

Executive Summary

This instrument belongs to the PathFinder. It is a contribution to the challenge of promoting environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of forests, through processes aimed at “**Certification for the People.**” It is presented in two parts, “**Part I: Background**” and “**Part II: Toolbox.**” By linking conceptual discussions and practical methods and tools, the objective of this work is to improve local people’s representation and participation in standard setting and forest certification processes, and helping the assessment of related impacts and risks with local people.

Part I: Background address issues related to the establishment or reorganization of National Initiatives/Working Groups (hereafter NI/WGs) aiming at drafting standards relevant to local people. Reviewing the concept of stakeholders and power relations among them, the first section suggests a new perspective for NI/WGs’ own composition and representation of social constituencies. This perspective involves the establishment of specific institutional backing, and better “bridges” between representatives of organizations with different interests. The second section discusses self-determination and locally defined units and systems of forest management. These concepts are deemed essential for NI/WGs to assure participation of local people in drafting standards, as well as in consultative processes. The third section addresses the assessment of impacts and risks that can arise from a draft standard, pointing out the necessity of NI/WGs to prioritize efforts for intensive fieldwork by Certifiers and/or Standard WG/Committees. The discussion focuses on the notion that those who are less heard and visible, are most likely to be at greater risks of negative impacts.

Part II: Toolbox is a set of 11 tools divided in two modules. Module 1 refers to 5 tools for direct use by members of NI/WGs. “**Who counts the most**” helps to identify stakeholders, suggesting 7 dimensions to select those who should have representatives in NI/WGs. “**Stakeholder power analysis**” deals with power differentials both within NI/WGs and among stakeholders in the field. “**Bridging organizations**” aims at establishing a dialogue among representatives of organizations, in chambers with diverse interests. “**Interviewing key informants**” helps a NI/WG to incorporate local perceptions and practices as relevant aspects of its own work; this incorporation should give the tune to the work of Certifiers and Standard Committees in the field. “**Alternative Scenarios**” are suggested as a tool for NI/WGs’ planning for the future impacts of drafted standards.

Module 2 of the Toolbox refers to 6 tools that can be used by fieldworkers carrying out standard setting and certification processes. “**Iterative Continuum**” and “**Participatory Mapping**” were adapted to collect data to provide information for potential Indicators and Verifiers (I&V). Once a reasonable version of a draft standard is available, “**The learner’s map**” and “**Focus groups**” are tools that can support the consultative process. “**The learner’s trajectory**” was designed to support fieldworkers gathering information from those who usually do not participate in public meetings or regular interviews, and supposedly could be at greater risks of impacts.

The objective of these two Parts is to offer a combination of discussions and tools that allow both fieldworkers to provide NI/WGs with information from local people, and NI/WGs to set a strong social strategy that supports participatory processes in the field.

Table 1 below, shows the links between Part I, Background and the different tools in Part II, Toolbox.

| Part I: Background | Part II: Toolbox | |
|--|--|--|
| | Module 1 To be used by NI/WGs | Module 2 To be used by fieldworkers |
| 1. Representation of Local People in NI/WG | | |
| 1.1. Setting up a Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing the notion of stakeholders • Reviewing power relations | Tool #1: Who counts the most Tool #2: Stakeholder power analysis | |
| 1.2. Setting up a Working Space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing institutional backing • Bridging organizations | Tool #3: Bridging organizations | |
| 2. Participation of Local People in drafting standards | | |
| 2.1. Drafting a Standard with Local People <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporating local perceptions and practices • Recognizing local systems of forest management | Tool #4: Interviewing key informants | Tool #6: Iterative continuum Tool #7: Participatory mapping |
| 2.2. The Consultative Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consulting with mixed groups • Consulting with focus groups | | Tool #8: The learner's map Tool #9: Focus groups |
| 3. Assessment of Social Impacts and Risks | | |
| 3.1. Assessing Risks of a Draft Standard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing risks for specific categories • Assessing risks for specific relations | | Tool #10: The learner's Trajectory (part 1) Tool #11: The learner's Trajectory (part 2) |
| 3.2. Assessing Social Impacts of a Draft standard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future scenarios • Alternative scenarios | Tool #5: Future scenarios | |

Table 1: links between parts I and II