

Trends of Forest Products Certification

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Abstract. Over the last two decades is discussed the issue of forest sustainable management to meet the social, economic, and ecological needs of present and future generations. In this moment there are about 50 forest certification programs around the world, yet two are more important. The aim of the present paper is to analyze the evolution of forest product certification in the world and mainly in Europe. Data show an increase of interest for certification, however not great as would be expected. One of the conclusions derived from the findings is that a greater involvement from national and international policy makers is needed.

Keywords: forest certification programs, sustainable forest management, trend

Introduction. Over the last two decades is discussed the issue of forest sustainable management to meet the social, economic, and ecological needs of present and future generations. As a result in the 1990s there were developed mechanisms to identify forest products that come from sustainably managed forests. Nowadays there are about 50 forest certification programs around the world (FAO, 2012). The majority of these programs can be implemented under the guidance of two global nonprofit organizations: the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) founded in 1994 and the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) founded in 1999.

Aims and objectives. The aim of the present paper was to determine the forest certification trend in the present and the objective was to analyze the evolution of surfaces and certificates implemented under the guidance of the most important certifiers.

Materials and methods. For this study data published by the most important certification organisms (FSC and PEFC) was analyzed. There was used descriptive analysis to interpret data.

Results and discussion. According to FSC (2012) in the present they have certified surfaces in 80 countries, while PEFC (2012) in only 27; however PEFC certified more surfaces (Tab. 1).

The Chain of Custody certificates (C-o-C), which provide assurance that wood and wood-based products originate from sustainably managed forests (pefc.org, 2012), FSC awarded more certificates globally.

Comparing the certified areas with world forest area of 4,033,060 thousand ha (FAO, 2011) since 1994, the year of foundation for FSC, only 9.82% of forest is certificated, while in Europe 14.54%.

Tab. 1

Forest area certified and C-o-C certificates in the world in 2012

Certification organisms	World		Europe	
	Forest area certified	C-o-C certificates	Forest area certified	C-o-C certificates
	1000 ha	No.	1000 ha	No.
FSC	151000	23038	66539	11631
PEFC	245000	8886	79562	7404
TOTAL	396000	31924	146101	19035

Source: FSC (2012), PEFC (2012)

Conclusion. Data show that there is interest for certification, however not as great as would be expected. One of the conclusions derived from the findings is that a greater involvement from national and international policy makers is needed. Yet, some argue the high cost of certification as a barrier. Anyway a more thorough analysis of the problem is required.

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