

FAO'S LATIN AMERICA FOREST COMMISSION (LACFC) AWARDS DISTINCTION OF EXCELLENCE IN SFM TO THE FOREST COMMUNITIES THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ITTO PRE-PROJECT PPD 138/07 Rev.1 (M): "VERIFYING THE LEGALITY OF TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS IN PERU"

In late 2010 the Latin America Forest Commission (LACFC) awarded the forest communities *Sawawo Hito 40*, *Nueva Shahuaya*, *El Dorado*, *Nueva Victoria*, *Santa Rosa y Flor de Chengari*, and the forest enterprise *Venao SRL* of Peru for excellence in the application of good practices of sustainable forest management, within the framework of the regional study of successful cases of SFM in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The forest enterprise and the communities participated in the execution of the ITTO pre-project *Verifying the legality of timber forest products in Peru [PPD 138/07 Rev.2 (M)]*, during the period July 2009 - December 2010 under the guidance of *Bosques Sociedad y Desarrollo*, the Executing Agency of the Project.

The pre-project tested several timber tracking and chain of custody technologies in the Peruvian Amazon in order to assess their effectiveness in local conditions, build trust of legality verification among buyers and suppliers, and create guidelines for its further implementation at the national level.

The pre-project followed and documented all timber legality processes from the inventory of timber concessions, harvesting, transportation, production of sawnwood, inspection at check-points, issuance of appropriate certificates (including CITES), and shipping to international markets.

The technology used in the pre-project included georeferencing of timber stands, use of satellite maps, electronic forest inventory, EPC bar codes, use of metallic/plastic plates and stickers with bar codes, radiofrequency tags, chain of custody software, and tablet computers.

The pre-project indicated that the investment in timber tracking increases the initial cost of forest management between 10-15% with a tendency to decrease from the second year. Nonetheless, the cost-benefit balance is positive as there is a significant increase in efficiency of forestry operations, reductions in the time for government approvals and issuance of certificates, increased opportunities for negotiation between buyers and suppliers, and better market access for timber produced using the tracking technology.

Further information is available at www.trazabilidadforestal.com