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Independent Forest Monitoring IFM





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IFM is the use of an independent third party that, by agreement with state authorities, provides an assessment of legal compliance, and observation of and guidance on official forest law enforcement systems



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So...

- “Official but independent”
- Based on contract between local host (typically the Ministry of Forests) and IM organisation (typically an NGO)
- Focuses on ground truthing through field investigations



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Minimum standards

- Access to information
- Access to the field
- Freedom of publication

+ Reporting Panel



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Field missions

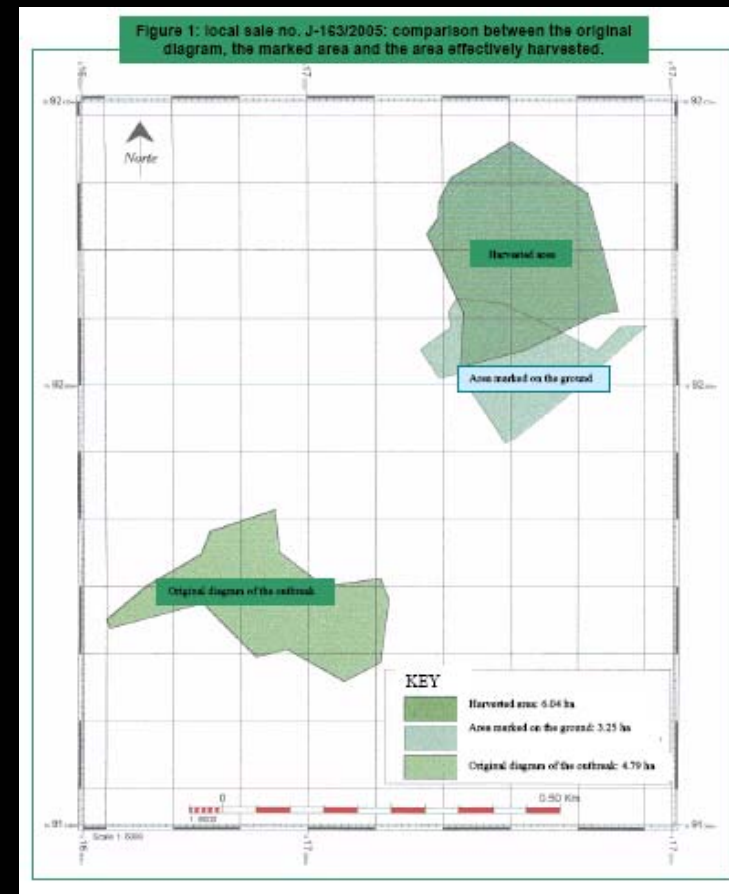
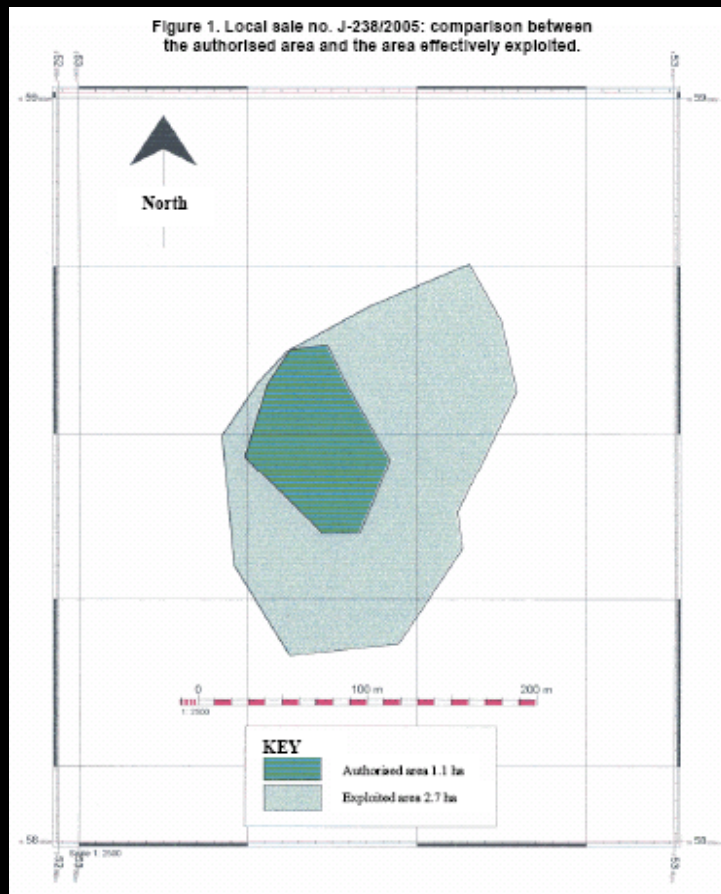
Monitor reports on:

- Evidence gathered on the ground
- Law enforcement in the field:
 - Detecting
 - Reporting and
 - Suppressing illegal activity



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Benefits of IFM

- Enhance transparency
- Increase quality and quantity of information on the forest sector e.g. Cameroon published lists of infractors & legal cases
- Improved law enforcement
- Increase in revenue for the state



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Cost of IFM

Can pay for itself

US\$500,000/yr enough to fund an international provider of IFM in Cameroon

US\$7.5 million charged by the government



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Where has GW established IFM?

- Cambodia – 1999
- Cameroon – 2000
- Honduras – 2005
- Nicaragua – 2006



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IFM in Honduras (2005)

- Started as joint GW-CONADEH project
- Gradual handing over
- Now integral component of a system of checks and balances
- Piloting “forest and social audits”



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IFM in Nicaragua (2006)

- Contract INAFOR-GW (local team + support)
- Supporting forest sector reform:
 - Establishment of Monitoring Unit in INAFOR
 - Development of forest audits
- Current focus on building capacity of civil society and forest officials



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So...

- “Results indicate that local community members without former scientific training can collect accurate data on habitat loss and forest disturbance after only a few days of introduction to the methods”.



Lessons learned

- 10 years of experience in these countries can inform development of national IM systems in REDD
- Form a basis for minimum standards for IM-REDD
- Report for UN-REDD on lessons learned from IFM – available later in 2009



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Thank you!

