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The FSC Certificate Data Base

Presentation to FAO/UNECE Working Party On Forest Economics and Statistics, Twenty-eighth session Geneva, 3 May 2006

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Presentation Outline

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- FSC and ASI
- Current FSC certificate data base
- Weaknesses
- New FSC certificate data base
- Challenges and Solutions
- Summary
- FSC position on Parameters

Forest Stewardship Council

Our Mission is to promote environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests

Our products are the solutions we provide:

- Standards based on agreed principles for responsible forest management

- Accreditation and certification systems that monitor compliance with FSC standards

- Product labeling systems that recognizes responsible forest managers in the market

- Market places that recognize, appreciate and demand FSC certified products

ASI-Accreditation Services International

- ASI established in 2005 as a limited liability, legal entity in Germany

- Managing the FSC Accreditation Program
  - 15 FSC accredited certification bodies, 9 applicants
  - 817 Forest Management certificates - 74 million ha. in 72 countries.
  - 4588 Chain of Custody certificates in 73 countries
  - Surveillance of each Certificate holder 1 per year on site by certification body

Current FSC certificate database

- Data collected from certificate holders by FSC accredited Certification Bodies includes:
  - contact details
  - forest type
  - tenure
  - products
  - species

Weaknesses of FSC certificate database

- Management of data>
    - two step entry CB to FSC to data base
    - 'cut and paste' entry
    - time to update online data base up to 6 weeks

- Quality of data>
    - lack of standardised entry
    - largely free text

New database development

ASI is developing a new on-line database:

- improve data management

- decentralize; direct entry by certification bodies

- increase quality through standardized input

- collection of new data types to demonstrate social, environmental, economic, impact

- data history storage

New database development

Expected results

- enhanced customer service providing globally relevant information

- tools to analyse indicators of FSC's social, environmental and market impact

- improved tracking of product through the chain of custody

Challenges

- comparability of certified product and non-certified product data important

- identification of definitions/classification that are widely accepted and used

- different characteristics of products at different stages in the Chain of Custody

- species identification problems

- data format: currency, time, m3, board feet, volumes

- confidentiality and data availability

Solutions

- Product Classification
  - UN Central Product Classification Version 1.1 is also linked to
  - Harmonized Commodity Description HS 2002

Solutions

- Species Terminology
  - scientific names required
  - translations provided as support
  - mix between species and genus specifications
  - focus on Timber Trading Species
  - H. G. Richter and M. J. Dallwitz (2000 onwards). 'Commercial timbers: descriptions, illustrations, identification, and information retrieval. In English, French, German, and Spanish.'

Solutions

- Data format (currency, time, m3, board feet, volumes)
  - only volumes in m3
  - calendar year for reporting
  - discussion going on

Solutions

- Confidentiality and data availability

    - companies do not like to give trade, sales and price information
    - asking companies to specify ranges
    - data is only available to CB and FSC not public
    - data base access very secure

FSC position of suggested parameters

Parameter	Units	FSC Position
Certified forest area	ha	Collected by FSC and public information
Chain of custody certificates	number	Collected by FSC and public information
Harvest (fellings) from certified forest	m3	Difficult to differentiate between feelings/removal
Harvest (removals) of certified roundwood	m3	Collected by FSC based on volume sold
Production of certified sawnwood, panels, pulp & paper	m3	Collected based on volumes sold but not public information

FSC position of suggested parameters

Parameter	Units	FSC Position
Production of value added goods from certified sawnwood, panels, paper	Value in National Currency	No value information collected by FSC
Trade in certified sawnwood, panels, pulp, paper, value added goods, firewood	m3, tons, Value in National Currency	Collected by FSC based on volumes sold but not public
Sales of certified goods	National Currency	Collected by FSC based on volume sold but not public
Price of certified goods	National Currency	Confidential and not provided by companies

Summary on parameters

The FSC certificate data base is expected to deliver

- overview of input and output volume data of products by species
- estimates of product volumes sold as FSC certified

The FSC certificate data base cannot deliver

- a complete tracking system
- information on value of products
- information on the price and sales
- no retail information

Project status

Management of System

⟹implementation underway

Impact of the System

⟹Onging study

- environmental (e.g. natural forests, plantations, HCVF)
- social (e.g. workers conditions)
- economic (e.g. impact of certification on rural livelihood)

Marketing Commercialisation

⟹New certificate search website

Thank you very much for your attention

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