262 ha. The EJ&J FMU is part of the Krahn natural forest (fig.2). It' located between County Rever Cees and the County Sinoe. EJ&J forest enterprise is managing the forest in a joint venture agreement with Malawasi company . The team also met the Euro Logging forest company and discussed with them Principle 2 Indicators and sub-indicators.



Figure2. Some aspects tested on the field: a): Felling techniques impacts; b): Impacts on soils; c) & d): CoC.

4.3.2 Stakeholders met by the field testing team

For the field testing exercise, meetings with several stakeholders involved in the sustainable management of forests in Liberia were organized. During these meetings data have been collected during interviews and discussion with the concerned stakeholders. It was done either as semi-structured interviews or as friendly discussion with the concerned party during a coffee party , under a "palaba tree" or in the forest understory (cf. front page)

The following stakeholders have been met by the experts team:

- Forest Department Authority staff at head office in Monrovia and regional office in Yarpa Township
- Forest related economical operators: the expert team discussed each indicator and sub-indicator of Principles 2 and 4 with the managing team of EJ&J/M.L.C consortium made up with Mr Fabricio Colombo, M.L.C. President, Mrs Ida Colombo M.L.C Vice President, Mr Giorgio Gallarotti EJ&J/M.L.C General manager and Mrs Shirley Y. Smith. EJ&J/L.M.C Personnel manager. This exercise was a very critical and important one; the managing team of a forest enterprise is the decision maker and until there's no willing from this team, PCI would never been implemented on the field. Once back to Monrovia, Indicators and sub-indicators from P2 have been tested through an interview session with Euro Logging personnel: Mr Anthony J. Taplash, Augustus Zwannah and Michael Wesseh Jusu.



Figure3. Forest workers at EJ&J FMU.

- Forest workers: during the field visit of activities carried out within the EJ&J FMU, forest workers have been met by the experts team. All indicators and sub-indicators related to Principle 3 have been tested through interviews with forest workers and field observations (fig3).
- Local communities: these were interviewed and their opinions on the PCI collected during the great meeting organized at Neeziun village, one of the villages affected by EJ&J logging operations. Indicators from Principle 1, 2,3 &4 have been tested while following the meeting attended by more than hundred people from villages affected by EJ&J activities.



Figure3. Data analysis at Yarpa Township

4.3.3 What has been tested?

For indicators and sub-indicators the following aspects were tested

- Does Indicator or Sub-indicator characterizes an aspect of the criterion?
- Is Indicator or Sub-indicator relevant related to criterion's objectives?
- Does the Indicator or Sub-indicator enables by is quantitative, qualitative or descriptive aspects to see or detect changes aimed by the criterion?
- Is Indicator or Sub-indicator explicit i.e the same interpretation by every one ?
- Is Indicator or Sub-indicator verifiable or not, ?
- Is Indicator or Sub-indicator well worded or not?
- Could one easily detect the Indicator or Sub-indicator?
- Could one easily measure the Indicator or Sub-indicator?

For verifiers/means of verification

- Is a verifier/mean of verification credible or not?
- Is a verifier/mean of verification relevant related to conditions that indicator or sub-indicator is seeking?
- Is verifier/mean of verification explicit i.e the same interpretation by every one?
- Is verifier/mean of verification accessible or not?
- Is verifier/mean of verification achievable or not?
- Is verifier/mean of verification comprehensible or not?

4.4. Step4. Data analysis

4.4.1 Data analysis

Analysis of data collected on the field was done using scoring for indicators and sub-indicators as follows (Table II):

- An Indicator or a Sub-Indicator that characterizes an aspect of the criterion i. Relevant related to criterion's objectives = 3 marks. If not = 0 mark
- An Indicator or a Sub-Indicator that enables by is quantitative, qualitative or descriptive aspects to see or detect changes aimed by the criterion = 2 marks. If not = 0 mark
- An Indicator or a Sub-Indicator that is explicit i.e the same interpretation by everybody = 1 mark. If not = 0 mark (rewording enabling the same interpretation)
- An Indicator or a Sub-Indicator that is verifiable = 1 mark. If not = 0 mark
- An Indicator or a Sub-Indicator that is well worded = 1 mark. If not = 0 mark or suggestion for the rewording
- An Indicator or a Sub-Indicator that is easily detectable = 1 mark. If not = 0 mark or a suggestion for the rewording is made to make it easy detectable
- An Indicator or a Sub-Indicator that is easily measurable = 1 mark. If not = 0 mark or a suggestion for the rewording is made to make it measurable.

Analysis of the verifiers testing was done as follows:

- A credible Verifier was maintained, a non credible one was removed
- A Verifier that was relevant in relation with conditions that an indicator or a sub-indicator is seeking was maintained. The one that didn't achieve this requirement was removed
- A Verifier that was explicit i.e had the same interpretation by every one was maintained. The one that didn't achieve this requirement was either removed or reworded in a way to have the same interpretation/understanding
- An accessible Verifier was maintained; a non accessible one was removed
- An achievable Verifier was maintained; a non achievable one was removed
- A comprehensible Verifier was maintained; a non comprehensible one was removed

Tablell. Data analysis sheet

Indicator/Sub-Indicator	Relevant Considering Criterion's objectives	Detect Changes	Explicit	Verifiable	well worded	easy detection	easy to measure	Total	Score	Comments
3.3.3										
3331	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	10	100%	
3332	3	0	1	1	1	1	1	8	80%	Does'nt detect changes
3333	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	10	100%	0
3334	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	10	100%	0
3335	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	10	100%	0
3336	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	10	100%	0
3337	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	10	100%	0
3338	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	10	100%	0
3.3.4										0
3341	3	0	1	1	1	1	1	8	80%	Does'nt detect changes
3342	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	10	100%	0
3343	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	10	100%	0
3334	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	10	100%	0

4.4.2 Obtained results

At the end of the field data analysis:

- Some Indicators, Sub-Indicators and Verifiers remained in their original state;
- Some Indicators, Sub-Indicators and Verifiers were removed from the PCI Liberia document;
- Some Indicators, Sub-Indicators and Verifiers have been reworded;
- New Indicators, Sub-Indicators and Verifiers have been developed.

These results are summarized in the tables II, III, IV and V.

4.5. Step5. Restitution workshop

January 21st, 2010 at Corona Hotel, Monrovia, was organized a workshop to present obtained results to relevant stakeholders. The workshop has been attended by 40 participants from the Forest Development Authority (FDA), The University of Liberia and Research Institutes, Forest industry and National NGOs (cf. Annex5, list of participants).

The workshop day was targeted to main objectives:

- train participants on PCI concept and field testing methodology enabling them to better understand the field testing results and therefore make efficient comments;
- present field testing results and collect participants comments and amendements (cf. Annex4, workshop agenda)

At the end of the day, both objectives have been efficiently achieved and the final results are found in Annex6 (Final version of Liberian ATO/ITTO Principles, Criteria, Indicators, Verifiers and Sources of Information). 03 sub-indicators from the original set were identified as non relevant and consequently removed from the national PCI set. These are:

Sub-indicator 2.2.4.2

Sanctions for non-compliance with the management prescriptions outlined in the concession contract are provided for when not specified by law

Why: **all sanctions are specified by laws in Liberia**

Sub-indicator 2.5.3.4

The quantities harvested are effectively marketed or consumed

Why: **Difficult to assess and monitor whether communities have marketed/consumed all harvested NTFP or not**

Sub-indicator 3.2.2.5

Pioneer and light-demanding tree species do not crowd out important forest-floor habitats

Why: **There're always pioneer light demanding trees species where the canopy has been opened**

One sub-indicator has been added:

Sub-indicator 4.4.4.1

The FMC holder develops school infrastructure for its workers families

5. Conclusion and recommendations

Field testing exercise in Liberia has been conducted effectively and efficiently. The final version of the national set of ATO/ITTO PCI is now available with figures highlighted in table III below.

Table III. Final statistics on final version of Liberian PCI compared to ATO/ITTO regional set.

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National	ATO/ITTO	1	5	33	44
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FMU	ATO/ITTO	3	15	56	140
	Liberia	3	15	57	138

The restitution workshop took place but was not efficiently attended by forest companies, local NGOs and representatives of local communities such as Community Base Organizations (CBOs) or Community Forest Development Committees (CFDC), grass root organization that will be using PCI on a daily basis. Another issue is the lack of close collaboration between ATO/ITTO focal Point and the Liberian National Working Group. For all these issues and many others, we recommend the following:

TO ATO/ITTO

1. Insure that a national workshop is organized that will validate and adopt the Liberian Set of PCI;
2. Support the vulgarization of the PCI manual;
3. Support trainings session on auditing with the adopted national set of PCI. These trainings session should involve all stakeholders.

TO the FDA

1. Insure the PCI manual is available for all stakeholders including grassroots organizations, national and International NGOs, all administrations involved in the sustainable management of Liberian forests and/or affected by this management
2. Insure that grassroots organizations, national and International NGOs, all administrations involved in the sustainable management of Liberian forests and/or affected by this management are trained on the use of the PCI manual.

TO Liberia NWG and ATO/ITTO focal point

1. Work in close collaboration for the success of the implementation of the national set of PCI on the field

TO the Technical Committee of the Liberia NWG

1. Complete precise verifiers related to laws and regulations. Eg: law/regulation number, date/year.

Annexes

Annex1. ToR of the International oconsultant Terms of Reference for the International consultant

Field test and Finalization of Liberia set of Principles, Criteria and Indicators (PCI) for the sustainable Management of forests in Liberia

The African Timber Organisation (ATO) and the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) are currently implementing a joint regional project entitled "Promotion of Sustainable Management of African Forests". The ATO/ITTO project aims at promoting the sustainable management of African forests through the application and implementation of the ATO/ITTO Principles, Criteria and Indicators with the support and participation of all stakeholders.

During the ongoing phase II, the project launched the development of national PCI sets for Liberia, DRC and Nigeria based on the harmonised ATO/ITTO regional set. The national PCI set for Liberia was drafted by the Technical Committee (TC) of the National Working Group (NWG) of Liberia with the support of a regional consultant from Ghana. This set was reviewed and validated during a multi stakeholder meeting organized in Monrovia from March 30 to April 01, 2009. This draft set of C&I must be tested in the field before finalisation.

Duties

The international consultant will conduct the field test and finalization of the Liberia set of Principles, Criteria and Indicators (PCI) for Sustainable Management of Liberia forests. He or she will be under the supervision of the ATO/ITTO Regional Coordinator and act as the chief consultant for a team of three consultants (the Regional Consultant, the National Consultant and the International Consultant). He will collaborate in the field with Liberia Focal Point of ATO/ITTO Project and the NWG.

Specifically, the International Consultant will:

1. Review the provisional national PCI set drafted by the NWG,
2. Develop the checklists for the field tests,
3. Participate at the field test,
4. Contribute to the elaboration of the final version of the national set of PCIs in Liberia.
5. Prepare and submit an assignment completion report

Duration of the assignment

The assignment will last one month and will be carried out from December 2009 till January 2010. It will take place in Liberia.

Annex2. Field testing provisional agenda

Activity1 : Review the provisional national PCI set drafted by the NWG

- Venue : Cameroon
- Duration : 2 weeks
- Period : **December 1st to 15th, 2009**

Task

1. Collect and prepare documents related to PCI field testing, in close collaboration with regional and international consultants
2. Send the prepared documents to the project coordinator

Activity2 : Develop the checklists for the field tests

- Venue : Cameroon
- Duration : 3 weeks
- Period : **December 16th , 2009 to January 9th, 2010**

Tasks

1. In close collaboration with the national consultant and the NWG in Liberia, choose field testing areas
2. Draft the methodology for field testing
3. Send the drafting methodology to the project coordinator

Activity3 : Field testing

- Venue : Liberia
- Duration : 2 weeks
- Period : **January 10th to 23rd, 2010**

Tasks

1. Conduct field testing in close collaboration with local experts, national and regional consultants
2. Integrate results of the field testing to the drafted standard as a contribution to the elaboration of the final version of the national set of PCIs in Liberia

Activité4 : Final reporting

- Venue : Cameroon
- Duration : 08 days
- Period : **January 24th to 31st, 2010**

Tasks

1. Report the whole process of the field testing
2. Send the final report to the project Coordinator

Annex3. Field testing final agenda

Testing ATO/ITTO PCI in Liberia January 10-22, 2010

Saturday 09/01/10 : Arrival of the Regional Consultant

Monday 11/01/10 :

- Arrival of the International Consultant
- Meeting with FDA Managing Director
- Meeting with the Technical committee members: drafting of the work plan

Tuesday 12/01/10 : Working session with national experts : training on testing methodology

Wednesday 13/01/10 :

- **Morning**: Testing P1 indicators
- **Afternoon**: Departure to the field Buchanan & Night in Buchanan

Thursday 14/01/10: Field testing of P2,3,4 on EJ&J FMU : forest operations, communities, field office

Friday 15/01/07 : Field testing of P2,3,4 on EJ&J FMU : forest operations, communities, field office (continue)

Saturday 16/01/10 :

- **Morning** : Departure to Neeziun village: meeting with local communities affected by EJ&J logging activities and field testing of indicators related to community rights and duties
- **Evening**: Back to Monrovia

Sunday 17/01/10 : Primary reporting: integration of field findings in the PCI document

Monday 18/01/10 :

- **Morning** : Testing P1 with other institutions: meeting with Euro Logging Staff
- **Afternoon** : Departure of the Regional Consultant

Tuesday 19/01/10 : Data analysis: integration of field results to the PCI document

Wednesday 20/01/10 : Data analysis: integration of field results to the PCI documents and workshop preparation

Thursday 21/01/10 : Workshop : training & restitution of field testing results

Friday 22/01/10 : Departure of the International Consultant

Annex4. Restitution workshop agenda

Restitution of Field test results *Corona Hotel, Thursday January 21, 2010*

Tentative Agenda

08:00 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 10:00	Official opening ceremony
10:00 – 10:30	Participants introduction and expectations
10:30 – 11:00	Plenary session: PCI concept by Dr Marie Mbolo
11:00 – 11:15	Plenary session: discussion
11:15 – 12:00	Working groups: development of Indicators & Verifiers adapted to Liberian context
12:30 – 13:00	Plenary session: restitution of working groups results
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 14:15	Plenary session: field testing methodology by Dr Marie Mbolo
14:15 – 14:30	Plenary session: discussion
14:30 – 16:30	Plenary session : field test results by local experts
16:30 – 17:00	Way forward : NWG & FDA

Annex5. List of participants at the restitution workshop

Annex6. Final version of the national ATO/ITTO PCI after field testing

