

# SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF CERTIFIED FORESTS

WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE MAKES  
ALL THE DIFFERENCE...



The Congo Basin, one of  
the world's largest tropical  
forest regions.



**268**

MILLION  
HECTARES  
OF FOREST



**400+**

TREE  
SPECIES



**60 à 75**

MILLION  
PEOPLE



**5,8**

MILLION  
HECTARES OF  
FSC OR PAFC  
CERTIFIED

Producing timber, maintaining forests, supporting local communities:  
A certified sustainable management model for the benefit of future generations.

# ORGANISED MANAGEMENT ACROSS TIME AND SPACE

In the Congo Basin, sustainable forest management is organised across vast forest concessions, some covering several hundred thousand hectares and designed for long-term management.



## PLANNING

Each concession is managed in accordance with a management plan that organises logging, conservation, and community use over several decades. This plan is based on forest inventories, ecological assessments, and socio-economic studies. The management framework is aligned with national forestry regulations, which define the rules governing logging, conservation, monitoring, and concession control.



## THE KEY TO SUSTAINABILITY: TIME

Sustainable management is based on a simple principle: allowing the forest time to regenerate between harvests. The concession is therefore divided into large forest blocks, which are further subdivided into plots harvested over the course of a year, known as Annual Harvest Areas (AHAs).

## CONCESSION UNDER SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT



**PRODUCTION AREA (50-70%)**

Sustainably managed forest



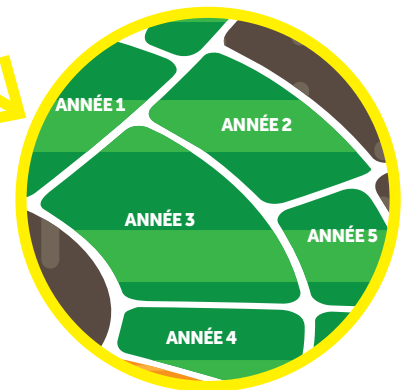
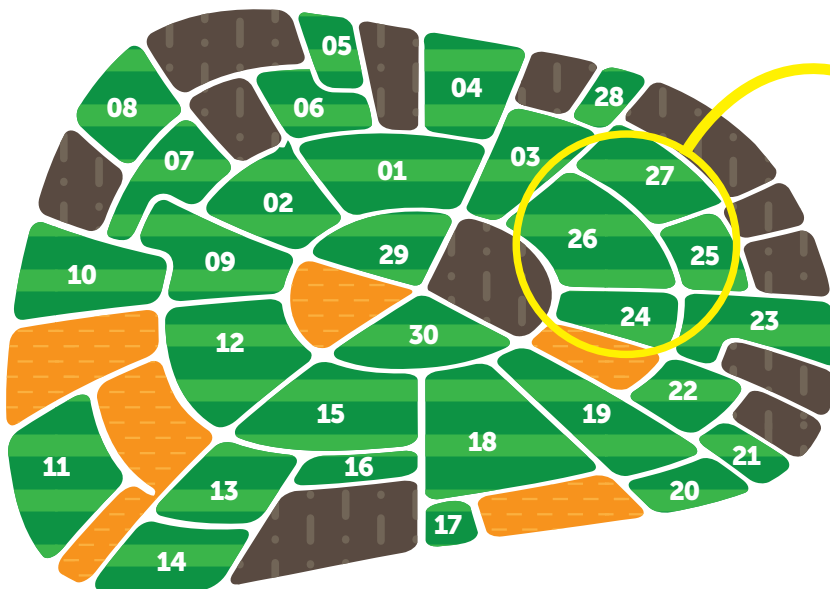
**CONSERVATION AREA (20-30%)**

Area dedicated to biodiversity conservation



**COMMUNITY AND AGRICULTURAL AREA (5-10%)**

Areas reserved for community, agricultural and agroforestry activities for the benefit of local communities.



A forest concession is organized into different "area", i.e dedicated zones for specific uses:

**THE FOREST REMAINS A FOREST**

THE MANAGEMENT PLAN DESCRIBES THE FOREST, ITS STRUCTURE, USES, AND DYNAMICS TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT, PRESERVING ITS ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC FUNCTIONS OVER THE LONG TERM.



**AVERAGE 1 TO 2 TREES/HA EVERY 25-30 YEARS.**

# HARVESTING FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FOREST

Logging operations are organised to minimise their impact on the surrounding forest. RIL (reduced-impact logging) reduces ecological impacts by 20–50 per cent.



## OPERATIONAL INVENTORY

- Comprehensive survey of harvested trees and future trees to be preserved for future growth



## CONTROLLED HARVESTING

- Directional felling to avoid damage to neighbouring trees.



## SKIDDING

- Marking out skid trails prior to operations.
- Minimize the area of disturbed ground and avoid sensitive areas (watercourses, etc).



## LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

- Funding for roads, schools, and health centres.
- Guidance provided through terms of reference developed with local communities.



## ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND ANTI-POACHING EFFORTS

- Regular ecological monitoring of large mammals.
- Anti-poaching measures.



## TRACEABILITY

- Tree identification (marking, coding, location, etc)
- Tracking from forest to finished product.

## CONTROLLED MANAGEMENT, REDUCED IMPACT



**> 90%**

OF FOREST COVER MAINTAINED



**2,3x**

MAMMALS COMPARED TO A NON-CERTIFIED CONCESSION



**-40 à 60%**

REDUCED SOIL EROSION



**Less**

FUEL

# CERTIFICATION : MORE THAN JUST A PROMISE, A GUARANTEE

In the Congo Basin, forestry concessions are FSC or PAFC/PEFC certified. Granted following regular independent audits, these certifications guarantee compliance with environmental, social and traceability requirements. Certified forests now cover nearly 6 million hectares across the region.

## HOW CERTIFICATION WORK ?



**VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT**  
to an FSC or PEFC certification scheme



**IMPLEMENTATION OF REQUIREMENTS**  
Application of FSC or PEFC standards



**INDEPENDENT AUDIT**  
Verification of compliance with certification standards



**CERTIFICATION DECISION**  
Issuance of the certificate for a five-year period



**ANNUAL AUDIT**  
Verification of continued compliance with requirements



**COMMUNICATION**  
on certified products using the label



### CERTIFICATION: LABELS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

An FSC or PEFC label on a product or its packaging guarantees that:

- The forest is managed sustainably;
- Local communities are respected;
- Inspections are carried out independently;
- The timber is traceable from the forest to the finished product.

## MULTIPLE BENEFITS



### FOR FORESTS :

- Maintenance of forest cover and ecosystems
- Protection of habitats and species



### FOR COMMUNITIES :

- Local, decent jobs
- Development of infrastructure and services
- Engaging with and taking into account local and indigenous communities.



### FOR THE CLIMATE :

- Preservation of carbon stocks
- Limiting deforestation and forest degradation



### FOR GOVERNANCE :

- Transparency and accountability
- Monitoring of harvested volume and control of practices
- Continuous improvement in performance

**What you saw on the cover was a managed forest.  
What you now understand is why it remains one.**

To find out more, scan me:

