Forest Certification and Communities:

Looking forward to the Next Decade

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Characteristics of Communities involved in Certification

- community-based forest enterprises
- community players in company-community ventures
- community partners in company-community ventures
- community stakeholders in public consultations
- communities employed as laborers in industrial forestry operations
- communities of indigenous peoples seeking recognition of land and resource rights in forests
## Progress in the FSC Certification of Communities (as of August 2002)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Extant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>517,208</td>
<td>(-300,000 than the originally reported area since new data counts only forested areas, not all the area covered by a forest community.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>245,353</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany&amp;Austria</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>22,594</td>
<td>(mainly city-town forests)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>220,185</td>
<td>(Three indigenous; Menominee and are listed as a private business by FSC data.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>88,084</td>
<td>(includes the Iisaak enterprise listed as a private business by FSC data)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,740</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>24,850</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,450</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(53,000)</td>
<td>0 (expected to recertify after initial 5-yr. period but not yet)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13,868</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14,800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4,310</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: FSC Information Site, [www.fsc-info.org](http://www.fsc-info.org), 30 August 2002
## Benefits of Certification

### Table 2: Benefits to Communities of Certification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples of Advantages to Communities of Certification</th>
<th>FSC Examples</th>
<th>ISO 14001 based schemes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improvement in certified communities creates a new standard in a country with many problems of poor management and raises the standard of private as well as community enterprises overall—shows new possibility</td>
<td>Bolivia, Mexico, Brazil, Sweden, Finland, Indonesia,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gives a legitimate vehicle to promote national dialogue on issues of forest tenure, worker equity, participation as concerned citizens in the allocation and management of public resources, community value systems, sustainability</td>
<td>Brazil, Canada, South Africa,</td>
<td>Canada, Sweden, Poland, Latvia, Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides a measure of good management that communities need to protect their access to a resource and freedom to manage it</td>
<td>Guatemala, Mexico, Bolivia, Brazil, lisaak</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides a measure than can be a proxy for loans, payment for ecosystem services, etc.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attracts donor financing</td>
<td>Mexico, Bolivia, Guatemala,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can reduce the illegality and poor practice in private sector competing with community enterprises for market</td>
<td>Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creates a possibility of a specialized market niche for community products in a competitive environment</td>
<td>naturally durable tropical timbers; natural long-fiber pine;</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Constraints to Community Certification

- cost of initial certification evaluations and annual auditing;
- cost of implementing recommended actions, either studies or silvicultural treatments, and documentation needs;
- subsidized by donors and governments;
- fragile community institutions—how to make them sustainable and strong?
- how much to capitalize enterprise initially in what markets?
- cannot deliver product quantity or quality
- increasingly competition with plantation wood
- smaller communities cannot comply with current procedures;
- complex forest management objectives not well met by all certification evaluations—landscape approach needed
Worker Employment and Safety

- Accomodations for collection of NTFP
- Bank of hours in Brazil--more stable benefits
- Safety gear and training/ medical supplies
- Attention to local employment
- Subcontracting of local people
- Recognition of traditional uses of forest
Cost of certification

• Initial 5 year period highest
• Recommended actions can be expensive
• What is the cost of organizational shifts -- money and cultural
• Market positioning may be poor
• Studies may require external expertise and community funds
Supply in Transition: 30 – 50% from plantations?

Average annual returns: 8-12%
Whose Standards?

- Conditioning Tenure on Certification in and Around Protected Areas?

- Conservation of Hcvfs; Species Management Based on Whose Standards?

- Tenure Rights Determined by What Documentation of Traditional Use?

- Enterprise Management and Participation Rules by Whose Standards?
The World of Forestry is Changing

- Russia: Conflicts over tenure and government authority
- Canada: Negotiating tenure and Changing forest practices
- Bolivia, Peru: Reforming forest policies
- South America: Recognizing indigenous rights
- PNG: Logging moratorium
- USA: Banning new roads and logging in public forests
- Cameroon: Recognizing illegal logging and reforming concession policy
A Doubling in Community Tenure in Last 15 Years: Double Again in the Next?

- Recognized Community Ownership
  - 1985: 143.3
  - 2001: 246.3
  - 2015: 480

- Reserved for Community Administration
  - 1985: 18.5
  - 2001: 131.4
  - 2015: 260

Already 3 x more than owned by individual and firms in developing countries.
Tenure in Transition: Ownership of the Forest Estate

- Administered by Government: 77
- Reserved for Community and Indigenous Groups: 12
- Community / Indigenous: 7
- Individual / Firm: 4

Total of 24 countries: 2,803.2
- Community / Indigenous: 246.3
- Individual / Firm: 443.0
Tenure in Transition: Ownership of the Forest Estate

Administered by Government: 55
Reserved for Community and Indigenous Groups: 11
Community / Indigenous: 12
Individual / Firm: 7
2015??: 4
% of Communities Certified

- **3.6 Billion Hectares in Worlds’ Forests**
- **377 Million managed by communities (10%)**
- **30 Million FSC Certified (1%)**
- **1.1 Million Communal FM certificates (0.03%)**

**Community Certification in 2**

- Ttl Communit Managed (377 Ha)
- Total Certified / Schemes (1081 Ha)
- Total FSC Communal (1.1 Ha)
- Other Forest Area (3.1 Bil Ha)
- Total FSC Non Communal (28 M Ha)
• 3.6 Billion Hectares of World's Forests
• 750 M. Ha Community Managed (22%)
• ?150-200 M. Ha FSC Certified (7%)
• ??5-10 M. Has. Comunal FM (0.5%)
Alternatives to Certification

- Certification of collectors or harvesters
- Fair trade standards or social standards
- Local or regional brands
- Group certification or modular certification
- Indigenous Peoples community standards
- CIFOR C&I
- Ethnical collection standards (NTFP)
Rising Tensions in Community Certification

- Greater accountability for where wood comes from
  - Certification
  - Supply chain management
  - Responsible trade (proof of legality)
- Tension between higher standards for environmental concerns and more access to social actors
- Tension between increasing the area and amount of wood certified and ensuring that tenure rights and other criteria are fully met in certifying COC or FM
- Tension between standards set internationally by experts and standards derived from local context by social actors and indigenous peoples
- How can certification deal with landscape decisions?
- Do communities need to be commercially viable operations?
Recommendations

• Strategic Review of Community Certification--modify standards?

  Indigenous Peoples and Participation in Standard Setting

• Capacity Building/Business Services

• Alternatives to Certification (NTFP, traditional use, social values, etc.)