

Progress of FSC certification in the Congo Basin

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International Seminar on Forest certification, Madrid, 17.11.2011

CONTEXT

- The world's second largest contiguous tropical forest after the Amazon representing over 15 % (180 million hectares) of the world's remaining tropical forest.
- One of the planet's essential defences against global climate change.
- Over 50% of the forest outside of protected areas are productive forests;
- Conflicting land use (forest land rich in timber, oil, mines, fertile soil, wildlife and water reservoir);
- Political will towards conservation and sustainable management of forest resources

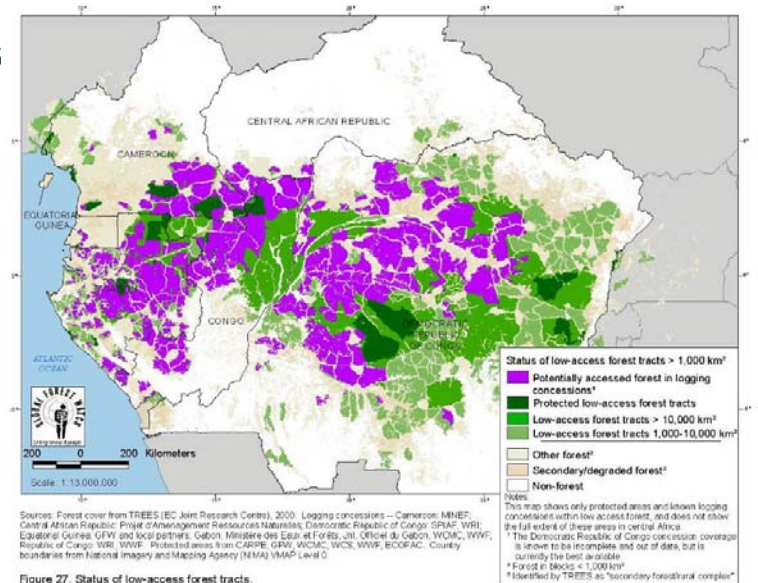
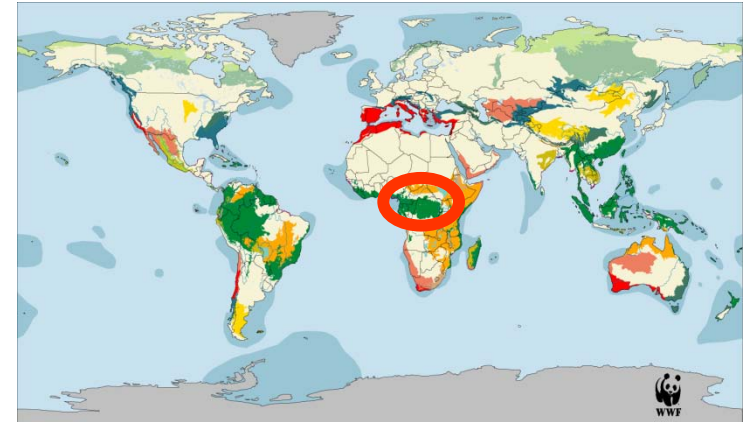


Figure 27. Status of low-access forest tracts.

History of FSC certification in Central Africa

- 1996: First company certified in the Congo Basin was FSC certified but the certificate was withdrawn the same year
- January 2006: 41000 hectares managed by WIJMA-Cameroun was certified after ten years of the withdrawal of the first certificate in the Congo Basin
- February 2006: International Seminar on promotion of responsible trade of forest products between Spain and Congo Basin countries;
- August 2010: Establishment of FSC Regional Office for Africa in the Congo Basin country (Cameroon)
- Today: 5.2 Million hectares certified in the Congo Basin and more than 5 Million in the process

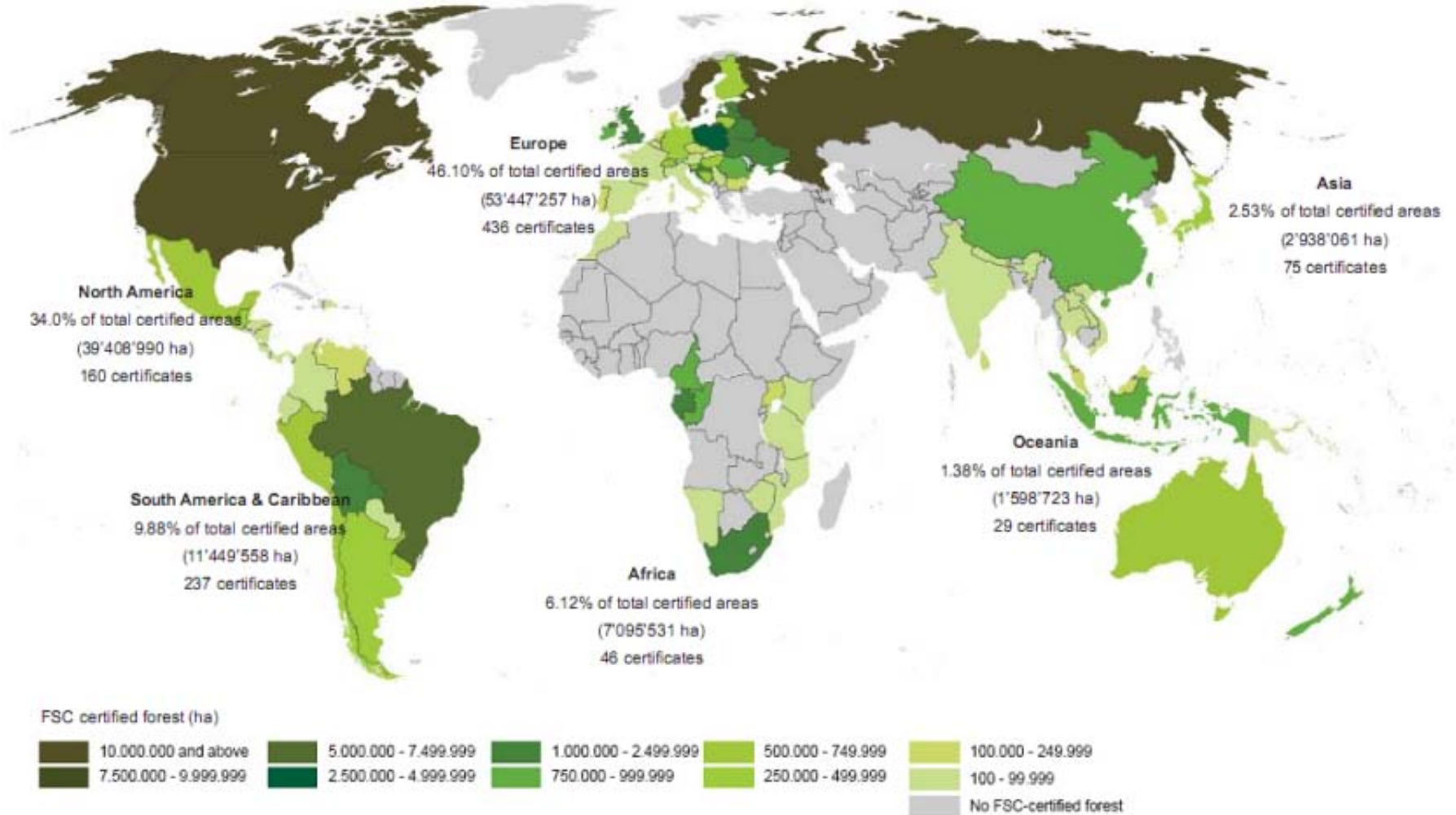


Key actors

- FSC Network (FSC-IC, Regional Office, National Offices, Network Partners).
- Service providers (CBs, GFTN, TFT, Independent Consultants)
- Governmental Institutions
- Environmental NGOs
- Logging companies
- Research Institutions
- Training Institutions
- Medias
- Financial partners



FSC certification in the world





Status of Management Plans and certification

Country	Total forest area	Production forest	Allocated concessions	Concession with MP	FSC Certified
Cameroon	19 639 000	12 000 000	6 074 033	4 207 862	824,730
Congo	22 263 000	13 000 000	11 975 670	1 907 843	2,430,996
Gabon	22 069 999	17 000 000	9 467 728	4 514 448	1,873,505
Equatorial Guinea	1 900 000	1 500 000	1 400 000	0	0
CAR	6 250 000	3 500 000	3 000 000	2 475 129	0
DRC	108 339 000	60 000 000	9 719 246	0	0
TOTAL	180 460 999	107 000 000	41 636 677	13 105 282	5,129,231



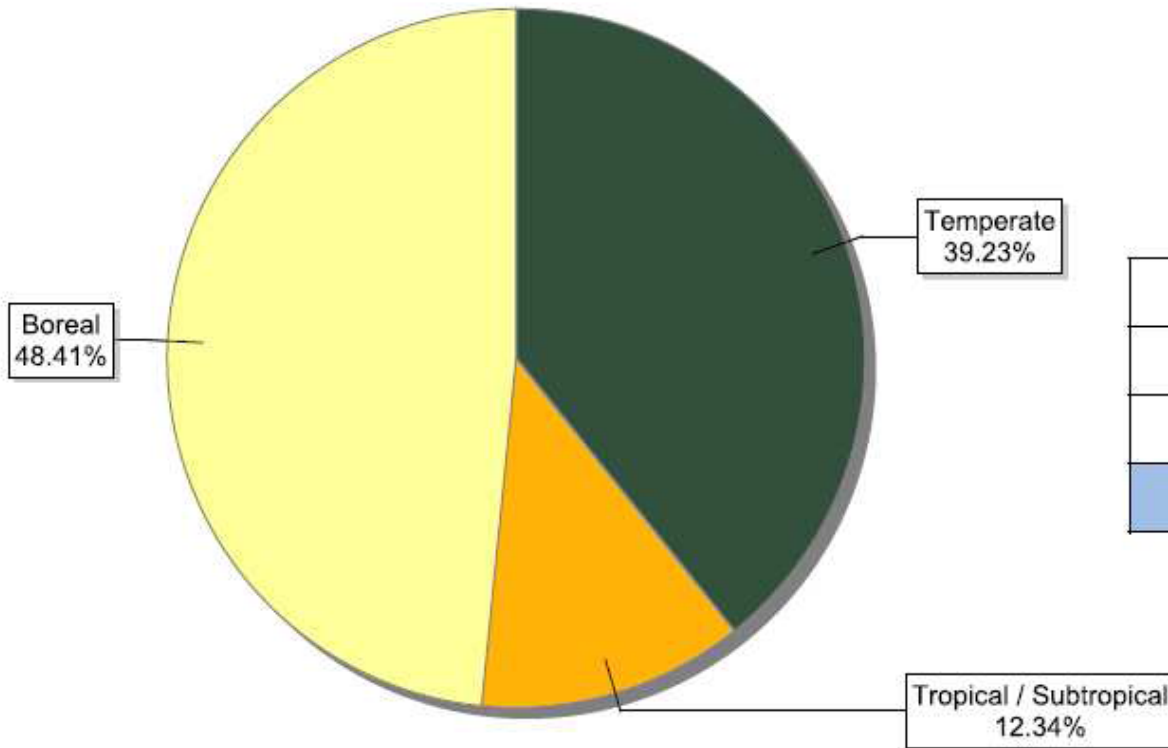
FSC certification in Africa

Country/Region	Total Area FM/COC (ha)	FM/COC certificates	CW	CoC
Cameroon	824,730	5	1	16
Congo	2,430,996	3	2	2
Gabon	1,873,505	3	4	15
DRC	0	0	1	1
Central Africa	5,129,231	11	8	34
Mozambique	46,240	1	1	1
Namibia	270,028	13	0	3
South Africa	1,624,616	22	22	118
Swaziland	114,465	3	0	2
Southern Africa	2,055,349	39	23	124
Madagascar	1,000	1	0	1
Kenya	2,557	2	0	3
Tanzania	32,462	2	0	1
Uganda	101 272	3	0	0
Eastern Africa	137,291	8		5
W. Africa (Ghana)	1,778	1	3	3
N. Africa (Morocco)	29,347	1	2	5
TOTAL AFRICA	7 352 996	60	36	171

Place of Congo Basin in FSC certification

71% of certified forests in Africa

30% of certified tropical forests in the world

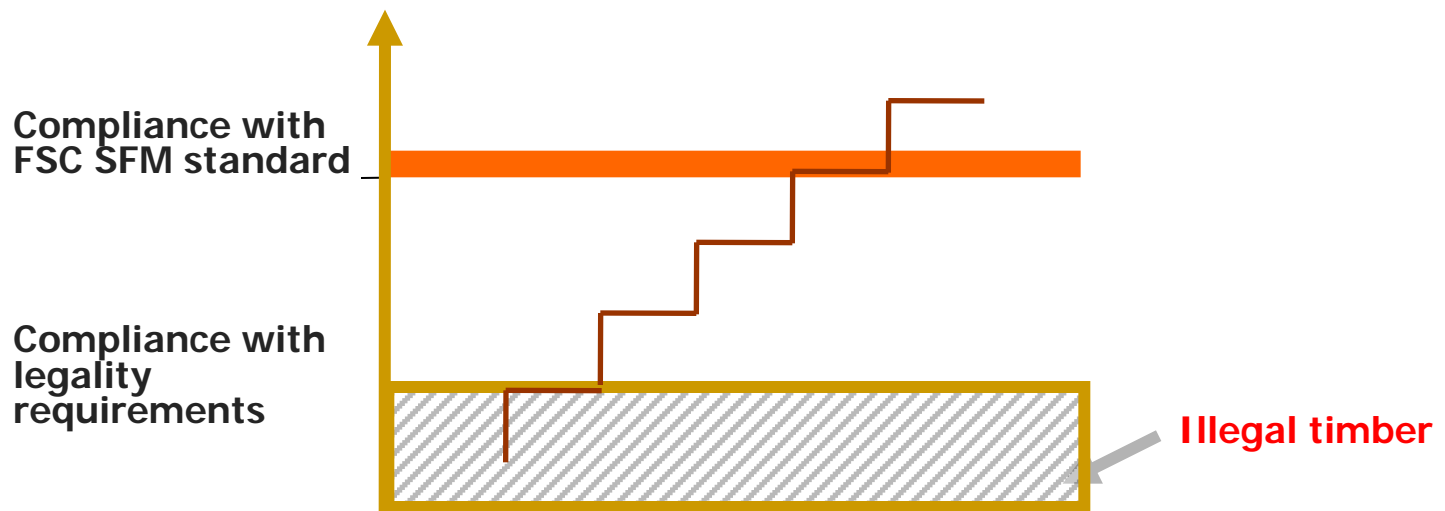


Information as of 16/08/2010	Forest area (million ha)
Boreal	65.70
Temperate	53.25
Tropical / Subtropical	16.75
Total	135.70

Key achievements (continued)

Commitment of Congo Basin countries to EU FLEGT/VPA

- Cameroon, Congo and Central African Republic signed the FLEGT/VPA with the EU.
- Gabon and DRC are in the process of negotiation.
- Dialogue between FSC and EU to ensure that FSC timber is unconditionally recognized by FLEGT-VPA and EU-Timber Regulation.



Achievements

- **Awareness building for key actors, including decision makers to create conditions for government support to the promotion of responsible forestry**



Key achievement (continued)

- Capacity building for key actors (auditors, logging companies staff, public administration staff, local NGOs, individual experts; etc.);



Key achievement (continued)

Market links between producers and buyers (countries and individual companies) for FSC certified timber



Key achievements (continued)

- Promotion of transparency and communication



Key achievements (continued)

Establishment of the frameworks of consultation and dialogue on credible



Key achievements (continued)

- Development of appropriate standards for certification of forests in the Congo Basin:
 - Development of FSC Regional standard underway,
 - SMIF standard for Cameroon,
 - Timber legality verification standards.
 - Gabon-PAFC standard endorsed by PEFC.



Benefits: Conservation of biodiversity

Researchers recognized the overall improvement of forest management due to FSC's requirement and influence, if compared to non certified FMUs.

– **WCS: Certified forest concessions are better controlled than most of protected areas: Elephants and apes roam the CIB certified forests concessions at densities that rival or surpass the adjacent Nouabalé- Ndoki National Park (Clark et al. 2009);**

– **WCS: An evaluation conducted in Gabon by WCS revealed that the performance of FSC certified companies is far better than non certified companies in almost all aspects. Certified companies applied an average of 86% of elements of best practices against an average of 29% by non certified companies (Rayden and Essono, 2010)**

– **CIFOR: Forest certification has the potential to improve weak normative frameworks that allow the unsustainable use of forests (Cerutti et al., 2010).**



Benefits

Corporate environmental responsibility



• Reduced impact logging



• Ensure natural regeneration



Benefit

Corporate Social responsibility

- Establishment of consultation frameworks between logging companies and local communities: conflict resolutions



Social infrastructures



Benefits



• Better housing for employees



Benefits



Security of workers

Key drivers

- Political support (Yaoundé Declaration)
- Involvement of governmental institutions
- National legislation integrating the concept of sustainable management and development;
- Commitment of consumer countries to source legal and/or certified timber;
- Synergy with other initiatives (FLEGT/VPA, ATO ITTO/PCI);
- Commitment of some financial partners



Key challenges

- Social and institutional context
- Information gap about the functioning of FSC system and certification process
- Insufficient awareness towards the benefits of FSC certification
- Insufficient resources (human and financial) Controversy around the performance of companies and CBs;
- Economical crisis that reduced the market of certified timber;
- Illegal logging and important local and international market of non FSC products
- Misinterpretation of FLEGT/VPA diverting interest of timber producers from FSC.



Strategy to address challenges

- Consultation frameworks at different level (international, regional, national and local)
- Advocacy and awareness building
- Development of the appropriate tools
- Capacity building;
- Participatory development of appropriate tools for responsible forest management;
- Market links
- Partnerships and dialogue between actors
- Transparency and communication



● CONCLUSIONS

- **The following factors contribute to the success of FSC certification in the Congo Basin:**

- **Strategic partnership involving key actors (Government, Financial partners, Environmental NGOs, Logging companies, Research institution, Training Institutions, Local communities, Individual resource persons)**
- **Pragmatic and multi-actor approach**
- **Involvement of the governments in the process of promotion of forest certification;**
- **Enabling conditions for the success of forest certification.**
- **Good governance and effective law enforcement**

- **FSC certification contributes to development of forests people. However, the development of forest people is a long-term process and needs huge resources which some time go beyond company's financial capacity;**

- **Some issues of FSC certification such as HCVF and RIL are still new in the Congo Basin. Capacity building on them is very necessary.**

- **Good governance and effective law enforcement;**

- **Development of forest people is a long-term process and needs huge and sustainable financing. Corporate social responsibility by companies engaged in FSC must seen as part of the global sustainable development strategy involving different actors;**

Je vous remercie



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