

DEVELOPMENT OF FOREST CERTIFICATION SCHEMES IN MALAYSIA

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Abstract

Malaysia has implemented forest certification schemes and become one of the leading tropical countries where forest certification has been progressively introduced. The forest certification schemes are currently operated by two organizations: the Malaysia Timber Certification Council (MTCC) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). The forests certified by the MTCC account for 4.11 million h, representing about 30% of the country's total forested area (2003). It appears that the forest certification schemes have achieved certain results. Each scheme have forest management guidelines which guarantees certain rights to harvest non-timber forest products for the indigenous peoples, and requires reduce impact logging and the establishment of protected areas. The realization of sustainable forest management depends on the creation of an environment in which a wide range of stakeholders can participate. Forest certification is an opportunity for trial and error in attempting to establish compatibility between the use of timber resources and the diversity of other values.