Capacity Building in Forest Certification

Experiences in Network Facilitation in Ghana, Kenya and Suriname
Joint EC-BMZ-DFID project 'inter-institutional development of training capacity in Forest Certification'.

- Executed by GTZ and IAC
- In 77 ACP countries
- 2000 – 2003
- E-survey on status of forest certification
Project strategy

- Change from technology transfer towards Capacity Building
- Demand-driven
- Integration into on-going national and sub-regional processes

Justification:
Diversity in local contexts
Ownership of the certification process by local stakeholders
Methodology

- Selection of core countries for capacity building

- Development of regional/national capacity building strategies

- Creation of information networks

- Appointment of focal point organisations to coordinate the implementation of the strategies (i.e. workshops, training activities, production of promotion material)
Experiences

- According the project document, FSC is the most pertinent scheme from a sustainable development perspective

- Ghana: possibly from FSC to ATO
- East Africa: no decision made yet, discussion not focused
- Suriname: no decision made yet
- Ready to use presentation material strong focus on FSC: of little use in situations where decision is not made yet
Can development projects serve as neutral catalysts in the promotion of forest certification in a specific country or region, as most donors have connections with one of the current forest certification schemes?
Network must be equipped with conflict resolution tools.

A simple information network structure is not always sufficient, especially in countries with a considerable timber export market and where interests of different stakes can be conflicting.
Ownership of the process by local stakeholders requires an openness to approaching certification from different perspectives without promoting one particular scheme.
Experiences
In all countries, the appointment of a focal point organisation asked for a lot of discussion. NWG’s were not established or active.

- Private sector would be logical choice for developing a market based tool
- Private sector was not enough represented in workshops (Ghana, Kenya)
- Changing role of state forest department from traditional leading role (control and law enforcement) into stakeholder role
- Consultancy firm or international NGO (Kenya)
- Training and research institute?
Subject 2. for debate

The network structure should have an initiating and leading organisation (focal point) with financial means and human capacity, which is able to guide a multi-stakeholder process such as forest certification.

The focal point is mandated by all stakeholder groups to fulfill this role.