



Forest Certification

International Training Programme

SWEDEN, GARPENBERG AND STOCKHOLM, MAY 9 – MAY 28, 2004

ONE OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES,
NOVEMBER 15–NOVEMBER 27, 2004



Invitation

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is the government agency given the task to plan and administer Sweden's bilateral cooperation programmes with developing countries. The agency is also responsible for Sweden's cooperation with Central and Eastern Europe. At present Sida is supporting approximately 2,000 projects. The major part of the resources are allocated to some 20 partner countries where more longterm cooperation is implemented.

The aim is to provide effective and efficient development assistance in a changing world. This requires flexible methods based on a holistic and cooperative approach. Sida's activities are based on the assumption that the recipient countries wish to carry out changes and are willing to invest their own resources to achieve these changes.

Appropriation for Sweden's total development assistance amount to 15,9 billion for 2003. Of these funds, Sida's budget is approximately 11,300 billion. In addition, SEK 749 million is allocated for cooperation with Central and Eastern Europe.

During the last decades forest conservation and biodiversity protection has become a high-priority issue for both policy makers and general public around the world. International initiatives have been launched but deforestation and biodiversity losses are still alarming in many parts of the world, both in tropical and temperate zones. A new approach to counteract the negative trends has recently evolved. It focuses on *Environmental Management Systems* and *Forest Certification*. Forest Certification attempts to link "green consumers" to what might be called "good forestry practices".

Sweden has a long experience in efficient production and utilization of wood. During the last years forestry in Sweden has also developed rapidly towards more and more ecological management methods and the Swedish Forest Policy (1 January, 1994) puts equal emphasis on environmental and production goals. Another key-word in Swedish Forestry of today is the concept of integration where the exchange of information between forest, forest industry and the market is recognized as vital for the development of the forestry sector. Both commercial reasons and environmental interests can thereby be addressed by forest certification. Certification programmes have also come a long way in Sweden. Nationally adapted criteria were presented in Stockholm in May 1995. These criteria have been further developed by the Swedish FSC Working Group. The Working Group, which was made up of representatives of social, environmental and economic interests, presented a final proposal for Swedish FSC Standard for Forest Certification in September 1997. This standard was accepted by FSC in 1998. The same year, 1998, the first initiative was taken for developing the PEFC standard. This standard was supported by family enterprise forestry and received the backing of many European industrial forest enterprises and trade associations. In 2000 the first national PEFC standard were approved in Sweden. Based on The Swedish FCS standard, the PEFC standard and ISO 14001 large forest areas have been certified in Sweden.

The main purpose of the training programme is to support the development of forest certification in selected countries. The programme is intended for policy makers, forest managers, forest industry managers, potential certifiers and representatives for environmental groups.

Sida has entrusted Svensk SkogsCertifiering AB with the task of carrying out an International Training Programme in Forest Certification. This programme is carried out in cooperation with the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and WWF. We trust that the training programme will be of interest and hereby invite you to nominate candidates.

Stockholm, November, 2003



Maria Norrfalk
Director General



Klas Bengtsson
Director
Svensk SkogsCertifiering AB

Training Objectives

The general objective of the training programme, which is divided into two training periods, is to improve the possibilities of introducing Environmental Management Systems and Forest Certification in selected countries by giving key persons a thorough training of the principles, the criteria and the practicalities of certification. Swedish examples and experiences will be used as references during the first training period. Pilot activities will be implemented between the two training periods, and presented and evaluated during the second period.

Content and Teaching

The main issue of the programme, Forest Certification, encompasses several different subjects and theories, among others; Forest Management, Ecology, Systems Analysis, Environmental Management Systems (ISO 14001 and EMAS), Environmental Laws, Quality Control, Communication Systems, Biodiversity, and Wood Utilization.

A wide variety of working methods will be used in the training programme. Period one, in Sweden, will encompass:

- Lectures
- Study visits
- Practical case studies on certification in Sweden
- Presentation and examination of certification examples from tropical and temperate forests
- Planning of country specific pilot activities.

During the programme a number of study visits and excursions will be made and practical cases will be carried out in cooperation with Swedish companies, an accredited certifier and local environmental organisations.

The experiences from countries where certification systems have already reached a certain level of acceptance will be presented and carefully examined.

The pilot activities will aim at introducing or strengthening the ideas behind Environmental Management Systems and Forest Certification in the participating countries. A plan for these activities will be prepared during the first period of the training programme.

During the second training period, to be held in one of the participating countries, the outcome of the pilot activities will be presented, compared and evaluated. Based on this, country specific work plans for continued activities related to forest certification will be elaborated. The second training period will also encompass demonstrations and analyses of some cases of certification.

Participants

The target group for the training programme is policy makers, forest managers, forest industry managers, representatives for environmental groups and potential

certifiers with a relevant university degree and at least 5 to 10 years of working experience in leading position or alternatively profound academic background from within the fields of natural resources management. Women are encouraged to participate in the programme.

A brief forest report, describing the current situation regarding certification, is expected from each participant.

Cost of Participation

The cost of participation in the programme is divided into two parts, one being the training fee, the other the cost of accommodation and meals. Participants from some countries may have costs for the training fee and accommodation/meals covered under the programme.

Training fee

SEK 68,735 equals US\$ 8.812 (October, 2003)

Accommodation and meals

SEK 27,590, equals US\$ 3,537 (October, 2002)

The training fee includes all training costs, course literature and documents, as well as transportation costs within the programme, study tours and transfer costs. Accommodation and meals include housing and meals. *International travel costs and costs for personal expenses are **not** included in the training fee. Each participant must make his/her own international travelling arrangements and pay for them.*

Accommodation

Each participant will have a single room. During study tours, suitable hotel accommodation will be provided.

Group Insurance

All participants are covered by a group insurance during both periods of the training programme. This insurance includes costs for medical care in the event of acute illness or accident. (Medical and dental check-ups are not included.)

Application

Application should be made on the special form attached. The duly completed application form should be submitted via the local official channels to the appropriate Swedish Embassy. English language test should be made through an official body. Concerning the language test, please consult the Swedish Embassy.

Closing date for application is March 15, 2004.

Visa

When required, participants should obtain visas. The visa should be valid for at least the whole period of training and permit several entries into Sweden. After termination of the programme, participants may wish to visit other countries on their way home. Participants should ensure that visas are obtained for such countries before leaving their home country.

A background to the seminar

Over the past ten years, forest conservation has become an increasingly high-priority issue for both policy makers and the general public throughout the world. Initial concerns focused on tropical forests and the activities of the timber industry. In the mid-1980s, this led to the launching of two international initiatives to lessen the negative impact on tropical forests: the Tropical Forestry Action Programme (TFAP) under the coordination of FAO and the creation of the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO). In 1992, tropical and temperate forests featured prominently on the agenda at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro. However, the conference achieved nothing more substantial than a set of nonbinding "Forest Principles". Also the follow up of Rio in Johannesburg (2002) was a very limited step forward. Since Rio, a wide range of international forest initiatives (such as the 1993 Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe) have taken place and the focus has widened to include also boreal forests.

Despite all these efforts, deforestation is on the increase. Absent new initiatives and fundamental changes in approach the accelerating destruction and degradation of the world's forests will continue. Seventy-five percent of the world's large intact forests in the temperate and tropical regions are now threatened (WRI, 1997) and only 6 percent are currently in legally protected areas, and many of these exist only on paper (WWF, 1997). More and more old-growth forests are being replaced by man-made forests and

the "quality" of this forest cover has declined. This poses a serious threat to biodiversity. Governments, NGOs, and the private sector are now reviewing their policies and approaches to forestry, and making a concerted effort: to come up with new and more effective ones. The general public is also now taking a far more active role in shaping policy. Individuals interested in environmental or social issues tend to modify their consumption patterns to promote their objectives. The new approach, focusing on *Forest Certification*, has developed alongside a growing trend for "ecolabelling" of consumer products. It attempts to link green consumers to producers who are seeking to improve their forest management practice and obtain better market access and higher revenue by providing an independent assessment of forest management operations.

Originally promoted by conservation NGOs such as WWF and Friends of the Earth, Forest Certification is now attracting the attention of governments and the forest industry. There has been a marked increase in interest in certification in the industrial sector in major producer countries and today more than 36 million hectares are certified by FSC-accredited certification bodies. Certification according to ISO 14001 and regional or national systems for forest certification such as PEFC, SFI, CSA, Certfor-Chile and LEI have also increased very fast the last few years. Certification has won the World Bank's approval too. The bank's forest policy notes: "Experience with other products suggest that consumers will modify their behaviour substantially if they are given information on the ecological sustainability of the production process."

Svensk SkogsCertifiering AB (SSC) offers Environmental Auditing, Forest Certification, Training Programmes, Consulting and all other services where competence in the field of sustainable environmental and forest resources management is needed. We believe that progress and competitiveness in the forest sector will be based on a systems approach, integrating ecological and social aspects, market demand, forest production and processing.

www.ssc-forestry.com

Department of Forest Products and Markets – at The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. The objective of the department is to carry out research, education and information on the production and utilization of the forests for commercial and other purposes in the chain forest-industry-market within the frames of a sustainable development. The research is focusing the following areas, Wood Quality and Timber Utilization, Forest Production and Marketing.

www.slu.se

WWF – World Wildlife Fund, has a history working with nature conservation dating back to the early 60s. WWF is the world's largest independent conservation organisation, with offices in 100 countries and associate national organisations worldwide. Its mission is to achieve the conservation of nature and ecological processes by preserving genetic, species and ecosystem diversity by ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable in the long term.

www.panda.org

Secretariat

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