

SNEEK \$ TIMBER

Sustainable Forest Management

Tropical Forest Management

The management of forests in tropical areas are usually with a system of low impact logging. After a concession or landsale has occurred, and the land is determined to be for the use of forestry, an inventory of the area is being conducted.

On the basis of this inventory, which records all trees above a certain diameter with name of species etc, the local government determines what the allowable logging volume may be per specie per annum. This volume varies to the region and the species and the circumstances, but a typical volume consists of 5 to 15 trunks per annum. After logging an area for a year, this quarter must be left to it's natural regeneration process for typically between 15 and 40 years.



Then a logging plan is made, and



existing roads are being used to come as close as possible to the assigned trunks, sometimes based on satellite pictures. The low impact logging systems holds it, that the secondary tracks that must be made to get the logs out, must be planned with greatest care. This involves

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amongst others avoiding young stems and avoiding slopes.

At some logging sites, track engineering experts determine these routes. In other less sophisticated areas the loggers themselves have been trained in order to determine the best possible routes.

The trees, which are marked with tags corresponding with the inventories, and which are approved for felling, will be taken with a minimum of damage to the surroundings. This includes techniques



such as removal of lians before felling.

After felling, the root will be marked with the tag, and the log itself will have the same corresponding number, which will be mentioned on lists to crosscheck logs that have arrived on sawmills, keeping tracability.

To prevent logging of trees which are commercial inviable, tests are being done by ticking against stem or vertical incisions are made to check if center of the log is not rotten.



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After removal of the logs from the area, the canopy will rehabilitate itself in a matter of months. Increased exposure to sunlight will accelerate the growth of the remaining smaller trees and seeds in the ground will have a chance to develop in natural competition with each other. While the trunk is being removed, branches and roots remain in the forest as biomass.



Research has indicated that for some species, the growth without sunlight can be as low as 2mm in circumvenum per 10 years whereas trees exposed to sunlight can be as high as 100mm per annum.

For fast development of the forest a combination of soil nutritions, carbondioxide, sunlight and rain is necessary. Old forests are oxygen neutral, while regenerating forests produce oxygen. In order to preserve biodiversity a fair distribution of species to be logged must be assessed. This means that less commercially viable species are to be made viable in order to support that distribution. Therefore it is the task of of the timber industry to be open to new species.

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Certification

There are in various parts of the world a variety of certificates issued by governmental organizations as well as certificates of non-governmental organizations.

In Brazil the procedure of forest management projects, via sawmilling to export is overseen by IBAMA organization. This organization inspects and approve logging operations and issues ATPFs (certified internal delivery ticket) for transport of logs to sawmills and sawn timber to the ports. In the ports these certified tickets are collected and related to the origin of the project from where the logs were harvested.

For every forest project there is a maximum specified cubic metrage which can be harvested. At final point of export the cubic metrage is deducted from the total which was approved under this project.

The local regulations of Brazil in respect of forestry are very strict and have been a basis for any

non-governmental certification system in Brazil.

Another available certificate is FSC. This is a non-governmental



system by which foreign consultancy firms are observing the chain. FSC principles also include social and social-economic standards. The availability of FSC timber is less than 5% of the total volume produced in Brazil.



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Sneek Timber supports all endeavours for strict control on forestry activity and offers financial support to landowners/concessionholders which want to produce certified goods. It has been actively financially and technically involved in the process of certification.

Sneek Timber is a FSC-certified supplier and supports every party in the chain to achieve same.



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