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How Appropriate is Certification for Small-Scale Timber Producers in Melanesia?

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SUMMARY

Community-based timber production can be a significant source of income for communities in the Melanesian region. Certification is potentially a useful tool to ensure that small-scale producers can gain access to the ecotimber markets of Europe and North America, where prices are often higher than in local markets. This paper looks particularly at the situation in the Solomon Islands, where there is a growing body of experience with community-based timber production. The reasons why certification through the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is most convenient for communities in the Solomon Islands are outlined, followed by an analysis of the main problems associated with certification. Some of these arise from the specific requirements of the Forest Stewardship Council's Principles and Criteria, while others are practical difficulties linked to the increased amount of administration and record-keeping required and the often high costs of achieving certification. Finally, suggestions for overcoming some of these difficulties are discussed.

INTRODUCTION

The concept of timber production by local people from their own forests using small-scale technology such as chainsaws with guides, or portable sawmills, has been

advocated for more than 15 years in Melanesia. The first projects viewed community-based timber production (CTP) principally as a means of income generation for rural people, concentrating on developing and refining equipment such as the 'wokabaot'¹ sawmill, and providing training in business management. It was thought that the technology used would minimise the impact on the forest so further training in sustainable forest management (SFM) was not given a high priority. Later CTP projects have included training in minimising environmental impacts and sustainable forest management with the intention of integrating forest and biodiversity conservation with timber production. This has certainly contributed to raising awareness of the potential negative environmental impacts of CTP but many mills are still used mainly to convert trees on land that is being cleared for agriculture or other purposes for a variety of practical operational reasons (for example, see Salafsky *et al.*, 1997, pp24-25).

Development projects assisting communities involved in timber production are now attempting to establish CTP as a model that can, in the long term, adapt to local

¹'Wokabaot' is pidgin English and is derived from 'walkabout' which, in this instance, is best understood as 'portable'.

circumstances, deliver significant financial benefits to the communities and maintain the forests without the need for continued external assistance. An essential part of this is to develop mechanisms for marketing timber from community producers that secure the best return for them. Export directly to timber using companies in industrialised countries is potentially the best option for many producers, but the small size of CTP projects in Melanesia, and the poor record of previous CTP projects in terms of quality, continuity and timeliness of supply, makes it difficult for them to establish a presence in the marketplace. The niche market for timber certified to the standards of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)² is viewed by many CTP projects as an opportunity to gain entry to competitive timber markets in industrialised countries. Moreover, the certified timber market may give a price premium for certified timber and may be more willing than traditional markets to accept lesser known species. Several CTP projects have achieved certified status in Melanesia and more are working towards it but doubts remain about the appropriateness of the FSC system for small-scale timber producers. All the certified CTP projects to date have received external financial and technical support in the certification process.

This paper reviews the experience of FSC certification of CTP in Melanesia to date and examines difficulties with the FSC Principles and Criteria (P&C) themselves and their

² For an overview of the FSC, see RDFN Paper 23b by Stephen Bass on 'Forest certification – the debate about standards'.

application. Ways in which these might be overcome are considered.

THE CONTEXT OF COMMUNITY-BASED TIMBER PRODUCTION

Traditionally, forests and the land they grow on were vitally important to rural people not only as a source of goods such as building materials, fruits and other plant food, game, medicinal plants, but also as an essential part of cultural identity, shown by the frequency of 'tabu' places of cultural or spiritual significance in forests in all parts of the Melanesian region. The prime importance of land ownership was made clear, for example, in Vanuatu's transition to independence with the inclusion in the constitution of the provision that all land was to be returned to indigenous ownership (Van Trease, 1987). In all Melanesian countries the bulk of land is in traditional ownership. But the traditional lifestyle of Melanesian people in which land was such a vital asset, is now changing fast and there are few, if any, parts of the region untouched by the cash economy. Money is needed for school fees, health care, personal travel and donations to the church as well as to buy goods for personal use. Employment opportunities are few in rural areas so people have to rely on their own ability to generate an income through agriculture, fisheries or exploitation of their forest resources.

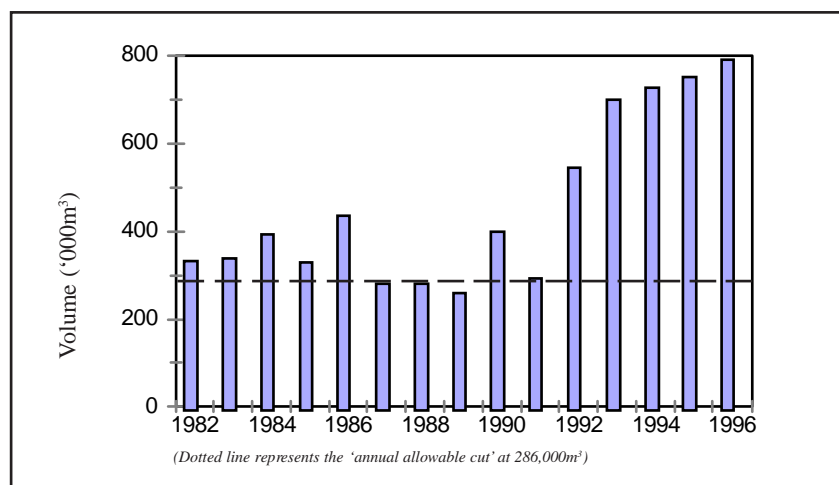
The rich forest resources of much of Melanesia attracted foreign logging companies. Reaching agreements with these companies for large-scale commercial logging was, at first sight, the easiest way for local people to realise the value of their forests. The rate of such exploitation increased from the

1980s as log exports from other countries, such as Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, were first restricted and then banned. Log exports therefore became an important source of foreign exchange for Melanesian countries with taxes on them generating significant revenues for governments. But although log exports were important for the governments, the benefits to the resource owners were, and are, relatively small. Typically they receive around 10-15% of the log value in royalty payments with governments taking between 5 and 30% in taxes and other levies. In all countries, however, the logging companies consistently receive around 30% of the log value in 'excess' profits, that is over the normal profit that a company could expect to make (Blakeney and Davies, 1995). In addition, transfer pricing, and mis-reporting of species and log sizes have contributed to lowering the returns from log exports to governments and resource owners. Severe damage and degradation of the residual forest often accompanies export logging which is normally performed as a 'mining' operation with no thought for forest regeneration or subsistence resources. A further common disbenefit is the social dislocation resulting from the influx of relatively large amounts of money into rural communities in a short time and its cessation after only a few years. Finally, corruption has all too often accompanied the granting of logging concessions to overseas companies.

CTP emerged as an alternative development path against this background, promising long-term income generation (although at a lower level); provision of jobs in rural areas that would support rather than stress existing social structures; return of control of the

resource to landowners; higher prices for the trees felled; and minimal impact on the environment and other forest-based resources. Many people have questioned whether CTP is able to deliver the benefits promised. For example, surveys and reports show that many chainsaw mills and small sawmills are not used in a planned way, although selective harvesting is commonly practised (FSP/PNG, 1995). Wyatt (1996) questioned the social benefits of CTP projects, which tend to engender land disputes or revive old ones. However continuing purchases of sawmilling equipment by local people indicate that they consider small-scale timber production a viable and accessible option for using their forest resources. The challenge for projects supporting CTP is to help realise this potential and to ensure that CTP operates in a way that is ecologically, economically and socially sustainable.

The situation in the Solomon Islands is taken as the basis for the rest of this paper as it has many of the features found in forestry elsewhere in the region. The large-scale log export industry has been very important in the recent past, accounting for 55.8% of total exports in 1996 (Central Bank of Solomon Islands, 1997) with exports going mostly to Japan and Korea. Exploitation rates have been well above the annual allowable cut of 286,000m³ since 1990 (see Figure 1) and the negative environmental and social effects of export logging, and loss of other forest resources following commercial exploitation have stimulated interest in the alternative offered by CTP. Moreover, following the economic crisis in Asia in late 1997, a stockpile of logs estimated at 590,000m³ accumulated and many log export companies

Figure 1 Volume of logs exported from the Solomon Islands 1982-96

Sources: World Bank (1995) and Central Bank of Solomon Islands (1997) except the figure for 1994, estimated in Duncan (1994)

stopped field operations. This had serious implications for the rural communities who had come to rely on income from logging.

In addition there are a number of well established projects in the Solomon Islands each of which has assisted a number of producer groups and continues to provide them with technical and marketing support. These include the Isabel Sustainable Forest Management Project (ISFMP); Solomon Islands Development Trust's EcoForestry Unit (EFU); Soltrust; and Solomon Western Islands Fair Trade (SWIFT).

The industry in the Solomon Islands has more experience with certification than elsewhere in the region. Several projects have achieved certification by FSC accredited agencies (although some have subsequently lost certified status), and more are going through

the process of preparation and inspection leading to certification. These include Kolombangara Forest Products Limited (KFPL), which is owned by the Commonwealth Development Corporation and manages over 5,000ha of plantations producing 50,000m³ logs per year on the island of Kolombangara.

WHY FSC CERTIFICATION?

The appeal of FSC certification for CTP projects in the Solomon Islands is due in large part to its potential for opening up export markets for timber. Production for the local market, where timber is purchased by traders at a price of around SI\$700/m³ for export, is at best marginally profitable but if the producer is able to export the timber directly the business is potentially quite attractive (see Table 1). In other countries there is not the

Table 1 Profitability of ecotimber production using chainsaw milling in the Solomon Islands

Item	SI\$/m³
<i>Cost of production:</i>	
1. Fuel and oil	
- petrol, 13.5 litres	31.20
- 2 stroke mix oil, 1 litre	12.40
- chain oil, 9 litres	30.00
2. Spare parts allowance (estimate based on experience so far, e.g. new chain every 11m³)	100.00
3. Labour 5 people x 4 days, (20 man days @ \$10/day for blocking, forest management, felling, milling and carrying)	200.00
4. Depreciation (allowance for replacement cost of machinery)	67.00
5. Management and logistic costs (monitoring and extension work, staff transport, food, allowances)	52.00
6. Freight from island to town (average from different islands)	150.00
7. Export and local transport costs (fees on the 50% that reaches export grade, including freight to port/merchant, grading, stacking and packing)	112.00
Total costs	754.60
<i>Revenue:</i>	
Ecotimber sales	
- 0.5 m³ exported @ \$1500/m³	750.00
- 0.4 m³ sold on local market @ \$700/m³	280.00
- 0.1 m³ village sales @ \$300/m³	30.00
Total revenue per m³ of timber produced	1,060.00
Profit from 1m³ of chainsaw milled ecotimber	SI\$ 305.40
Annual profit (1 chainsaw mill @ 2m³/week for 40 weeks)	SI\$ 24,432.00

N.B. SI\$4.80 = US\$1.00

Source: Rosoman et al. (1998). This analysis assumes that the forest is owned by those milling and so the trees are available at no cost to the producer. No allowance has been made for interest payments on any loans for equipment.

same incentive to export. For example in Vanuatu the local price is close to export prices and Salafsky et al. (1997) report that local sales provide an adequate return to producers in Papua New Guinea.

Given that export of timber to Europe, North America, Australia or New Zealand is an aim of CTP, then certification becomes an important asset. Although it is not yet a requirement, certification is more and more

seen as desirable by customers. In countries like the United Kingdom, certification opens up the possibility of sales to institutions such as local authorities which have previously stopped buying any tropical timber. There are now timber buyers' groups set up or being formed in 14 countries covering many of the

Box 1 Countries where buyers' groups exist or are being formed

Australia (under establishment)
Austria
Belgium
Brazil (under establishment)
Germany
Ireland
Japan (under establishment)
Netherlands
Norway
Spain
Sweden (under establishment)
Switzerland
United Kingdom
United States

Source: FSC (1998)

major tropical timber importing nations in Europe and elsewhere (see Box 1). All have the short to medium-term objective of ensuring that their members use only timber that can be shown to be from a well-managed forest. However, the previous record of 'ecotimber' produced in the region, including Solomon Islands, is mixed. Typically, timber from small producers was bought and sold on by middlemen who were not very concerned about checking where or how the timber was produced. Much came from unplanned felling with no long-term forest

management plan and it was alleged that, on occasion, orders were made up with timber purchased from sawmills operated by log export companies, which could in no way be classed as ecotimber. Thus there is no basis of trust by consumers in claims of eco-friendly production and some form of independent verification of such claims is essential.

For CTP in the Solomon Islands the only realistic way of verifying that timber sold is indeed ecotimber is certification within the FSC system since:

- The Solomon Islands Government does not belong to the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO), so cannot benefit from their programme to strengthen the capacity of governments to monitor and enforce compliance with regulations and, until recently, there was not the political will to work towards SFM. In addition, the ITTO system does not provide for a labelling system to give recognition of sustainable forest management in the marketplace.
- The International Organisation for Standardization's (ISO) environmental standard (ISO 14001/14004) has been used in assessing forestry organisations and their management systems but suffers from several drawbacks as a basis for certifying ecotimber. It does not specify a particular level of performance that must be reached in forest operations but instead seeks to facilitate a process of continual improvement. So it cannot be used as a basis for claiming that specific standards of good forest management have been reached. Furthermore, the ISO standard is concerned primarily with environmental management and does not include social and economic criteria (Baharuddin and Simula, 1998).

Thus, in its present form, ISO 14001 is not an appropriate tool for verifying claims of SFM by small-scale CTP projects in Solomon Islands.

- The FSC system has several advantages: it was up and running before the alternatives so already has established protocols and a track record; it has a higher profile in the marketplace with a commitment to promoting its logo in conjunction with buyers' groups in consuming countries; it includes social and economic criteria, both essential for long-term sustainability; and is trying to develop ways of accommodating small-scale producers (Wenban-Smith, 1998).

FSC CERTIFICATIONS IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

In the Solomon Islands there have been CTP projects associated with two groups who have been certified under the aegis of the FSC to date. The first were those associated with SWIFT, based in the United Church and supported by ICCO. The second was RAD Enterprises, a small commercial timber

exporter with links to a European importer. Members of both groups first achieved certification in 1996. The certificates granted to SWIFT have been maintained but those granted to RAD associates lapsed when RAD ceased trading. Other groups have since started the process of certification and a summary of their status is given in Table 2.

All the certification initiatives in Melanesia to date, except that for KFPL, have been supported by external agencies, both financially and technically, mostly by the traditional development agencies. From the donors' viewpoint, the continuing inspections involved in certification potentially provide a mechanism to monitor and maintain the standards of forest management and social equity after external funding ceases, so extending the period during which the project has an impact. This would depend on the long-term viability of the arrangements made for management of the project and the sale of timber. Where these fail, as in the case of RAD, the certified status of the forests is almost certain to lapse.

Table 2 The status of certification initiatives in the Solomon Islands

Group	Certification Status
ISFMP	No plans for certification at present.
KFPL	Process started, full assessment made June 1998 and result expected soon.
RAD Enterprises	Certification achieved in 1996, lapsed after RAD ceased trading.
SIDT/EFU	Process planned to start in late 1998.
Soltrust	Process started, full assessment made December 1997, result expected soon.
SWIFT	Certification achieved in 1996, maintained until present. Working to achieve group certification status.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED WITH CERTIFICATION IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

That the only CTP projects to achieve certified status to date have done so as part of a larger group with external assistance indicates the challenge that getting certified presents. It requires standards of forest management, documentation and bookkeeping that the vast majority of unsupported projects could not attain, quite apart from the high cost of assessment. Even for those groups that do move towards certification there are a number of potentially serious difficulties, some arising from the FSC Principles and Criteria and how they are commonly interpreted, and some resulting from the assessment process.

Difficulties arising from the Principles and Criteria

Long-term commitment to FSC Principles and Criteria

Criterion 1.6 states that a long-term commitment to the Principles and Criteria must be demonstrated by the forest managers. Despite best intentions this may prove difficult to maintain as:

- almost all the CTP projects coming forward for certification are new or very young businesses, run by inexperienced people operating in a high risk environment. It is to be expected that some will fail after a year or two; and
- at present all the projects are dependent on technical support from a central organisation, which in turn receives external technical and financial support. None of these are financially self-supporting so far, and if support from external agencies is

withdrawn many of their associated CTP projects will also fail, as in the case of RAD Enterprises.

If it proves that many individual community producers enter organisations such as SIDT EFU, Soltrust and SWIFT only to leave after a year or two, this will have serious implications for the claims of long-term commitment to SFM from the producers and any group certificate granted to such organisations will have to be re-examined.

Land tenure

Principle 2 states that “long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established”. In the Solomon Islands, as elsewhere in Melanesia, much of the land is held according to customary right, normally as a family group or clan, with boundaries that are unmarked on the ground and very often undocumented and unmapped. Frequently an area may appear to be undisputed through the whole process of consultation and planning of land use and forest management. But when timber production starts, rival claimants come forward, and the resulting dispute is commonly regarded by both the central group and certifying agency as sufficiently serious to preclude certification until the dispute is resolved, which may take years and jeopardise the CTP project. A partial solution might be found in a mechanism similar to that used with other developments on disputed areas where, providing all parties agree that SFM is what is wanted, the project would be allowed to go ahead (and be certified) with profits being accumulated in a special account, pending the resolution of the dispute.

Waste minimisation

CTP projects have a particular problem with waste minimisation (Principles 5.2, 5.3) because of their often remote locations; because timber is carried to collection points by people; and because there is no local industry that can use second grade and short timber. Often only the best timber is extracted for export sale, with some sales of second grade timber made on the local market. The remainder is available for local people to collect and use, but much is still left in the bush. Effective recovery rates are often below 40%. Ways to reduce the amount of timber left in the bush include:

- changing the extraction technique to reduce the physical effort involved, for example by using small tractors or animals;
- developing a local market for second grade timber in population centres based on direct sale to final consumers to increase the returns to producers (in Honiara, timber bought for \$700/m³ is sold for \$1200/m³, a mark up of 70%);
- increasing the volume produced at a particular location so a ship (capacity around 25m³) can be chartered, reducing the unit transport cost;
- installing equipment in the central yards to resaw/resize second grade timber so it can be exported.

In the longer term, efficiency of utilisation could be improved by seeking particular local or overseas markets for particular products, such as short lengths, and by adding value through further processing, for example producing furniture components or finished goods.

Conservation and biodiversity

Criterion 6.2 pre-supposes that there is a detailed knowledge of whether rare and endangered species exist within the forest management area, and if they do, that measures necessary to protect them are known. But throughout Melanesia, including Solomon Islands, much of the basic work on which species exist is incomplete. For example, in recent surveys of freshwater fishes in Vanuatu, around one third of the specimens collected were previously undescribed species (Jenny Whyte, pers. comm.). However, the extremely low impact methods used in small-scale CTP projects going forward for certification, combined with buffer zones and conservation areas means that the impact on such species is likely to be slight.

Forest monitoring

Criterion 8.2 requires that various indicators be monitored to assess the ecological, environmental, social and economic impacts of forest management. Monitoring of forest regeneration and growth, environmental impacts of harvesting and changes in flora and fauna are usually thought of by assessors as needing detailed assessments and analysis which are time consuming and expensive, even though most of the areas managed are small. To accommodate these requirements the coordinating organisation often manages the monitoring on behalf of its members. Two strategies may reduce the burden of monitoring: groups such as Soltrust, SWIFT and SIDT's EFU could cooperate in a common monitoring scheme; and appropriate systems of community-based monitoring could be developed. The latter would also help the communities producing the timber to assess whether they are attaining their

objectives through the project.

Shifting cultivation

Principle 9, which says that forests shall not be replaced by other land uses, is commonly taken to mean that timber sourced from areas under shifting cultivation is not certifiable. But shifting cultivation has been practised for centuries and can be regarded as part of the cycle of disturbance which maintains the present forest structure. There are good examples of areas that were gardens in the past (say 40 years ago) that now carry stands of trees of commercial species such as *Vitex cofassus* and *Pometia pinnata* approaching exploitable size (Rosoman, pers. comm.). Allowing areas where shifting cultivation is practised to be brought within the SFM area would encourage utilisation of trees that would be felled in any case as land is cleared, reducing the pressure on other parts of the forest. In return, such areas would have to be managed to encourage forest regeneration, for example by protection of regeneration and enrichment planting, and protected from the shortening of fallow periods that may happen as populations increase.

Practical difficulties in the process

Certification imposes extra burdens on ecotimber producers in two principal ways. It increases the amount of record keeping and administration, so that clear audit trails and records of monitoring are maintained and it adds significantly to the costs of forest management through the inspection process for which consultants are normally brought from Europe or North America.

The amount of documentation and the maintenance of records required as a part of

certification is a very real problem for many communities. Documents are exposed to the prevailing high humidity and attack by insects in the leaf houses where they are stored, so do not stay in good condition for long. So, for security, a copy is normally kept in the office of the coordinating organisation.

Companies which import timber are normally interested in only a few (five or six) species and local markets are very limited, so there is a real danger that the composition of the forest will be altered by selective cutting of marketable species.

But the most serious practical obstacle to certification for CTP projects is the cost. In Solomon Islands this is reported to be between US\$17,000 and US\$47,000 (including some monitoring visits) to achieve certified status, in line with the US\$47,525 reported by Markopoulos (1998) for a community forest management project in Bolivia. Since a large part of this cost is for consultants' fees and travel there is little scope for reduction when assessing small community producers. Even when several are assessed at the same time, as has been the case in the Solomon Islands, the relatively small amount of timber produced by these projects (only a few hundred cubic metres per year) leads to a high cost per cubic metre of timber sold, even if the coordinating and marketing body is granted a group certificate. This is a real disincentive to becoming or maintaining certified status. For example, producers associated with the Pacific Heritage Foundation in Papua New Guinea, who were among the first to become certified, allowed their certification to lapse due to its costs. They were also discouraged by the exacting

specifications, need for consistent supplies of large amounts of timber and additional coordination work required to service export markets.

Expenditure on certification is concentrated in the first year, due to the initial cost of becoming certified. This makes the process appear very expensive at first glance. But averaged over five years the prospect is a little less frightening, adding about US\$16.40 per cubic metre for a 1,000m³ per year producer. If a similar price premium to that reported by certified producers in Sweden (Tickell, 1998) can be obtained (3-8%), then at the current price of around US\$360/m³ the direct cost of certification inspections will be covered.

Finally, how much, if at all, certification will add to the running costs of CTP is unclear.

DISCUSSION – THE MARKET MEETS MELANESIA

The difficulties outlined above are similar to those in other industries where goods for sale in industrialised countries are sourced in the developing world, for example fresh agricultural produce and cut flowers. There is a basic difference in livelihood strategies and the attitudes to accumulation of wealth between traditional lifestyles in Melanesia and industrialised countries which makes it difficult to achieve the standards of planning and record keeping that the market led process of certification requires. Timber production will, for many rural people in Solomon Islands, be just one of five or six activities that contribute to the household economy. With several sources of income available to the community, if one fails it is not critical

and the commitment to maintaining non-productive records and updating plans may be less than if timber production were the sole source of income. Individual CTP projects often have intermittent, low levels of production. Together with low levels of educational attainment, isolation and poor communications in rural areas, particularly in the Solomon Islands, this makes it difficult for them to sell timber directly into export markets. The response has been to form collective organisations such as ISFMP, SWIFT, EFU and Soltrust, to support the communities with training and marketing infrastructure. To some extent this overcomes the problems of inconsistent supply from small-scale producers. At the same time, thanks to the training in land-use planning and forest management that these organisations bring, the possibility of FSC certification is facilitated. Potentially, small scale, community based timber production in Solomon Islands is fully compatible with the FSC Principles and Criteria, with minimal disturbance to the environment as heavy machinery is not used and conservative levels of cut prescribed (based on an assumed growth rate of 1m³/ha/yr for SWIFT and EFU). Together with the often intermittent operation of CTP projects this means that the impact on the forest is likely to be very slight.

But the small size of projects means that certification will be costly and until now all certification exercises for CTP projects in Solomon Islands have been supported by external donors at no cost to the producers. If certification is to continue once external support is withdrawn then some way must be found to reduce the cost and to tackle the technical problems with the Principles and

Criteria themselves. The FSC mechanism provides means to take account of local circumstances but the initiative must be taken within the Solomon Islands. The cost of certification could be reduced and its accessibility increased by:

- Group certification, which has the potential to reduce the cost and complexity of certification for group members by reducing the intensity of external inspections. The larger the group, the greater the benefits of group certification. As the present groups grow and timber production from them increases the cost per cubic metre will decrease.
- Strengthening cooperation between the different groups (ISFMP, EFU, Soltrust and SWIFT). All use very similar forest management techniques and two or more of them could obtain a single certificate with immediate economies of scale.
- Establishing a national or regional certification body, accredited by the FSC and developing a local capacity in certification, which would avoid the expense of bringing people half way around the world. Discussions about this have already started.
- Completing the development of national standards, approved by the FSC, which take account of issues such as the land tenure disputes, the paucity of information on biodiversity, and the role of shifting cultivation in forest management.
- Combining the certification of forest management for timber production with certification of other forest based enterprises, such as production of non-timber forest products or ecotourism.

CONCLUSION

In the absence of donor support there would almost certainly be no certified CTP projects in the Solomon Islands today. But certification has now established itself as a key strategy for marketing timber overseas and is likely to become more important in the future as more certified timber becomes available and demand in importing countries grows. The pressure of the marketplace will ensure that certification grows in importance for all timber producers in the Solomon Islands, not only small-scale community producers. There is an urgent need to reduce its cost and tailor it to the specific environmental, social and economic conditions of the country. When combined with 'fair-trade' marketing mechanisms certification has the potential to ensure market access and improve returns to rural timber producers. But external support will be needed in the medium term at least, to enable coordinating bodies which support individual CTP projects and administer group certification schemes.

Of the other countries in the Melanesian region, Papua New Guinea is in a similar situation to the Solomon Islands, with a few certificates issued but no great volume of certified timber being produced. And in Vanuatu and Fiji the first moves towards certification are now being taken.

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ACRONYMS

CTP	Community-based timber production
EFU	Solomon Islands Development Trust's EcoForestry Unit
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
FSP/PNG	Foundation for the People of the South Pacific, Papua New Guinea
ICCO	the Dutch inter-church development organisation
ISFMP	EU Isabel Sustainable Forest Management Project
ISO	International Organisation for Standardization

ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organisation
KFPL	Kolombangara Forest Products Limited
SFM	Sustainable forest management
SIDT	Solomon Islands Development Trust
SWIFT	Solomon Western Islands Fair Trade

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