

# 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 ?



**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:



# 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

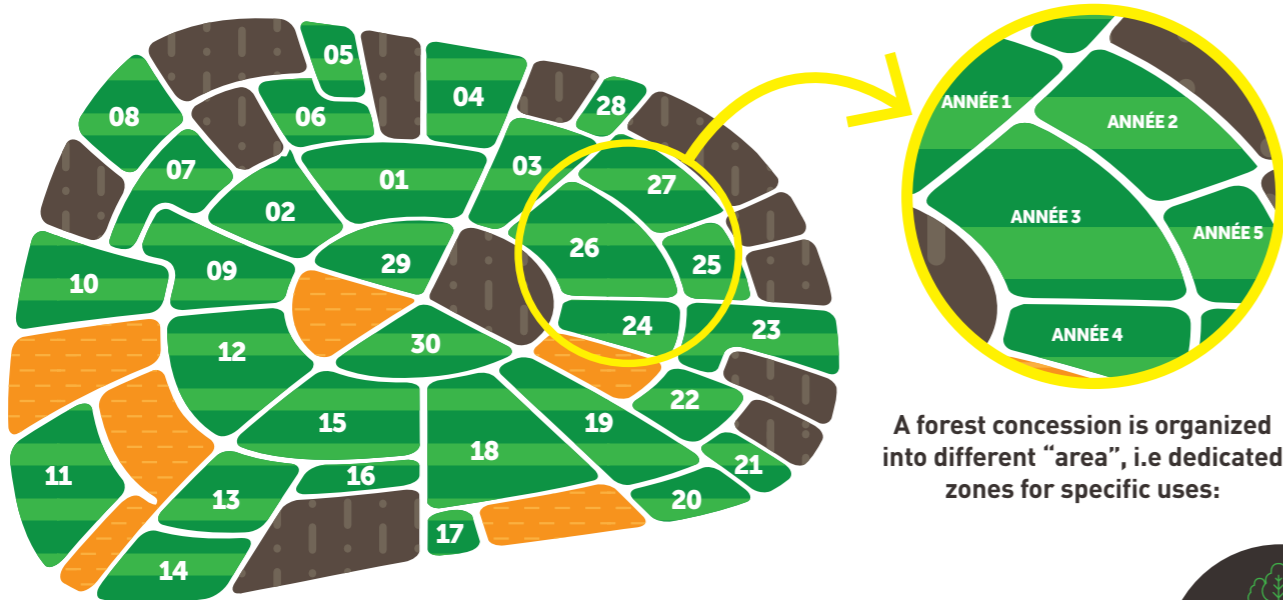
Sustainable management is based on a simple principle: allowing the forest time to regenerate between harvests. The concession is therefore divided into large forest blocks, which are further subdivided into plots harvested over the course of a year, known as Annual Harvest Areas (AHAs).

## 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:

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

**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.

# 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