

Support Project for the Updating of Training in Forest Management and Forest Concession Management in Central African Forestry Schools (Gabon)

Final report PD 189/03 Rev.1 (I)

The project aimed to support the training institutions of the RIFFEAC region by improving the training programme for forest management in forest concessions. The project took into account activities provisioned in ITTC Decision 10(XXXII) on the Promotion of Sustainable Forest Management in the Congo Basin, in particular its operative paragraph 4b on the organization of a workshop for training the trainers in forest management, with an emphasis on environmental and social components of the management of forest concessions.

Project activities lead to the following outputs:

- A reference training programme in forest management and in the management of forest concessions in all forest training institutions;
- Updated curricula in forest management; and
- Trainers master and implement the appropriate pedagogic methods for training in forest management.

Activities related to the above outputs included: (i) the evaluation of training needs in the field of forest management, (ii) the validation of identified training needs and (iii) the development of forest management training program. Activity (i) was fully implemented: three forest concessions were selected in Cameroon, Gabon and the Republic of Congo. Two national consultants per country were selected and visited the sites to make a detailed description of duties and activities and the skills required to fulfil these tasks. Prior to field activities, the methodology for data collection was refined and harmonized. Activity (ii) has also been fully implemented and a workshop to validate the training needs identified was held in Gabon on 12-13 July 2004. Activity (iii) started with a workshop in Cameroon in November 2004 during which the development of a forest management training program was initiated, and the training programme was completed and validated at a regional workshop held in Congo in April 2005.

The key results of the project are as follows:

- Published report on the training needs in the field of forest management in Central Africa, (Rapport Technique nr.1).

- Published report with a training programme, consisting of 15 modules, on forest management for Central Africa, (Rapport Technique nr.2).
- Published report on the methods and pedagogic tools to be used by the trainers, and for the follow-up and evaluation of the Training Programme, (Rapport Technique nr.3).
- At least 2 trainers from each RIFFEAC member institute received training on the Forest Management Training Programme and on the methods and pedagogic tools to be used by the trainers, and for the follow-up and evaluation of the training programme.
- A CD rom was produced with all project findings and reports; and was distributed to all training institutes in the Central African region.

The project has been beneficial to various relevant schools and training institutes, relevant ministries and governmental agencies as well as to the private sector operating in forest management and forest concessionaires in Central Africa. It has facilitated the relevance of RIFFEAC as being recognized by the COMIFAC as the training network for all training in forest management in Central Africa.

The project suffered from delays in implementation, mainly due to long procedures to work with forest concessionaires for the analysis of training needs; the temporary absence of the project facilitator; and the long procedure for the selection and engagement of consultants.

The implementing agency has submitted the final audited financial statements on the use of project funds in accordance with the project agreement. Tangible outputs of the project, project progress reports, 3 technical reports and the completion report have also been submitted to the ITTO Secretariat. In November 2006, the relevant ITTO Committees reported this project as completed.