

PROJECT PROFILE – SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

How to eliminate unauthorized deforestation and how to promote sustainable forest management.

BACKGROUND

The forestry world today

There are some very discouraging data:

- 9,4 million hectares of forest per year was changed to other land use in the world from 1990 to 2000, of which in Africa 5,2 million and in South America 3,7 million. In Asia deforestation is mostly limited to the tropical region. Deforestation does not always mean that the use of land is negative afterwards but still there is a considerable part disappearing illegally.

There are, however, also some encouraging signs:

- An awareness of the problem and of the need for a good forest management is gradually growing. Reforestation programs are introduced, China being an outstanding example with huge plantations.

But,

- *there is hardly any working mechanism for promoting and checking of the forest management.*

It is difficult to estimate how much of the deforestation is caused by illegal cutting and unauthorized slash and burn activities. Under decades, a lot of efforts have been made to solve these problems but hardly any practical results have materialized.

New forest laws have been decided and launched, new authorities have been born, protected areas have been established, and so on, but still, with the same people and with the same need of money. Often the authority managing the forest, granting logging rights and at the same time has the obligation to control these activities, i.e. the same organization is both prosecutor and judge.

Money always talks, or ...?

International view

The World Bank (WB) has adopted a new “forestry strategy” for its lending purposes. This strategy is based on a number of principles of which the following may be highlighted:

- i) Protect the global utility of the forest.
- ii) Promote the role of the forest to alleviate poverty.
- iii) Integrate the forestry activities in a sustainable economic development.

The WB shall actively act to increase the protected areas and fight illegal cutting, giving the forestry sector a greater role in reduction of poverty by putting more emphasis on community forest management and agro forestry.

The WB considers important that forests outside the protected areas are used in an adequate and sustainable way. Most governments and other international agencies agree upon these principles.

But,

- *efficient and transparent control mechanisms are needed to ensure the appropriate application of good forest management.*

To summarize:

- There is an urgent need to build an institutionalized system to promote good forest management and to check its application to ensure efficiency, transparency, sustainability, economic development and poverty alleviation. It is also important that all stakeholders (the official authorities, the forest industries and the forest owners) must benefit in some way of the new system.

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Basic considerations

First, it is important to analyze and establish an appropriate policy and information framework for action.

- i) A National Forest Policy (NFP) must exist or be created.
- ii) A National Forest Inventory (NFI) must exist or be created.
- iii) A Forest Research Program (FRP) should be established and connected to the NFI.
- iv) A National Land Tenure Legal System (NLTLS) must exist or be created.

Second, some basic economic and social issues should be addressed.

- i) A National Forest Fee (NFF) system should be considered, based on the productive forest area (under management) to be put into a Forestry Trust Fund (FTF).
- ii) A sustainable Firewood Supply System (FSS) should be considered to be used by the village or community with obligation of reforestation. The cost for seeds/seedlings could be subsidized by the FTF. The FSS could be freed from fee for household use, but applied when selling firewood.
- iii) All public not protected areas should be formally owned by a state owned National Forest Company (or Service) (NFC) playing by the same rules as private forest owners.
- iv) All protected areas should be managed by a National Forest Environmental Institute (NFEI), within the action area of a Ministry of the Environment, or similar.

Institutional characteristics

Within the institutional framework a *national “apolitical” public organization* should be established. Such an organization should have the following main characteristics. It should:

- i) be independent from forest ownership, and
- ii) have its own financial resources to ensure its “apolitical” status.

The organization should have the following main action areas:

- i) approval of cutting rights, concessions, etc.,
- ii) collection of the national forest fee,
- iii) promotion of good forest management,
- iv) approval of forest management plans, and
- v) control of compliance of the forest management plans.
- vi) control of compliance of the national forest act
- vii) control of a Wood measurement organization – se below

Complementary to the national organization above an independent state owned organization (a Wood measurement society) should be established to facilitate the measurement of the wood and control of the wood flow. This control activity should take place both by permanent and mobile units. The permanent units should be located at medium and big industries and export harbours or important border crossings. Mobile units should be checking small industries and small border crossings. It is also important that neighbouring countries establishing the same system. This organization should be financed directly by the forest sector (the forest owners, the forest industry and the exporting companies) and they also must benefit in some way of the new system. Both seller and buyer of wood can by this system objectively get information of what they get economically or have to pay respectively – sorted by quality.

CONTROL SYSTEM

The control activities must be established and executed in an internationally accepted way. Therefore, the control system should or could be established in close cooperation with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC) or a similar organization to ensure worldwide recognition.

The control should/could be divided into two different parts:

1. Control and certification of the assignment of the forest and nature conservation authorities and a national forest service within the country and especially about forest management and conservation plans.
The actual control work could be performed by independent organizations such as the FSC or PEFC accredited companies. The cost for the control should be covered by the Forestry Trust Fund (FTF).
2. Control the assignment of the Wood measurement society to ensure a transparency in all its activities.
The control work should be performed by the “certified” national forest authority and financially covered by FTF.

PROJECT PROPOSAL

Project structure

The basic idea of this project profile is to propose:

- *the use of an independent and apolitical organization to promote and control good forest management with the ultimate aim to certify an Official Forestry Administration and a National Forest Service and at the same time lower the cost for forest certification to increase the access to the world market for the forest produce of the concerned country.*
- *the establishment of an independent Wood measurement society to facilitate the measure activity of wood at industry and to control the wood flow within the country to minimize illegal logging activities.*

There are possibly, or even probably, different paths to follow in different regions of the world, due to local culture, local politics and local organizational structure. Therefore, it would be of interest to FSC, PEFC or a similar organization to test the applicability of this idea in the main tropical forest continents, Africa, Asia and Latin America, by selecting a limited number of potentially interested countries from each continent. Organizational models from developed countries could form part of the analysis – Sweden is a good example and from the developing world Bolivia has tried a way to handle the problem but for the moment their domestic problems has complicated the situation.

A three-block development project is proposed with:

- i) one introductory workshop,
- ii) individual country analyses, and
- iii) one follow-up workshop.

Introductory workshop

In order to get started an international workshop under the auspices of FSC, PEFC or a similar organization should be conducted according to the following outline.

Objective

Agreement on an institutional framework for good forest management promotion and control to be analyzed in the participating countries with the aim to present a workable model for each participating country to be presented at follow-up workshop.

Program

- Presentation of the project idea
- Country-wise presentation of the forest situation
- In-depth presentation of the Bolivian case
- In-depth presentation of the Swedish case
- Regional working sessions to establish the local basic framework to be analyzed in the field work block
- Preparation of country program outlines
- Preparation of country development plans

Field study - individual country analyses

The prepared country specific program outlines and development plans should then be analyzed within each participating country. The result of this analysis should be presented at a later international follow-up workshop.

Follow-up workshop

The outline for this workshop should be the following.

Objective

Definition of a development project to establish a system for good forest management with an independent and apolitical public organization for promotion and control.

Program

- Presentations of the result of the field work in the participating countries.
- Introduction to project preparation based on the Logical Framework Approach (LFA) principles.
- Preparation of an outline of a development project based on the result of the field work

The result of the workshop will be a project profile document for development of a system for good forest management, to be presented to potential financial agencies and local government concerned institutions for approval, funding and implementation.

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