



CONCEPT NOTE FOR MARKET IDEAS 1 – PFBC ANCHORAGE CONFERENCE

“GOVERNANCE AND LAND USE IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE CONCERN IN CENTRAL AFRICA”

BACKGROUND

The interdependence between poverty, land use change and climate change has been illustrated many times over. The *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment* (2005) has drawn linkages between human needs and environmental goods and services.

At the bottom of the pyramid are the basic physiological needs for food, water, warmth (energy) and shelter¹. Forests provide a number of goods and services that can be used to meet some of these needs. Above this comes safety and security. Forests may contribute to human health in a number of ways (e.g. the collection of medicinal plants and the use of fuel wood to boil and sterilize water) and may also help to reduce the risk of natural disasters (floods, landslides, etc.). Forests do not directly contribute to security, but the policy and legal framework related to the access and use of forests may contribute to providing secure property rights and basic law and order in forest areas (such as VPA process, EUTR or credible forest certification such as FSC).

These environmental basic goods and services, supplied by the forest, are in constant competition. There are the four “F”: Fuel, Fiber, Food and Freshwater. These are constantly interacting with each other, challenging and driving each other.

How do we achieve balance amongst these four F’s will meeting the needs of the future?

We are considering here some key ideas, demonstrating how FSC can be part of solution, as an efficient tool to tackle global challenges such as:

- permanent conversion of forests to agriculture;
- to reach a consensus between Governments, Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (ENGOS), smallholders, companies, and international institutions to secure forests ecosystems services and local communities livelihoods;
- illegal logging, uncontrolled mining, poaching, wildlife trafficking.

FSC AS PART OF THE SOLUTION TO ACHIEVE THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE 4 “F”?

- FSC, as a market mechanism, and enabler responsible land use, can bring opportunities to secure this critical ecosystem provision: a certified Forest Management Unit (FMU) contributes to ecosystem adaptability building resilience in the ecosystems (providing protected corridors for migration or movement of breeding between protected areas in a landscape as an example);
- FSC is a tool which aims to provide incentives for foresters to continue with good forestry, that is the best remedy against conversion of forests to other land use. It is also known that FSC tool works best when land rights and other legal conditions are well implemented. When these conditions are not in an optimal setting, FSC can contribute to improve some aspects of forest management, within a limited scope;
- FSC requirements help to get an overview about “issues” (HCV areas, AAC calculation and resources management through forests asset; illegal activities). This reflection of the status of the FMU is perceived as helpful everywhere, even in well and “easy” state forests...);

¹ Sources :

- FAO State of the World’s Forests (2014)
- WWF Living Forest Report (2011)
- Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005)



- FSC requirements enforce interactions and constructive communications with “troublemakers” (Environmental NGOs, when mapping HCV and/or IFL areas, with traditional land use practitioners, with different ministries). In this perspective, FSC could be a platform to bring these different interests to the same table, and becomes a decision-making tool to agree on solutions to find a balance on ecosystem provision;
- Illegal logging, uncontrolled mining, poaching, wildlife trafficking are No-Gos for FSC, but FSC tries to offer support to foresters to tackle them in monitoring and documenting them. EUTR and VPA-FLEGT implementation can be a great tool here to contribute to address these issues.

It is obvious that we cannot look at forest certification in isolation. We need to look at being one of the contributing factor to bring about solution at scale, on a way towards a win-win partnership, that can secure the core ecosystems providing by the forest, on a long term basis.