



Forest Certification

A brief Introduction for Stakeholders

Impressum

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*Trees and humans
are old companions*

Editor's note

This booklet is designed to provide an introduction to the fairly complex subject of forest certification. It targets actors who are directly or indirectly involved in forest certification and who have little or no previous knowledge. Specialised knowledge on forest management is not required.

According to current research, FC is a promising approach to harmonise the many different demands made on forest management worldwide and to reconcile the different requirements of various actors with issues concerning environmental impacts and the needs of future generations. Forest certification is thus an effective instrument to achieve the goal of sustainable development.

In view of the wide variety of groups this publication is targeted at, it has been necessary to greatly simplify the complex links between forests and society and between business,

economic, political and environmental considerations of forest management and forest certification.

The project "Inter-institutional development of training capacity in forest certification" promotes capacity building in forest certification. The booklet has been produced as an entry-point to the process of developing capacity building strategies in forest certification in ACP countries facilitated by the project. It provides basic information for those who would like to get more involved in this process and/or in forest certification more generally.

The editor would like to thank Dr. Dietrich Burger (GTZ) for guidance in the drafting process and careful reading of the manuscript.

Feedback on the content and structure of the booklet is welcome.

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Marked terms are important and form part of the glossary

Why did we write this booklet and for whom?

We have produced this booklet to disseminate some basic information about **forest certification** - especially to people who are not yet familiar with the subject. Basically, we address everybody who may benefit from forest certi-

How can you benefit from reading this booklet?

After reading the booklet you will have an overview of the topic. By knowing the context and the essential parts of forest certification you will see whether (and how) you can benefit. You will learn about other stake-

Maybe you are:

...part of the public administration concerned in some way with forestry

...involved in forest management and you have heard about higher prices for certified products

...part of a logging company and you are tired of being offended by environmentalists

...a forest worker or member of a forest workers' union speaking up for better working conditions and wages

...engaged in the consulting business and curious to know what it is all about

...a smallholder with a patch of woodland and wonder how you may benefit from certification

...a member of an environmental NGO trying to conserve primary forests and wild-life

...a member of a social NGO promoting local communities' rights

...in a local community administration and do not want foreign companies to destroy the nearby forest

fication. We believe that there are many people who simply don't know how they may benefit.

holders. And you will learn about the possible impacts of forest certification on your specific situation. A sound basic knowledge of forest certification will enable you to participate in discussions.

Trees and Forests

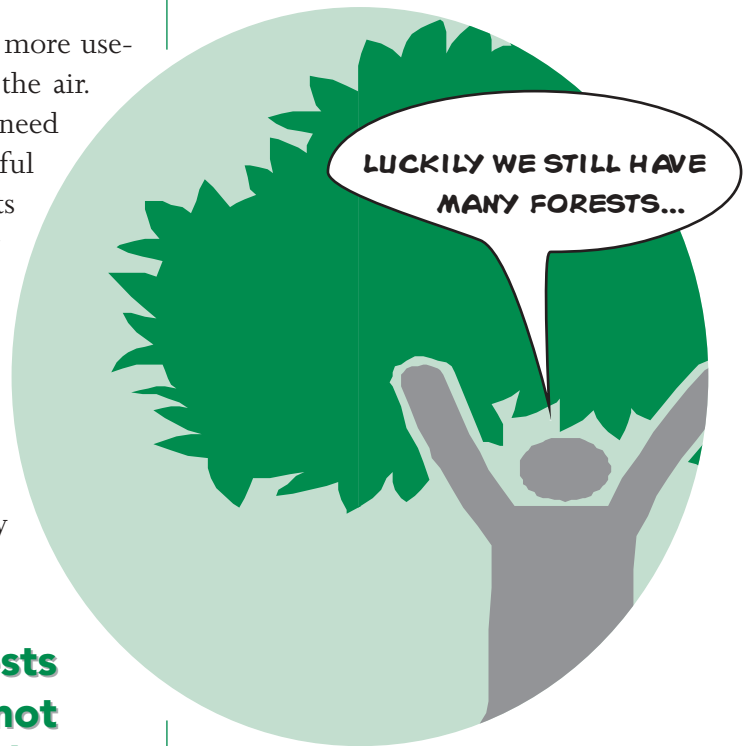
Since the early days of human beings we have had a special relationship with trees and forests. Forests provide a living space for countless numbers of animals and plants. They provide us with timber, fuelwood, fruits and fibres. Today, only our tools are different: chain saws have replaced stone axes and instead of horses we use tractors and other heavy machinery.

Forests have important functions for human life

In fact, forests and trees are even more useful. With their leaves they clean the air. They produce the oxygen that we need for breathing and absorb harmful gases like carbon dioxide. Forests and soil work together retaining and cleaning rainwater. They make creeks and rivers flow, even if it doesn't rain for a while. The roots of the trees also hold the soil together so that it does not get washed out, or burnt by the sun. And when the leaves fall, they enrich the soil.

Without forests life would not be possible.

To put it in a nutshell: If there weren't any trees we would all be in serious trouble. We have already experienced this. In many places where only little forest is left we have more floods and droughts, landslides, dry river beds and not enough drinking water.



Yes, but they are threatened!

Forests under Threat

In all times and places humans have taken trees from forests. In former days it was almost impossible to cut more trees than the forests replaced naturally. It was hard work and forests were so huge. This changed during the last century when modern machinery like tractors and bulldozers appeared on the stage. Often new settlers came in and took the land for grazing and agriculture. Forests became thinner and thinner.

Once the trees had gone it often was too late. In many places, heavy rains washed the unprotected soil away – into rivers and the sea. In others, after a few years of cattle grazing and crop cultivating, the soils became poorer and poorer until they were useless for any kind of production.

By the 1980s, the disappearance of forests was taking place on a really threatening scale. It even got a scientific name: **deforestation**. Because of climatic, political, economic and social circumstances, deforestation was most alarming in the tropics.

After years of observation, people who cared, such as local foresters, timber traders, forest specialists and politicians all around the world, made us aware of three things:

- **If we want to keep our global home healthy so that humans can continue living like today we have to look after the forests.**
- **If we want to save the forests we have to change some of our practices.**
- **Changing the practices which endanger forests is going to affect a wide range of people. In order that they can act sincerely and effectively, these people must all have a say. Laymen and professionals, industry and commerce, governments, and scientists must exchange experiences, and agree. We have to work together so that nobody feels overrun.**

Often people do not care about conserving forests

This posed a great challenge.

The Rio Turn

Disappearance of forests became a global concern

In the early 1990s, more and more people became aware of the scale of deforestation and its negative impacts. As the same problems could be found in many places this was no longer a local issue. And it also became obvious that it was not only about environmental concerns. The questions were: How can we use our given natural resources to satisfy economic, social and environmental needs at the same time? And how can we assure that our grandchildren will find the same opportunities as we did?

In 1992, 178 nations from all parts of the world – including your country – met at a conference in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. The summit meeting – officially titled the UN Conference on Environment and Development, popularly known as the “earth-summit” – went down in history. For the very first time representatives of all nations agreed on commonly shared principles. Their main message was:

Any development should be economically viable, socially just and environmentally sound.

They also promised to support each other putting these principles into practice. They returned to their countries with a big stack of paper in their briefcases where all this was written down: The Declaration of Rio.

The Declaration of Rio

Political matters tend to be complex and are sometimes hard to understand. The same holds true, in a way, for the Rio Declaration. But to understand the essential principle, we might very well look at a private household. There you can treat your goods in different ways. You can spend all your resources – food or money – at once. Or, you can act economically. You save part in order to have something left for later, or to give to your children. You avoid waste. The same is true for the earth's resources!

Rio gave us an opportunity – not only for the world's forests.



Good Housekeeping

It was agreed in Rio thaed 49u5It785t792585rs South, E1W06South,



Good Forestkeeping gets Rewarded

Now, we have an idea what good and sustainable forest management means. We must always look at the whole picture as we described it in the previous pages. Remember: without social, and ecological, and economic aspects the picture is incomplete.

If you have found a way to create an overall benefit reflecting all three aspects, this benefit can vary just as the type of forest, or the type of soil, or the kind of people who are involved in forest management varies.

So in every country this may mean: coming together and exchanging experience; negotiating about which habits to change, and how; encouraging people to turn to a responsible, sustainable use of forests; and rewarding all those who already treat their forests in such a way.



How shall we manage this?

Well, there is a way: This is where certification comes into play.

The term “certification” comes from to certify, which means to make sure, to guarantee. Somebody who certifies might issue a certificate, which documents that something special has been attained: for example when you get a certificate for graduating from school, or receive a certificate for special courage in the army. A driving licence, too, is a certificate. The important point is that no one is obliged to get a certificate, but if you’ve gained one, you stand out clearly before the others.

Yes, we have had it for some years. Many forest managers already have such a certificate and the number keeps on rising.

In the following pages we describe how certification works. It is actually quite simple.



Does this already exist?

For sustainable forest management, you can get a certificate

Certification – a Tool for Everyone

Let's go back to our family. One year ago, Mr. and Mrs. Forest Owner turned to a more sustainable form of forest management. They cut a fixed number of adult trees every year. Harvesting techniques have been improved. Also, they do not use the entire area of forest they are entitled to but leave a protected area for wild-life. All this has been written down in a so-called **management plan**. Their workers get paid regularly, working conditions have been improved, and the revenue is pretty constant.

Certification makes good forestkeeping visible for everybody

But Mr. Forest Owner wants to keep track and see if this is good enough. Also they want to show their intermediary traders and the customers that they are thinking about a safe and healthy future. So they apply for a certificate. A team of independent experts visits their enterprise, judges their efforts, and points out aspects that they need to change. After some further improvements, Mr. and Mrs. Forest Owner receive the certification document. Their enterprise has been certified. The fact that it is certified is visible to all.

Independent certifiers check if a forest management is good and sustainable

Forest certification makes transparent that the forestkeepers (a forest owner, a group of small producers, a logging company, a local community) have thought about responsible forest management and have turned to sustainable practices, which we all will benefit from.

What are the Ingredients we need for Forest Certification?

In the previous part, we saw an example of forest certification. Let's make clear how the whole story works and what elements we need.

First, there are the forestkeepers. They want to send a simple message to the public and their customers: "Our **forest management** is good and we think about the future!"

The public may ask: "But how can we be sure that this is really true?"

That's when the independent certifiers appear on the stage. They are part of a certification body and their job is to check if it is really true. And if it is, the certification body guarantees it.



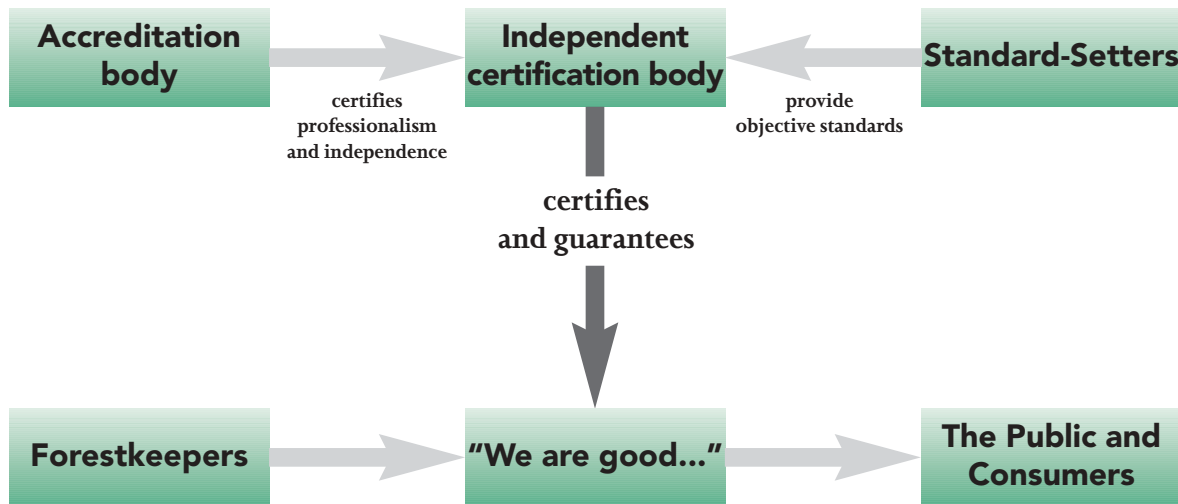
The public may ask: "How can we be sure that it's not simply a deal between the forestkeepers and the certifiers?"

That's when the accreditation body enters the playing ground. It checks whether certification bodies are really independent and professional. This process is called accreditation.

Again, the public may ask: "On what basis do certifiers work?"

That's when the standard setters show up. Mostly, these are well mixed groups of all people involved in forestry in a country (stakeholders). On the basis of international principles they work out national standards.

If we put it all together, it looks like this:



Chain of custody Finally, the customers may ask: "Ok, now we know that the forestkeepers do a good job but how can we be sure that their timber will not be mixed with other timber when we buy a final product?".

Good question. Indeed there is a second certification process which traces the timber through all its processing and transport. This is called certification of **chain of custody**.

So, that's what forest certification is all about. As we see it requires quite some preparation. Altogether we have four different main actions or processes:

Four processes

1. Certification of forest management:

Independent certifiers belonging to a certification body compare a forest management to established standards (desired result: certificate for the forestkeepers).

2. Accreditation:

A responsible body approves that a certification body is independent and professional (desired result: independent certifiers).

3. Standard setting:

The stakeholders define and agree on the economic, ecological and social standards which will be used (desired result: clear and objective standards).

4. Certification of chain of custody:

Independent certifiers verify that timber from certified forestkeeping is not mixed up with uncertified timber in processing and transport (desired result: certificate/label on timber product).

Well, it's not that complicated. In the following section, let's look a little more closely at these four processes.

First, we have to mention that there are different types or systems of forest certification which are called **certification schemes**. A scheme may be international – like the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) – or national – like the Indonesian Ecolabelling Institute (LEI). Every scheme leads to a different **label**. In this booklet we will not give any advice which one to use. That's the decision of the forestkeepers. The important thing is that all the different schemes comprise the four mentioned processes.

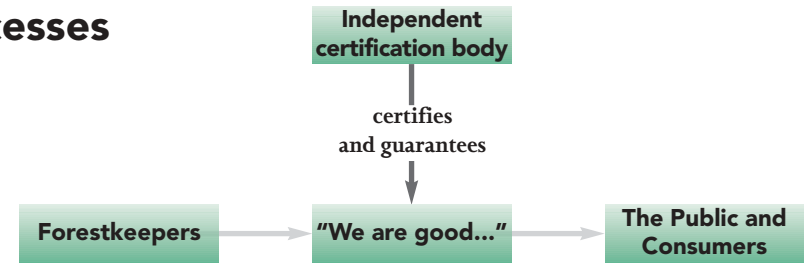
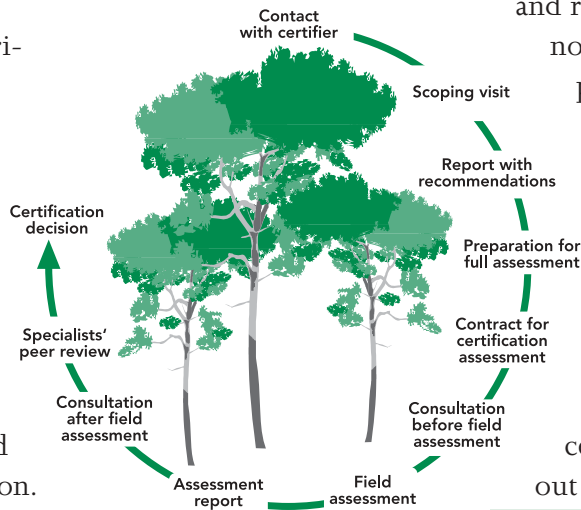
For local and regional consulting companies, it may be interesting that there is a growing demand for technical and methodological support in all four processes, in all parts of the world.

Certification and its four Processes

Process 1: Certification of forest management

A forest may be used or managed by a large or small forest enterprise, a group of **smallholder** families or local communities. The certification of their forest management is carried out by a team of certifiers. They are part of an accredited certification body. This team may include a forest engineer, an economist, a sociologist and an environmental expert. They check whether or not the established economic, social and environmental standards are met.

Certification is not a "private party" between managers and certifiers. It involves the workers and their families as well as the local population. The public administration and **NGOs** working in the area may also be considered as partners of certification. The certifiers are independent and have no direct relation to the producers or to the customers. This is controlled by the accreditor.



As we said earlier, this procedure is absolutely voluntary. Certification is not a governmental instrument – even though public administrations often support or promote certification.

The illustration shows the different steps. Let's suppose the certifiers come to the decision that the forest management meets the social, economic and environmental standards.

The management gets certified and receives the right to announce the certification publicly. In most certification schemes, it also leads to a **label** which demonstrates that the timber comes from a certified forest.

If established standards are not met, the certifying team works out so-called **corrective action requests** (or conditions).

There are minor and major corrective action requests (or preconditions and conditions). Major corrective action requests have to be implemented before the

A team of certifiers checks if the standards are met

A certificate is valid for a certain time

forestkeeping can get certified. With minor corrective action requests, the forestkeepers receive a certificate with the obligation to put correction into place in a given timeframe. The certificate is valid for a certain time (five years in the FSC scheme) and includes annual follow-up inspections. If the forestkeepers go back to unsustainable practices the certificate will be withdrawn.



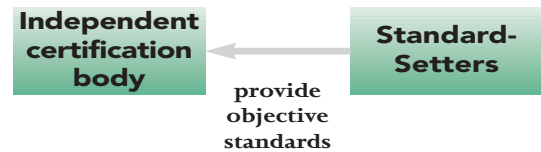
Process 2: Accreditation

Let's look more closely at the certifiers. They belong to a so-called **certification body**. A certification body is liable for the accurate and rightful issuing of certificates. Most certification bodies are specialised **NGOs** or consulting companies. To become entitled as a certification body they must prove that they are independent and have qualified personnel to ensure credible and replicable certification. They must go through a process of approval and follow-up control.

This process is called **accreditation**. The organisation which accredits the certifiers is

called **accreditation body** and is often directly related to or responsible for a specific certification scheme.

There is a growing demand for national certification bodies and professionals who specialise in certification and who are familiar with the cultural and social background of the forestkeepers. At the moment most certifiers are based in industrialised countries and operate internationally which results in unnecessary costs. In some cases, international certification bodies work together with national professionals and local organisations. More cooperation like this needs to be fostered and national NGOs and consulting companies should apply for accreditation.



Process 3: Standard Setting

Since Rio, there are internationally agreed principles for good (sustainable) forest management. These principles were further developed by a variety of initiatives and form the basis for national standards. The body which defines the specific standards in practice is called a **National Working Group**. All possible social, environmental, and economic interests in forestry are represented in this group.

Mrs. Social NGO, who promotes local communities' rights, may sit beside Mr. Big Manager who runs a forest company. And maybe Mr. Environmental NGO talks for the first time to Mr. Workers' Union. It is important that everybody who is in some way concerned with forestry articulates their needs and opinions.

It is also important that the rules for deciding within the group are worked out and accepted by all involved, so that everybody's views are not only heard but also become part of the standards produced.

As forest certification sweeps innovative ideas into forest policy, Ms. Public Administration (whose work may be related to forestry, natural resources or rural development) can assume a range of different roles, such as neutral observer, technical adviser, facilitator or promoter of the process. For her it may be important that her country can prove good "housekeeping" as agreed in Rio. Or she may want to integrate certification into forest policy. Or she may see it as making a contribution towards easing land use conflicts.

Remember:

Clear standards are the result of the standard setting process, while independent certifiers are the result of the accreditation process.

Here we have some examples of standards

Social standards:

minimum wages for forest workers, safe working conditions, recognition of local communities' traditional rights, opportunities for training, and many others.

Economic standards:

planning instruments, reinvestment of profits into the forest, secure financial sources, avoiding waste, and many others.

Environmental standards:

reduced impact logging, protection of wildlife, protection of water courses, definition of areas which are left untouched, and many others.

Participation and partnership are basic principles for certification

Standard setting involves all the stakeholders and interests related to forestry



Process 4: Certification of chain of custody

By now we have a lot of what we need: independent certifiers make certification of the management of a given forest possible by comparing the management with agreed standards. One of the results of certification is certified timber. But who guarantees that a cupboard is made completely out of certified timber? To sell certified products like furniture, all of the timber used in the final product has to be traced all the way through processing and trade. This process is called certification of **chain of custody**.

This means that independent certifiers go to the sawmill where the timber is cut. They go to the factory where the cupboard is produced. They go to the traders and to the transporters. In each place they check that certified timber is not mixed with uncertified timber.

If they conclude that the product is exclusively made of certified timber they issue another certificate and in most certification schemes a **label**. This makes it quite easy for the customer to distinguish between certified and uncertified products.

The certifiers of the chain of custody are not necessarily the same as those certifying the forestkeeping. They have to be accredited for this special type of certification. There are certifiers who can only check forestkeeping, those who can only check chain of custody and those who can do both.

**The label says:
"This product is made
out of certified timber".**



Independent certifiers trace all the timber's way through processing and trade

People and their Voices

Well, by now we have heard a lot about forest certification. Let's listen to what some people might tell us about their experiences.

Mr. and Mrs. Forest Owner

"We are really glad we did it. I mean to get certified. Our enterprise is a lot better organised now. That was a precondition for certification. Also our personnel is better qualified and motivated. We are the leading company in our country. And we get higher prices for our timber."

Mrs. Forest Smallholder

"Well, my patch of woodland is not very big. It is the same size as many of my neighbours. We had no idea what forest certification is. We heard about it from the man who buys our timber. It was him who needed more certified timber. He convinced us that certification has many advantages and he made the necessary contacts for us. Now, we are certified as a group - and have a guarantee that our trader buys from us tomorrow, too."

Ms. Forest Administration

"As many forests of our district are certified a lot less controlling is needed. The forest keepers do it by themselves and they are controlled by the certifiers."

Mr. Logging Company

"Three years ago I was really tired of being offended by all those environmentalists. With our certification that's all over. Now, our work is socially and environmentally accepted."

Mr. Community Forestkeeper

"We got certified as community. Showing that we are good forestkeepers helped us to get official recognition that our forest belongs to us. Also the bank gave us a loan because we could prove good forestkeeping and had all the planning documents available. That was because we needed them for the certification."

Mr. Forest Worker

"First I couldn't imagine that I would benefit from forest certification. To get certified we had to change a lot in our company. The best thing is that I have now a guaranteed minimum wage. And the boss is seeing to it that our work is safe."

Mr. and Mrs. Local Community

"Well, we had no clue what this forest certification is all about. But when the nearby enterprise went into it, these people came to our village and asked us about what we needed. For the very first time we could really talk. And we still can use the forest like our grandparents did."

To a large variety of people, forest certification offers benefits

Forest certification makes people talk to each other

Mr. Minister of the Economy

"Well, we successfully promoted forest certification in our country. Now we are able to demonstrate good housekeeping and modern management of natural resources at all levels. Because we could show that we care about social and ecological issues we got some international loans at really good rates."

Ms. Forest Workers' Union

"When I first heard about all this certification stuff I thought it would only be for forest companies to get higher prices. But then I took part in the National Working Group where we established the standards for our country. I saw that it had a lot to do with the working conditions, even with the international norms of the Labour Organisation. All this now forms part of our national standards for forest certification."

Mr. Social NGO

"I was very pleased that they took social issues into consideration. Our indigenous people, for example, now have a guaranteed access to the forests where certified companies work. In other cases the companies started to support the development of the nearby communities. That's a real improvement."

Mr. Timber Trader

"About four years ago the demand for certified timber began to grow rapidly. I couldn't get any. So I started to cooperate with a couple of forest companies and helped them to get certified. For some of them it was a great challenge because they had to adopt socially and environmentally sound forestkeeping practices. In the end we all were better off."

Mr. and Mrs. Consumer

"For us the most important thing is: we don't want to contribute to forest destruction. Anywhere in the world. The labels make it clear for us which timber product comes from certified forests and which doesn't. We like certification."

Ms. Environmental NGO

"What should I say? In our National Working Group we really integrated environmental issues into forest standards. This was unthinkable ten years ago. Now we have special plans to take care of our wild-life. And the most important thing is that it works in practice."

Mr. International Forest Expert

"During the last 10 years I took part in forest certification in many countries all over the world. For me the great strength is that the certification processes usually improve the cooperation between all stakeholders. Let's say

between forest enterprises, smallholders, forest workers, public administrations, NGOs, local communities and others. This is due to the fact that everyone involved in the topic participates."

Some Criticisms

We have heard some optimistic opinions about forest certification, but there are always two sides of a coin. While many people feel that certification has great potential, others present substantial criticisms. Let's listen to their main arguments.

"Forest certification is expensive"

Indeed, it is true that it costs. The forest owners have to pay for the certification process. Sometimes they share the costs with the traders. To convert an unsustainable forest management into sustainable management requires major investments (qualification of personnel, planning, equipment and others). Even if these investments are viable in the medium term, there are costs in the short term. However, with more national certifiers and a wider spread of certification the actual costs will get reduced.



"Forest certification favours only large scale forest enterprises"

Unintentionally this was the case in the past. Large enterprises easily made the necessary investments, paid for the certification process and had less difficulties in providing the necessary documents. The different certification schemes became more and more aware that equally suitable procedures for enterprises, smallholdings and community forests were needed. The development of group certification procedures is a first step to improve this situation.

"Forest certification requires qualified forest personnel who are not available"

Forest certification does not intend to exclude existing personnel. Its aim is to educate the workers. This takes time. Undoubtedly it is an investment for the future.

The costs of forest certification will get reduced

Forest certification is only just starting

"Forest certification hasn't stopped unsustainable and destructive forest exploitation"

That's absolutely true. At present only a minor amount of all traded timber comes from certified forests. After all, forest certification is voluntary, so it directly affects only those forestkeepers who want to change. There have been some rare cases where certified enterprises violated the established standards. Their certificates were withdrawn. The potential of forest certification is only just starting. Many people are convinced that it is going in the right direction. It's not the only response to forest destruction and has to be combined with other actions.

"Outsiders gain influence on enterprise decisions"

Absolutely true. With forest certification the voices of social and environmental NGOs, of local communities and of forest workers have to be heard in decisions affecting them. At the beginning, it may be confusing for enterprise managers but in the long run it leads to better cooperation and many problems can be solved together. In some cases, enterprises and the public started to cooperate on a permanent basis.

"Forest certification does not lead to higher prices for timber"

Not immediately. It takes some time to link up the buyers with certified forests. Furthermore certification doesn't help if the timber-quality isn't good. For some producers and products, certification might be essential in order to keep their market share.

"If you have good laws, it's not necessary to create a parallel system of accountability"

Forest certification does not replace national legislation but is based on it. It is a complementary instrument and it is voluntary. In addition to laws, independent evidence of good forest management is provided for the public and for consumers. Certification thus reinforces the attraction of sustainable forest management.

"Developing standards at the national level has led to different standards within the same certification scheme"

Absolutely true. It's a major strength of forest certification that a framework of world-wide principles is provided and that National Working Groups put them into concrete terms. This assures that the established standards fit the specific conditions of forest management in a country.



What Certification is not

Certification has to do with finding compromises between different interests and respecting other people's opinions and experiences. Of course, it is up to everybody to take on his or her own views on this kind of innovation. Here, we just want to reveal what certification is not.

Forest certification is not a panacea to global problems of deforestation. Forest certification is a complementary instrument in the economic, social and environmental context of forestry. It cannot directly influence land use and policy decisions, and it is not the only answer to trying to achieve sustainable forest management.

Basic improvements might also be needed to policy and law, to management systems, and to regulatory capacity.

Therefore, forest certification cannot and does not replace...

- a clear commitment to good forestkeeping and sustainable development
- a clear national forest and land use policy
- a working and social legislation

Summing up

What makes forest certification so interesting?

There are four aspects of forest certification which go far beyond simply judging an existing forest management by established standards:

1. Forest certification is a consumer-driven market instrument. It demonstrates that timber is produced in a responsible and sustainable way. It is expected that consumers are willing to pay higher prices for products derived from sustainable forest management. This makes forest certification an important incentive for better forest management.
2. The establishment of social, economic and environmental standards involves a participative, consensus-building process among all stakeholders. This means that people talk to each other and agree to shared principles. This ensures that very different interests are recognised. In many countries this has led to new and commonly shared solutions for existing problems as well as positive changes in the forest sectors.
3. Forest certification has resulted in forest-keepers being much more concerned about the best forest management practices available. The public administration in charge of forestry faces new demands for support and service. Forest certification tells a broad audience that forest management is modern and sustainable - locally, regionally, nationally and even internationally.
4. Forest certification complements international treaties and national legislation. It provides a valuable link between development issues and market requirements. It is one of the few instruments available that are truly integrating economic, social and environmental aspects.

Forest certification is increasingly leading to major innovations in the national forest sectors in many countries. People have started talking to each other about which changes are needed. In search for a more sustainable, forestry, new solutions have been mutually agreed and implemented.

Forest certification leads to positive changes

Outlook

What can I do about forest certification?

Well, by now you heard and discovered a lot about forest certification. You have a clear vision of all the stakeholders and have familiarised yourself with certifiers, accreditors and standard setters. Perhaps you have learned that forest certification is a lot more than a label on timber. You have seen that without a good balance of economic, social and environmental issues everything is incomplete. And maybe you felt that a promising future lies behind good forestkeeping and sustainable development. Just take some time and think about it!



**If you like, inform others!
Your colleagues and friends.**

**Take part in discussions
about the topic!**

**Promote forest certification
in your environment!**

Where can I get more Information?

There is a lot more information available.
Especially on the internet. Here are some sites:

GTZ-IAC Project "Development of Training Capacity in Forest Certification": www.gtz.de/capacity_building/

BMZ/GTZ Forest Certification Project:
www.gtz.de/forest_certification/english/index.html

Certified Forest Products Council: www.certifiedwood.org

Department for International Development, UK: www.dfid.gov.uk/

European Commission, DG Development:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/sector/forestry_en.htm

FAO: www.fao.org/forestry/Forestry.asp

Friends of the Earth: www.foe.co.uk

FSC International: www.fscoax.org

Forests Forever's overview of certification:
www.forestsforever.org.uk/forestcertification.html

GFA Terra Systems: www.gfa-certification.de

Greenpeace: www.greenpeace.org

ITTO: www.itto.or.jp/index.html

ISO: www.iso.org

Scientific Certification Systems (SCS): www.scs1.com

SGS Forestry: www.sgs.co.uk/qualifor

SKAL: www.Skal.com

SmartWood Program: www.smartwood.org

Soil Association: www.earthfood.co.uk

World Bank/ WWF Alliance for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Use: www.esd.worldbank.org/wwf

WWF - World Wide Fund For Nature: www.panda.org

WWF - Forests for Life: www.panda.org/forests4life



Glossary

Accreditation

The process by which a responsible body (**accreditation body**) recognises an NGO or consulting company as certification body. The accreditation body uses published criteria of capability, competence and impartiality. With a few exceptions, such as FSC, accreditation is granted by national accreditation bodies, which can be governmental or private.

Certification body

An independent organisation, usually an NGO or consulting company, which is entitled (accredited) to carry out the certification of forest management. The certification body sends a team of experts which assesses the conformity to established standards and submits a report on the assessment. On the basis of the report and the views of a team of external reviewers the certification body decides whether or not the forest enterprise receives the certificate.

Certification scheme

Structural and functional system (type or "brand") of certification. If you want your forest management to get certified you have to decide under which scheme. There are international schemes like FSC or national ones like LEI in Indonesia. Every certification scheme has its accreditation and certification procedures.

Chain of custody

The chain of responsibility through which a timber product passes. Generally speaking, from the forest through timber processor to manufacturer, to importer, to distributor, to retailer. When the chain of custody is verified, the origin of forest products is established (certification of chain of custody).

Corrective Action Request

A condition raised by a team of certifiers during assessment which details non-compliances identified and remedial measures required within a specified time.

Deforestation

The fact that we have less forest every year. Deforestation is most alarming in the tropics.

Forest certification

In the narrow sense, forest certification describes an established and recognised verification procedure: a team of certifiers assesses whether or not a forest management meets predetermined standards. If yes, it results in a certificate on the quality of forest management. In the wider sense, forest certification also includes the accreditation of certification bodies, the standard setting and the certification of chain of custody.

Forest management

The whole bundle of actions that forestkeepers do in relation to their forests. It includes planning, implementing the plan (i.e. harvesting, planting, taking precautions against fire, training personnel, etc.), observing and measuring the effects and changes, marketing and many other aspects. A **management plan** is a document where all these actions have been written down.

Label

Literally, a mark on timber or a sign on timber products that shows that the timber comes from a certified forest.

National Working Group

The people (stakeholders) involved in working out the national standards. They are concerned with social, economic or environmental issues of forestry.

NGO

Non-governmental organisation. Usually refers to a not-for-profit organisation representing some civil society interest, rather than a private company.

Smallholder

An individual or family who owns, and relies on, a small area of farm or forest land for subsistence and/or income.



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