



International cooperation on tropical forests: Governance, legality and ITTO



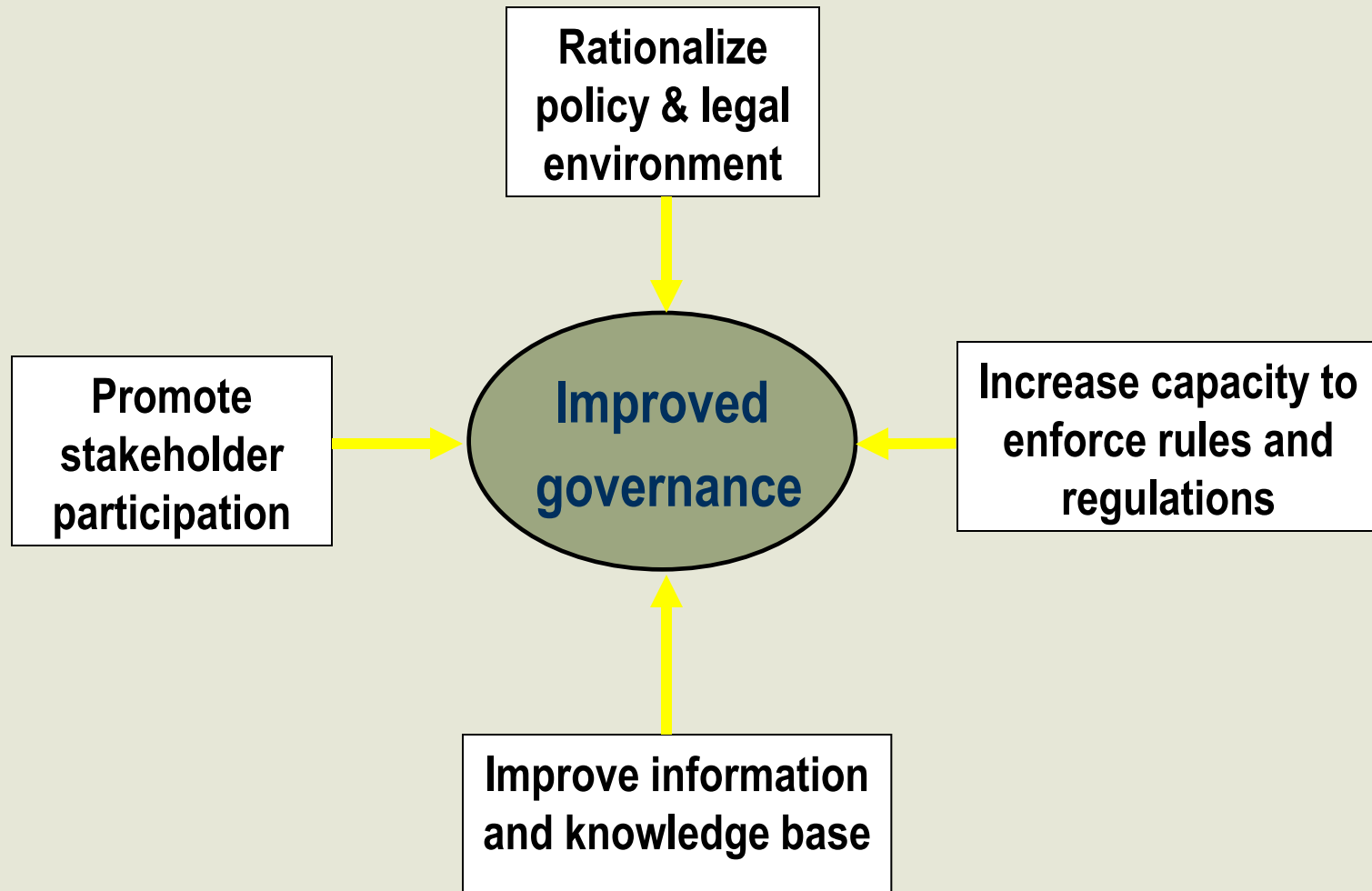


ITTO's Mandate

- Promoting SFM and trade in sustainably produced tropical forest products
- Key requirement of sustainability is compliance with all relevant legal frameworks
- ITTO began work on forest governance and legality issues over two decades ago to try and counter the negative impacts of illegal practices in tropical forests on the attainment of the Organization's objective to promote SFM.



ITTO's APPROACH TO FOREST GOVERNANCE





Rationalizing Policy/Legal Environment

- Case studies on FLE/illegal trade in many countries found conflicting laws and/or incoherent policies
- Projects in several countries have assisted in identifying underlying causes of illegality and drafting coherent, consistent, enforceable forest legislation
- Country diagnostic missions also identified problems, promoted improved policies for FLE
- Program to improve implementation of CITES requirements for listed tropical timber species, ensure forest laws consistent with CITES



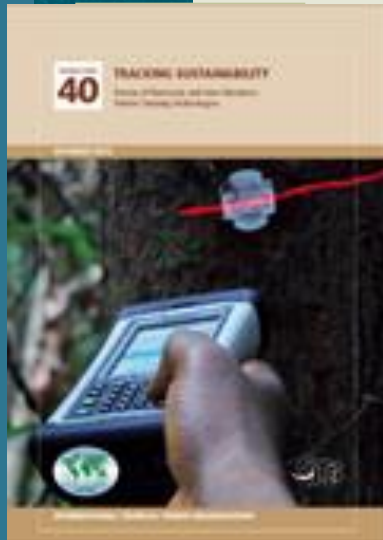
Building Capacity

- FLE Best Practices workshops with FAO
- Large training programs to:
 - improve forest statistics
 - promote use of tracking technology
- Promoting phased approaches to certification
- Promoting NGO/civil society involvement in forest monitoring
- Encouraging countries to engage with international initiatives (eg FLEGT) and in bilateral discussions/agreements, share experiences



Improving Data and Knowledge

- Bi-weekly MIS provides price and trade info; Annual Review provides detailed information on trade flows
- Trade discrepancy studies and production/capacity comparisons; IMM project to monitor FLEGT-licensed timber entering EU
- Timber tracking projects funded in many countries, “Tracking Sustainability” report
- Several projects using satellite imagery with GIS (containing details of approved concessions, roads, etc) to spot illegal forest clearing and track legal timber





Improving Data and Knowledge



Detection of forest clearing using IKONOS (4 m) and Landsat 5 (30 m) satellite data in Guyana



Promoting Stakeholder Involvement

- Civil Society – Private sector partnership grants to contribute to SFM and verifiable legality in many countries, led to certification of concessions in Latin America and Africa
- International conferences arising from recommendations of TAG/CSAG Panel on Illegal Logging /Illegal Timber Trade:
 - Timber transport
 - Indigenous/community forestry
 - Tropical forest tenure





TFLET

- Tropical Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Thematic Program since 2008
- Rationalizes ITTO's work, provides new funding window, one of four thematic programs approved/funded under ITTA 2006
- Over \$10 million distributed to 50 projects in 25 countries to date; main themes timber tracking and community empowerment





CITES Program

Assists countries to implement CITES provisions for listed tropical tree species

Over \$15 million from multiple donors (two-thirds EU) since 2007, 70+ projects in main range states

Activities:

- Focused inventories/management plans
- NDFs
- Training/capacity building
- Tracking of listed products covered by NDFs





Recent tracking/identification work



Title	Executing Agency	Species
Developing DNA database for <i>Gonystylus bancanus</i> in Sarawak	Forestry Department Sarawak Sarawak Forestry Corporation	<i>Gonystylus bancanus</i>
The development of <i>Gonystylus</i> spp. (ramin) timber monitoring system using radio frequency identification (RFID) in Peninsular Malaysia	Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia	<i>Gonystylus</i> spp.
Use of DNA for identification of <i>Gonystylus</i> species and timber geographical origin in Sarawak	Sarawak Forestry Corporation	<i>Gonystylus</i> spp.
Training interested parties on the verification of CITES permits and the use of the "CITES Wood ID" in DRC	MECNT (Division for Wildlife Resources and Hunting)	<i>Pericopsis elata</i>
Pilot implementation of a DNA traceability system for <i>Pericopsis elata</i> in forest concessions and sawmills in Cameroon and Congo	Double Helix/ ANAFOR/CNIAF	<i>Pericopsis elata</i>
Pilot Implementation of a DNA traceability system for <i>Prunus africana</i> in Prunus Allocation Units in Cameroon and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	Double Helix/ MINFOF/MECNT	<i>Prunus africana</i>



Recent tracking/identification work



Title	Executing Agency	Species
Using the Near Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS) technique on a pilot scale, as a potential tool for the monitoring of mahogany trade	Brazilian Forest Service / Forest Products Laboratory (SFB/LPF)	Swietenia macrophylla King. (mahogany), Carapa guianensis Aubl. (crabwood or andiroba), Cedrela odorata L. (cedar), and Micropholis melinoniana (curupixá)
Establishment of a forensic laboratory for timber identification and description in the implementation of legal proceedings and traceability systems for CITES listed products	Fundación Naturaleza para la Vida –FNPV (Nature for Life Foundation), Guatemala	Swietenia macrophylla, S. humilis, Dalbergia calycina, D. retusa, D. tucurensis, D. stevensonii and Guaiacum spp.
Establishment of a fully documented reference sample collection and identification system for all CITES-listed Dalbergia species and a feasibility study for Diospyros and look-alike species	Institute of Integrative Biology (IBZ), Switzerland	Dalbergia and Diospyros spp.(Madagascar)
Development and implementation of a species identification and timber tracking system in Africa with DNA fingerprints and stable isotopes (PD 620/11 Rev.1 (M))	Thünen Institute of Forest Genetics	Iroko (Milicia excelsa, M. regia), sapelli (Entandrophragma cylindricum) and ayou (Triplochiton scleroxylon)
Implementing a DNA Timber Tracking System in Indonesia (TFL-PD 037/13 Rev.2(M))	University of Adelaide, Australia	Red meranti group; and light red meranti



Conclusions/Lessons

- Timber tracking systems (TTSs, which exist in some form in most countries) are increasingly relevant for demonstrating legality and meeting market requirements (e.g. FLEGT VPA, U.S. Lacey Act, etc).
- For most tropical countries already involved in forest certification or monitoring species covered by international regulations such as CITES, chain of custody monitoring including timber tracking systems are already in place or planned. These systems are deemed essential for the achievement of sustainable forest management (SFM) which is the ultimate objective for all countries; however technology cannot replace the human capacity necessary for SFM.



Conclusions/Lessons (cont.)



- Technology levels used must be appropriate to each individual country/industry and adequate capacity building needs to be undertaken to ensure sustainability and local ownership of the system after any pilot phase.
- Technologies such as DNA and stable isotope analysis can help to verify the accuracy of information generated by TTSs and thereby support SFM. Support for establishment of systems and capacity building (especially for smallholders) will continue to be a necessity.
- Acquisition of samples continues to be a challenge in many tropical countries, particularly for CITES listed species.
- Need for continued work to consolidate reference sample databases to ensure wide availability and application to realize potential (GTTN).



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