



Independent Forest Monitoring. Comparing effective and reliable approaches across regions: Congo Basin

*FOREST GOVERNANCE AND POLICY
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FODER : Non profit organisation with an international vocation created in Cameroon in 2002



... Since 2002

- Central Africa : **Cameroon**, Central African Republic (CAR), Republic of Congo
- West Africa: Ivory Coast



A fairer society without exclusion, or discrimination, putting natural resources to the use of sustainable development

Action
Changes
Things

Fields of actions

- Governance of natural resources
- Biodiversity and environment
- Rural Entrepreneurship

COMMONALITIES ON IFM CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK ACCROSS REGIONS

Theory of Change: IFM Strategy in the Congo Basin

Activities

- in Congo Basin, we are moving toward harmonization of IFM approaches through the development and implementation of a quality IFM system based on the international ISO standard 9001:2015 relating to Quality management system (QMS), and the OTP quality requirement
- Capacity building of CSO, communities and other actors
- Conduct quality IFM activities and produce denunciation reports
- Holding reading committees for IFM report before publication
- Participation, collaboration and coordination in IFM activities
- Joint mission with the administration
- Support for control missions and litigation monitoring
- Sharing knowledge, experiences and inclusive dialogue
- Continuous improvement of the quality management system (QMS) in IFM

Outputs

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- Strengthened capacity of CSOs and communities in IFM and advocacy
- Effective alerts and denunciation analysis , verification
- Publication of IIFM reports containing reliable information and credible denunciation
- Dissemination of IFM and Timber track data
- More effective control of forestry activities and land use
- Increased capacity to mobilize funding
- CSO and platform-led advocacy to support reforms and law enforcement

Intermediate outcomes (effects):

- Better compliance with legal requirements by forestry companies and agro-industries
- Better involvement of stakeholders in law enforcement and deforestation reduction
- Production and marketing of legal timber
- volume of timber legally sold on the EU market,
- Percentage of companies that have obtained legality certificates for countries implementing VPA-FLEGT (Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Gabon) and engaged in private certificates for countries not engaged in VPA (DRC, CAR)
- reduction of illegal logging through strengthened enforcement and sanctions

Final results (impacts)

- Forest preservation and forest cover development
- Better forest governance
- reduction of deforestation
- Improved governance of natural resources
- Sustainable forest management

Assumptions:

- Favourable political and security environment;
- Effective stakeholders engagement to IFM activities: CSOs and platform involved, Administrations concerned, TFP, media, private sector
- Permanent availability of funding for quality IFM
- Increasing stakeholder interest in quality IFM information

Inputs

(Human, financial, hardware, software resources)

IFM approaches in the Congo basin

Independent forest monitoring (IFM) has two forms in the Congo Basin

- **mandated IFM**

This type of Independent Monitoring (IM) requires an official agreement/protocol between a NGO and the national authority, usually the ministry of Forestry, which mandates the NGO to generally conduct independent monitoring of compliance with official law enforcement systems

For mandated IFM, in addition to the protocol of agreement with the government, the TOR of the IFM mission is developed jointly with the forest administration

A reading committee is set up to review the reports before publication. The committee is chaired by the forest authority

- **non-mandated IFM**

Generally called External IFM: independent monitoring is carried out by civil society organizations without explicit agreement or formal approval from the government.

Some non-mandated IFM in their approach collaborate well with administration (case of the SNOIE network in Cameroon, and in Republic of Congo-SNOIE Congo) which the approaches is based on the international ISO standard 9001:20015 related to quality management system. A reading committee is set up in the case of SNOIE, and chaired by the senior CSO which coordinate the system

This is not the case for all non-mandated IFM

IFM approaches in the Congo basin

Types and approaches of IFM vary from country to country

Cameroon

Since the end of Mandated IFM in 2013, the SNOIE approach, certified ISO 9001 on quality management, and coordinated by FODER, is implemented.

7 CSOs involved and trained in quality IFM Including OTP quality requirement. **Peer review committee (CTE)** chaired by organization senior staff, **to review IFM reports**

République du Congo (RC)

- CAGDF-led mandated IFM. The approach is certified ISO 9001. **Peer review committee (CL)** chaired by the Forestry authority.
- CJJ-led non mandated IFM through the SNOIE Congo network . 8 CSOs involved in SNOIE Congo). The approaches is certified ISO 9001. **Peer review committee (CTE)** chaired by organization senior staff
- A harmonious coexistence and good synergy between mandated IFM and non mandated IFM in RC
- Mandated and non mandated IFM activities inspire and provide reliable and credible information on the advocacy and lobbying activities

Republic democratic of congo (DRC).

- OGF-led mandated IFM. **Peer review committee (CL)** chaired by the Forestry authority.
- RENOI network-led Non mandated IFM

Central African Republic (CAR)

- CIEDD-led mandated IFM: **Peer review committee (CL)** chaired by the Forestry authority.
- 2 CSOs- led Non mandated IFM): FDD and OGRNE

Gabon

- 3 **CSOs-led non mandated IFM:** Brainforest, MUYISSI, Environnement et Kéva initiative
- 1 **CSO-led Mandated IFM:** Conservation Justice

Advocacy and monitoring of IFM recommendations; litigation monitoring

IMPORTANCE OF GFW TOOLS

- Verification of information received from communities (GLAD Alerts)
- Supply of vector and raster files for thematic maps (Cameroon Forest Atlas)
- Provision of relevant technical documents (Cameroon Forest Atlas)
- Use of Open Timber Portail (OTP) subcategories to guide IFM data collection on the field
- Publication of reports

Types of data collected

Types of evidence that IFM can collect through Photo, interviews and documentary review

Photos

Failure to comply with operating and forest intervention standards:

- ✓ cuts below the minimum diameter allowed by law,
- ✓ un-marked stumps and logs,
- ✓ abandonment of wood in forests,
- ✓ logging along a watercourse without respecting the 30 meter distance authorized by law

Literature reviews

- Under declaration of volumes (measures may be taken on logs or debits and compared with annual operating permits)
- Fraud on operating and wood transportation documents
- Failure to pay the fine
- failure to pay forestry taxes
- Failure to comply with environmental standards

Interviews

- Failure to respect the contractual commitments of the companies towards the communities (social specifications)
- Governance issues:
 - ✓ cases of complicity of illegal logging by officials of the administration, members of local communities bordering the forests;
 - ✓ insufficient staff, equipment at the forest control post level to control the entire forest area of their jurisdiction
- Non-compliance with labour standards
- Fraud on forest exploitation document

Thank you for your attention



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