Improved Certification Schemes for Sustainable Tropical Forest Management

Achievements

In three unprotected tropical forests, the project developed certification tools and incentives for small forest managers, communities and non-timber forest product collectors. The goal of certification was to incentivize the stakeholders to protect biodiversity while maintaining their commercial goals. The tools were disseminated internationally by partners and in workshops.

Legacy

The work of the project continues because:

- The results were widely disseminated by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) network and affiliated certification bodies.
- Generic tools were extrapolated from the project that are adaptable to other tropical forest areas.
- The project prompted the FSC to start a fair-trade pilot project to certify community and small-timber operations in developing countries.
- Some project activities were continued and expanded because of leveraged funding.
- The GEF-funded project influenced the FSC to take into account small forest, community and smallholder operations and to develop a policy to deal with mission-related work by outside organizations.

FAST FACTS

Achieved: Improved tropical forest certification schemes and contributed to stable forest management in three countries.
Where: Brazil, Cameroon, Mexico
Cost: GEF funds: $962,000; Co-financing: $793,000
When: May 2005 to June 2009
Partners: Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Forest Stewardship Council, Proforest, Forest Stewardship Council National Initiative of Brazil, Forest Stewardship Council Regional Office in Cameroon, Forest Stewardship Council National Initiative in Mexico
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Publications:
Results of the project were distributed through the Forest Stewardship Council, www.fsc.org.

Outputs and Deliverables:
The project succeeded in:
• Contributing to ongoing sustainable forest management efforts in Brazil, Cameroon and Mexico, three countries with high levels of biodiversity.
• Generated generic tools for certification that could be used worldwide.
• Established improved certification standards geared toward biodiversity conservation for small forest managers, communities and other low-intensity forest management units.
• Worked closely with FSC, an international non-profit that promotes responsible forest management, to incorporate small forest managers and low-intensity concerns into their protocols.

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