All Division 6 (Social Aspects of Forests and Forestry) Meeting

37 - Intact forest landscapes in the context of voluntary certification of forest management.

KG I - 1015 (Uni Freiburg)

IUFRO17-1328 **High conservation values and intact forest landscapes - changes and challenges for certified operations**

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Abstract: Introducing Session 37 of the congress, the paper will present the status of discussion about FSC requirements for the certification of forest management with 'High Conservation Values' (HCV) and especially for protecting 'Intact Forest Landscapes' (IFL). IFLs are territories with forest and non-forest ecosystems minimally influenced by human economic activity and with no signs of habitat fragmentation, with at least 500 km2, present in 64 countries. The sheer size of an IFL can have financial implications for commercial certified forest operations when these operations are required to manage IFL cores ensuring to maintain and enhance intactness of IFLs.

The authors will lay out, how HCVs in general are managed in FSC certified operations, and in which regions/countries IFLs are of particular relevance for forest management standard development.
Alternative models for management of IFLs and on landscape level will be presented as work in progress. Strategies for process development, tools and key stakeholders (i.e groups with partly conflicting interests in forest management, such as environmentalists, concessionaires, and Indigenous Peoples) to define IFLs and to monitor their intactness will be presented, as well as incentives for forest managers with HCV to engage in certification processes.

forest management certification (FSC)

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IUFRO17-1875 **Impacts of logging roads on intact forest landscapes in the tropics**

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Abstract: Road networks are growing globally, especially in tropical countries, allowing human access to remaining Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL) that are refuges for biodiversity and provide globally important ecosystem services. Selective logging is now widespread in tropical forests, acting as one of the main drivers of road network expansion, with logging roads often being considered door-openers and conduits for human impacts. The protection of road-free IFL is high on the biodiversity conservation agenda, a challenge for logging concessions certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). However, the impacts of logging roads can be highly variable depending on road use and management. In a logging-hot-spot of the Congo Basin, only 12% of all roads were permanently open, with all others becoming quickly revegetated and inaccessible. Taking limited road persistence into account, we analyzed how road networks in FSC certified concessions affected IFL. We followed the spatial and temporal dynamics of logging roads, comparing roadless space in certified and non-certified logging concessions inside and outside areas declared as IFL in the year 2000. We found that roadless space decreased rapidly in IFL, notwithstanding FSC certification, highlighting the urgent need for measures to safeguard ecological corridors between protected areas and remaining intact forests. Logging concession certification by FSC might play a key role in conserving forest connectivity by strategic road network planning. Forest management should make the preservation of large connected forest areas a top priority by effectively monitoring - and limiting - the occupation of space by roads that are accessible at the same time. Given the strong dynamics between the impacts of different types of roads, we challenge the static definition of IFL based on a buffer around any road ever detected.

Roadless areas, IFL, Conservation, Congo Basin

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IUFRO17-3290 **Intact Forest Landscapes and FSC certification in Brazilian Amazon: challenges to sustainable management**

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Abstract: Maintenance of large natural forest landscapes is paramount to protect biodiversity, but also to reduce carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Intact Forest Landscape (IFL) is defined as an unbroken portion of natural ecosystems within the current global forest extent, showing no signs of significant human activity, and vast enough to effectively maintain biodiversity. Despite deforestation dynamics in the Amazon, remaining forests cover around three million km2 in Brazilian Amazon. IFL area in Brazil is estimated at 2,3 million square kilometers. Native forests certified by FSC cover an area of 1,5 million ha. As part of an effort to contribute to the debate on best strategies to ensure IFL protection and sustainable forest management, the present study analyzed different spatial data sources to enlighten the scale and territorial domains where IFLs are found in Brazilian Amazon. We also demonstrate the proportion of IFLs within certified Forest Management Units (FMU). In addition to these analyses, we performed a survey to reveal the challenges to manage IFLs from an FSC certificate holder and expert perspective. Results showed a significant proportion of IFLs within public lands (national forests and indigenous lands). Also, the IFL area within certified forests is located more in federal or state forest concessions than in private lands. From an FSC certificate holders and experts perspective, the primary challenge is how to develop the IFL portions while maintaining its values and ensuring protection. While market for ecosystem services and non-timber forest products are uncertain, Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) is defended as one of the best management strategies to ensure sustainable forest management within IFL areas.

Brazilian Amazon, IFL, RIL, native forests,FSC

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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