

262

Forest Certification



SWEDEN; SKINNSKATTEBERG AND STOCKHOLM, MAY 14 – 30, 2008
ONE OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 2008

Invitation

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is a government agency responsible for the major part of Sweden's development cooperation. Focus on long-term knowledge and competence development constitutes a major feature in all development cooperations.

Sida offers, as part of its bilateral development assistance, Advanced International Training Programmes of strategic importance to the social and economic development of cooperating countries based on identified priorities and needs. In the long-term perspective the programmes shall contribute to institutional strengthening and capacity development in the cooperating countries.

These programmes aim at enhancing managerial and technical skills and cover subjects of strategic importance to economic and social development. The Training Programmes are designed for experienced executives in middle and top management positions in their respective organisations.

With the Training Programmes, Sida aim to contribute to processes of change and development in the participants' organisations and lines of businesses. The foundation of the entire programme is a project assignment. The assignment shall be well established in the participant's organisation and is a basic part of the programme concept.



Göran Holmqvist
Acting Director General
Sida

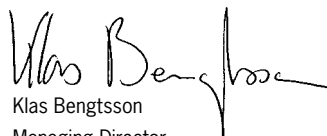
Forest Certification

During the last 10 years, forest certification has developed into one of the most important tools for safeguarding more sustainable forest management. Forest certification, originally presented by the environmental NGOs, is today mainstream, and supported worldwide by major producers and buyers. By proving that forest management is environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable, forest management can be certified, and products can be sold on the market with a internationally recognized label. Standards and guidelines, generic as well as national and regional, for what could be called "good forestry practice", have been developed. The Small and Low Intensity Forest Management (SLIMF) project and Group Certification are responses to the needs of small and low-intensity managed forests. Controlled Wood is another instrument supporting the expansion of forest certification.

The driving force in forest certification is the demand from "green consumers". However, forest certification today is mainly used as a business-to-business tool, where companies can ensure environmental and social responsibility in the corporate strategy for purchasing forest-based products.

Sweden has long experience in efficient forestry and successful export. During the past decades, forestry in Sweden has also developed towards more ecological management methods. Already in 1998, the Swedish FSC standard was accepted as the first national standard for forest certification, and today most forests in Sweden are certified by FSC, PEFC and/or ISO.

The training provides a unique worldwide meeting place for professionals interested in forest certification.



Klas Bengtsson
Managing Director
SSC Svensk SkogsCertifiering AB

Programme Objectives

The main objective of the programme is to support the development of a more sustainable and profitable forest sector in the invited countries.

The main tool for reaching this goal is the exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of standard development, forest certification, forest management, and marketing of certified forest products. Another key aspect of the programme is the development of national and international networks supporting sustainable forestry and forest certification

The specific objectives of the programme are to contribute to:

- The development of national standards for sustainable forest management.
- The development of national capacity for the implementation of Forest Certification including capacity for internal and external auditing.
- The development of more cost-efficient production systems based on a more integrated approach forest-industry-market.

- The increased value and the improved market access for sustainably produced forest products.

Contents

The programme is divided into five interlinked modules supporting the objectives of the program:

1. Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

Forest management can only be sustainable if it's environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable. Strategies for including and balancing these three aspects of forest management will be integrated into all the different parts of the training programme.

2. Forest Certification

This module focuses on the technical part of certification including, for example; auditing, different systems for certification, certification of small business, group certification, CoC (Chain of Custody) and Controlled Wood.

3. Standard Development

This module focuses on the develop-

ment of national standards for sustainable forest management. Key aspects are how to successfully carry out the consultative process, and how to get international recognition.

4. Marketing

Forest certification attempts to link "green consumers" to what might be called "good forestry practice". Today, certification is increasingly becoming a business-to-business tool. This module focuses on how to improve the value of the forest products, based on certification.

5. Integration Forest-Industry-Market

Good forest practices, as well as certification in itself, include costs and benefits. Long-term profitability can only be safeguarded when the full value potential of the different products from the forest is efficiently utilized. Forest management needs to be market driven, and transportation, storing and processing need to be cost-efficient and adapted to the needs of the customers. This is the focus of the last module.

Programme Structure

Phase 1 – The programme organizers will visit each country invited, and together with key actors in the forest sector, develop a strategy for the focus of the training activities as well as the strategy for the selection of participants.

Phase 2 – Selected participants will be invited to a preparatory, non-obligatory, basic training on forest certification available on Internet.

Phase 3 – The first week of the 3 week training in Sweden, will provide the participants with a broad background to forest certification based on examples from Sweden. The second week will focus on covering technical aspects of certification, including practical training on forest certification in the field. The last week will incorporate “Theme Days” where the participants, based on interest, can focus on a specific aspect of forest certification including 1/standard development, 2/certification, and 3/production and marketing. During the programme in Sweden, lectures will be mixed with group work, case studies, discussions, and study tours.

Phase 4: The Pilot Project will be further developed during the last week of the Swedish session, based on the strategy developed at the country level, and the interests of the individual participants. The project will be carried out in close cooperation with the participant's home organization between the training in Sweden and the follow up in one of the participating countries. The Pilot Project will be supported by technical support from the programme organizers, including also a follow up visit.

Phase 5 – The 2 week regional training in one of the participating countries will be oriented to field visits covering the different aspects of forest certification and sustainable forest management. Success stories will be presented, and discussions and group-work will be important parts of the training. National and international experts will be invited to support the programme. The last

part of the regional follow up programme will give the participants a possibility to present and discuss the results of the Pilot Project.

Phase 6 – A long-term (3–5 years) cooperation plan will be established based on the country strategy and the results of the pilot project, and will include technical support, follow up workshops, and evaluation of the results.

Date and Place

The programme is spread over 1 year, out of which 5 weeks are scheduled. The Swedish component will take place between May 14–30 2008 in Stockholm and Skinnskatteberg. The regional follow up sessions will be in one of the participating countries during 2 weeks in November/December. The timing and location of the national follow up workshops is still to be decided.

Organizers

The programme is organized by Svensk SkogsCertifiering AB (SSC) in cooperation with The School for Forest Engineers at the University of Agricultural Sciences, and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in Sweden.

Participation

Target Countries

For 2008, the training programme invites Latin America (Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Guatemala), South and East Asia (China, Indonesia) and Africa (Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Ghana). Individually selected observers from future cooperation countries might also be invited.

Requirements

The Programme is intended for policy makers, forest managers, forest industry managers, researchers, auditors, and representatives from social and environmental NGOs involved in forest certification.

The aim is to, over a period of 3-5 years, support a group of participants from each country that together will support the development of a more sustainable and profitable forest sector. Applicants should have an appropriate academic background

(minimum bachelor degree) and substantial experience from the forest sector. The selection of participants will to a large extent be based on the commitment of the participant's home organization.

To achieve good gender balance, women are encouraged to apply.

The training will be conducted in English. Participants must have proven proficiency in the English language in writing, reading and speaking. An English language test should be made with an official body in the home country of the applicant, unless the applicant can provide other documentation to support his/her ability.

Application Process

**Closing date for application is
March 10, 2008.**

Applications submitted after the closing date will not be considered. Applications should be made on the special form attached, and include a recent photograph and all required information and documents. The applicant must be nominated by his/her organization or institution. When necessary, the application should be approved by the official nominating authority in the country. The application should be submitted to the nearest Swedish Embassy/Consulate.

The process during Phase 1 – “Identification of training strategy at country level” will include involvement of different organizations in the participating countries. The final criteria for selection of the 25 participants will be based on the identified strategy for each participating country, and the applicant's commitment and capacity to support the development and implementation of the Pilot Project. Selected applicants will be notified by e-mail or fax.

Cost of Participation

The programme will cover all training costs such as lectures, literature, documentation, study tours and certain social activities, as well as accommodation and food. International travel costs to and from Sweden are NOT included. However, Sida will

cover international travel costs for the regional training in one of the participating countries. The participant carries costs incurred in traveling within their home country to participate in national workshops (Phase 4 and 6) and to the nearest international airport. The Programme will not cover personal expenses.

Accommodation

Accommodation is arranged for the full duration of the scheduled phases of the programme. Each participant will have a single room. During study tours, appropriate accommodation will be provided.

Visa

Participants are responsible for ob-

taining all visas necessary during all phases of the programme. The visa should be valid for the whole period of the programme, and the passport should be valid for three months longer than the entry visa. The costs for obtaining visas are carried by the participant. For more information, this website offers Swedish visa information: <http://www.migrationsverket.se/english.html>

Insurance

All participants are covered by a group insurance while on scheduled phases of the programme. This insurance includes costs for medical care in the event of acute illness or accident. Medical and dental check-ups are not included.

Contact information

The address for all communication is:

Svensk SkogsCertifiering AB

Sysslomangatan 8
SE-753 11 Uppsala
Sweden

Ph: +46-18 15 00 02

Fax: +46-18 15 00 03

Web site: <http://www.ssc-forestry.com/>

Mr. Klas Bengtsson, Programme Director
klas.bengtsson@ssc-forestry.com

SSC – Svensk SkogsCertifiering AB is part of The SSC Forestry Group also including Skogsbiologerna AB, SSC Americas SA in Chile, SSC Africa in South Africa and Ghana and Wildhorus Ltd in the UK. Our strategy for natural resource management is based on the principles and guidelines given by the leading systems for certification, for example FSC – The Forest Stewardship Council and FLO – The Fairtrade Labelling Organisation. Through our network, we are able to call on more than 60 experienced specialist consultants of whom approximately one third are in Europe, Africa and Latin America respectively.

www.ssc-forestry.com

The School for Forest Engineers is a department of The Faculty of Forest Sciences at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. The faculty is the centre for higher education and research for the forestry sector in Sweden. The responsibility of the faculty encompasses forest education, research, cooperation, and dissemination of research

results. The School for Forest Engineer's major activities include: The BSc-programme in forest engineering, international cooperation, in-service training, and applied research. Other main fields of expertise are pedagogical methodologies, curriculum development, and institutional capacity building.

www.smsk.slu.se

WWF is one of the world's largest and most experienced independent conservation organizations, with almost 5 million supporters and a global network active in more than 100 countries.

WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by,

- Conserving the world's biological diversity.
- Ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable.
- Promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

www.panda.org

Halving poverty by 2015 is one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring cooperation and sustainability. The partner countries are responsible for their own development. Sida provides resources and develops knowledge and expertise, making the world a richer place.



SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY

Division for International Training Programmes
SE-105 25 Stockholm Sweden
Phone: +46 (0)8 698 50 00
Fax: +46 (0)8 20 88 64
sida@sida.se, www.sida.se