

# INDEPENDENT FOREST MONITORING

## Group 1 – Summary of Discussions

# Issues

- Initial Basic questions: for what, by whom, for whom and how?
- National contexts must be the starting point to respond those questions (political situation, official systems...).
- The IFM aim is to give credibility to the Legality Assurance system + and advice systems improvement.
- Difference between control and monitoring: monitoring is broader and operates at the system level.
- Important to bit further than the RILs operations and include a social approach in the IFM.
- Information system and rules for audits should not be conclusive but report the findings.

## Independence

- Independence is related with, who pays and how the system is built.
- IFM must be Free from commercial interests.
- Does trully independence possible?
- Prove objectivity through defined standards and protocols.
- Different bodies of the system should be independent (different levels of participation).
- Transparency is an important issue.
- The use of different methods to capture the reality (gather of information, peer review, audits)
- Involve different social groups in an atmosphere of trust.

## Institutions

- Different institutional designs and arrangements possible to assure independence, trust and credibility;
- External (international) observers and consultants are important to reduce the political influence and pressure
- From a single entity to a structure with checks and balances and independent bodies inside it (good and credible governance system).
- Role of transparency and multistakeholder involvement
- Professionalism and credibility with standards and principles which generate opportunity to people express their opinions.
- Should be immune of political interests and influence

## Professionalization

- A broader issue for forestry in general not just IFM.
- Several countries don't have expertise in SFM in all aspects (governments and forest agents), IFM must be followed by investments in capacity building
- Lot of concepts, experiences and protocols in other sectors that we can be used.
- Local communities must be part of the system (without accreditation) and involved in training activities;
- Internal vs external monitors????