

INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE INITIATIVE

Regional project Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries

On behalf of



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety

of the Federal Republic of Germany



Reduced Impact Logging

Fiji Stakeholder Workshop

October 4, 2012

Report prepared by Arthur W. Klassen

On behalf of SPC/GIZ Regional Project
"Climate Protection through Forest
Conservation in Pacific Island Countries"

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REDUCED IMPACT LOGGING

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP: SUMMARY REPORT

1. BACKGROUND

The GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) with funding from the International Climate Initiative (ICI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature conservation and Nuclear safety (BMU), has commissioned a consultancy to examine the relationship between the concept of “Reduced Impact Logging” and the Fiji National Code of Harvest Practices (NCOHP). This consultancy falls under the larger imperative of the regional organization *Secretariat of the Pacific Community* (SPC) which seeks to develop and strengthen regional and national policies as well as technical and institutional capacities for the implementation of a REDD+ (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) national strategy.

The consultancy involved field visits and a consultative process with selected stakeholders over a ten day period and ended with a one day workshop on Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) and the NCOHP.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference for this consultancy are defined by the following objectives:

1. To provide recommendations for the implementation of RIL in Fiji.
2. To assess the RIL components of the NCOHP and develop, where appropriate, regulations to ensure compliance.
3. To share experiences and develop strategies with Fiji Forestry Department and concerned stakeholders on the concept and implementation of RIL.

This report deals briefly with the third objective.

The workshop was convened by the Department of Forests to provide a forum for stakeholder discussion of the proposed changes to the NCOHP 2010. It was also intended to be a forum for presentation of the Consultants initial observations and findings with regards to incorporating the concept to RIL into the NCOHP.

3. WORKSHOP ORGANIZATION

The all day workshop was held on October 4, 2012, at the Southern Cross Hotel, Suva, and was organized jointly by the Forestry Department and the SPC/GIZ.

An attendance list has been collected by SPC/GIZ along with all original presentation materials.

Agenda for the workshop is provided in Appendix I.

4. WORKSHOP CONTENT

A preparatory 'in-house' workshop was held by the Department of Forests on October 3rd, 2012. The purpose of the workshop was, first of all:

- To provide a forum for the RIL Consultant to present his findings and observations (along with draft recommendations) to the District Forest Officers and head office staff of the Forestry Department, prior to the national stakeholders workshop on RIL and the NCOHP scheduled for the next day, and secondly,
- To provide an opportunity for discussion of proposed changes to the NCOHP prior to the national stakeholders workshop on RIL and the code.

This preparatory 'in-house' workshop was chaired by the Conservator of Forests.

The national stakeholders workshop on RIL and the NCOHP was held on the following day (October 4, 2012) and was centered around three presentations. Each presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

Presentation 1:

The Conservator of Forests opened the workshop with a presentation on the NCOHP. He provided a background to the development of the NCOHP and reviewed the contents and proposed revisions to the NCOHP.

He also expanded on the role of the Code Implementation Steering Committee which oversees changes to the code and overall implementation of the code.

A summary of the presentation notes of the Conservator of Forests is provided in Appendix II.

Presentation 2:

The second presentation was given by A. W. Klassen, RIL consultant to the SPC/GIZ.

This Power Point presentation (see Appendix III) reviewed the generic structure of an RIL management regime and presented the global experience of the Tropical Forest Foundation as a key promoter of Reduced Impact Logging.

Presentation 3:

The third presentation was also given by A. W. Klassen, RIL consultant to SPC/GIZ.

This presentation focused on the NCOHP featuring observations from the previous nine days of field visits and stakeholder consultations. Observations were presented under

broad headings which brought together operational phases of the harvesting planning and operations.

The Consultant presented his analysis of the NCOHP in the context of the concept of RIL and identified strengths and weaknesses of the Code.

The summary of observations/finds concluded that:

- Most of the elements of RIL are already in the NCOHP.
- Tenure and scale of operations is a significant constraint to improving practices as it impacts on planning, investment and other crucial aspects of forest harvesting practices.
- There is a clear need for a better (more detailed) map base to facilitate more effective planning, operational control, and monitoring.
- Evaluation procedures under the code, need to be re-examined. More sensitivity needs to be introduced into the scoring system to better represent actual conditions in the field.

Detailed findings and recommendations of the Consultant will be presented in a separate report.

5. SUMMARY

A record of the National Workshop on RIL & and the NCOHP was maintained by SPC/GIZ.

Attendance and participation by representatives of the District Forest Offices and the various divisions of the central offices of the Forest Department was very good. However, other stakeholders were poorly represented at the workshop.

This shortcoming was noted by the Conservator of Forests in his closing remarks which concluded with the recognition that further stakeholder consultations will need to be held to ensure that there is a broad understanding and consensus concerning the proposed strengthening of the NCOHP.

APPENDIX I Reduced Impact Logging Stakeholder Workshop Agenda

Reduced Impact Logging Stakeholder Workshop

Thursday, 04 October, 2012

Southern Cross Hotel, Suva

Organised by the Forestry Department and the SPC/GIZ Regional REDD+ Project



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PROGRAMME

TIME	SESSION	DETAILS	Lead Person
08.30		Registration	Secretariat
09.00	OPENING & INTRO-DUCTION	Welcoming remarks	Forestry Department
		Objectives of the workshop and rationale for RIL ➤ Meeting national and international commitments	Samuela Lagataki, Conservator of Forests
		Introduction of participants	
09.45		MORNING TEA	
10.15	SESSION 1	Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) concepts, issues, and case studies from other countries	
11.00	SESSION 2	<i>Applying RIL through the Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice (FFHCOP)</i> - History of RIL in Fiji and FFHCOP development - RIL components in the FFHCOP - Issues regarding compliance with the FFHCOP	Art Klassen Samuela Lagataki Art Klassen Plenary (facilitated)
12.00	SESSION 3	<u>Group Work</u> - Areas in FFHCOP that need strengthening in the context of RIL - Recommendations to ensure compliance with the FFHCOP	Groups
13.00		LUNCH	
14.00		Group Work – continued	Groups
15.00		Group presentations and discussions	Groups
16.00	CLOSING SESSION	General feedback from stakeholders	Plenary
		Next steps	Forestry Department
		CLOSING	
16.30		AFTERNOON TEA	

APPENDIX II Presentation of the Conservator of Forests

(Presentation notes from the Workshop presentation of the Conservator of Forests, Mr. Samuela Lagataki)

Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice 2010 (FFHCOP)

- (i) Revised Fiji National Code of Logging Practice (FNCOLP) now called the FFHCOP (or the “Code”);
- (ii) initiatives that have been taken to improve the implementation of the Code.
- (iii) endorsement of the Code and its implementation from 1st January 2011
- (iv) the setting up of a Code steering committee.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 To protect Fiji’s environment, soil fertility, and water quality, Fiji first developed and implemented a standard guideline for all Commercial Harvesting operations in 1990 known as the Fiji National Code of Logging Practice.
- 1.2 Since the implementation of the FNCOLP: a lot has been learnt; developments and changes have occurred; and new issues emerged. This demands the revision and update of the FNCOLP, to reflect current changes, developments, and aspirations.
- 1.3 The endorsement by Cabinet of the “Fiji Forest Policy” in 2007 emphasizes the need for the continuous review of the Code and the setting up of a Code steering committee
- 1.4 Consultations were made with the office of the SG and comments incorporated into the current Code.
- 1.5 The Code has been endorsed by Cabinet in December 2010 for implementation from 1st January 2011

2.0 DEVELOPMENTS AND CHANGES SINCE 1990

- 2.1 The following are some examples of major developments that has taken place since 1990 which requires the revision of the FNCOLP:
 - 2.1.1 The endorsement of the Fiji Rural Land Use Policy which has land use related requirements regarding all land based developments, including logging operations.
 - 2.1.2 The endorsement of the Environment Management Act 2005 requiring an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) be undertaken for all logging operations.

- 2.1.3 The endorsement of the Endangered and Protected Species Act 2002, which requires the protection of certain tree species: many of which are currently logged; and the requirements that must be met by all traders in such species, which includes all logging contractors.
- 2.1.4 The outcome of the Nakavu research on the most suitable tree removal and forest disturbance intensity for logging operation in Fiji.
- 2.1.5 The endorsement by the Cabinet in November 2007, of the new Forest Policy which now has additional requirements for all logging operations to ensure environmental protection and forest resource sustainability.

2.2 The following issues have been identified during the stakeholder consultation:

- 2.2.1 Results from the monitoring of FNCOLP implementation are irregular due to the non-existence of an implementation strategy.
- 2.2.2 Adequate resources are needed if the Code is to be effectively implemented.
- 2.2.3 The industry and landowners, being the key stakeholders, are also to have a part in the responsibility and authority for Code implementation.
- 2.2.4 For the purpose of prosecution of offenders, the Code needs to have a strong legal basis under the relevant Forest Legislations.

3.0 CONTENTS OF THE CODE

- 3.1 The content of the Code is the result of a comprehensive and lengthy stakeholder consultation process that gave rise to a number of drafts. The final draft further underwent a final consultation in which the final version of the Code was drawn up.
- 3.2 Tabulated below in comparison are the areas covered by the proposed FFHCOP and the current FNCOLP.

	Revised Code (FFHCOP)	Current Code (FNCOLP)
1	Scope	Scope
2	Legal Compliance	Updated against latest legislations
3	Pre-operational inspection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting of stakeholders • Field Inspection • Liaison with other organization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre operational logging inspection (Expanded in new code)
4	Pre-harvest inventory	(New)
5	Silviculture prescriptions	(New)
6	The harvesting plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation & submission • Requirements of the plan 	Planning Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The logging plan
7	Training and accreditation	Training and supervision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training

8	Weather restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasonal restrictions
9	Buffer strips	Environmental requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated streams
10	Road Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location, clearing, & construction Road grades and cambers Box and side cuts Batters and benches Road visibility Road drainage Stream crossing Road metalling Public access- govt. roads Road closure Road maintenance and repair 	Operational Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Haulage roads Use of roads Drainage (Expanded in new code)
11	Felling operation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparing to fell Felling at roadside Stump height Partially cut and hung up trees Salvaging wind-blown trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Felling (Expanded in new code)
	Revised Code (FFHCOP)	Current Code (FNCOLP)
12	Skid tracks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning of skid track location Location and clearing Construction Skidding operation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracking Skid tracks Skidding (Expanded in new Code)
13	Landings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction Log piling and stacking on landings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landings (Expanded in new code)
	Revised Code (FFHCOP)	Current Code (FNCOLP)
14	Rehabilitation of harvesting area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skid tracks Temporary crossings Landings Haulage roads Quarries and borrow pits 	(New)
15	Forest Hygiene <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fuels and rubbish Camp site standards Fire precautions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General hygiene standards Fire precautions (Expanded in new code)
16	Harvesting machine standards (all machines covered in detail)	Equipment and safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of chainsaws The use of skidders The use of hydraulic loaders The use of bulldozers in logging The use of bulldozers in roading

11	Harvesting supervision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work skills and Ethics • Main duties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualifications of a logging supervisor • Main duties of a logging supervisor
12	Monitoring and evaluation of operations	
13	Annex 1: Glossary	Annex 1: Glossary
14	Annex 2: Personal protective equipment	Annex 2: Appropriate Felling Aids
15	List of courses offered at FTC	Annex 3: First Aid

4.0 The Code Implementation Steering Committee (CISC)

- 4.1 The implementation of the FNCOLP underwent a lot of difficulty due to issues in (3.3). It was also learnt that effective implementation can only be achieved if the key stakeholders collaborate in finding solutions to issues and constraints affecting Code implementation
- 4.2 The Code implementation steering committee shall be chaired by the Conservator of Forests and reports to the Forestry Board on the status of Code implementation.
- 4.3 The purpose of the CISC is to:
1. **Drive the implementation of the FFHCOP** by putting in place a Code implementation strategy under consultation with the relevant stakeholders.
 2. **Provide for areas of collaboration** and sharing of responsibilities between the key stakeholders to ensure effective Code implementation
 3. **Provide an avenue for the monitoring and reporting** of Code implementation and allow for an effective feedback mechanism and follow-up actions to ensure effective Code implementation.
 4. **Continuously identify areas that are needed to be addressed in the next issue** of the code to ensure that the currency of the FFHCOP document.
 5. **Provide for a higher forum for the recognition** of good efforts and the effective dealing with offenders.

APPENDIX III A Background to a Reduced Impact Logging Management Regime.

(Presentation Power Point and notes from the Workshop presentation of the RIL Consultant to SPC/GIZ , Mr. Arthur W. Klassen)

Reduced Impact Logging Stakeholder Workshop 1

“A Background to a Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) Management Regime”

Concepts, Issues & Case Studies

SPC / GIZ Regional Project
Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries
PN 10.9073.7-001.00

Thursday October 4, 2012

Reduced Impact Logging Stakeholder Workshop 2

CONTENTS

1. An introduction to the Tropical Forest Foundation
2. RIL: Concepts, Issues, & Case Studies
3. Defining Reduced Impact Logging

Thursday October 4, 2012

Reduced Impact Logging Stakeholder Workshop 3

What is the Tropical Forest Foundation?

TFF is an international coalition of industry, conservation and scientific leaders working together to achieve sustainable management of tropical timber in the major timber producing regions of the world.

www.tropicalforestfoundation.org

What does TFF do?

TFF has become widely recognized for establishing demonstration models and training schools to show the advantages and teach the principles of sustainable forest management and Reduced Impact Logging.

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Reduced Impact Logging Stakeholder Workshop 4

TFF's REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Brazil - 1992

Guyana - 2002

Indonesia - 2000

Gabon - 2004

TFF MISSION STATEMENT

TFF's primary mission is to promote sustainable tropical forest management by gathering and disseminating information about its benefits and by demonstrating and teaching proper management practices.

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Reduced Impact Logging Stakeholder Workshop 5

TFF – SE Asia-Pacific PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Thursday October 4, 2012

Reduced Impact Logging Stakeholder Workshop 6

Purpose of this workshop

- To explore the concept of Reduced Impact Logging as an implementation strategy for more effective adoption of the Forest Harvesting Code of Practice
- To provide a stakeholder consultation forum for a review of the Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice (2010)

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CONCEPT:
RIL = LOGGING IMPACT REDUCTION

LOGGING: scope: preparation, logging activities, post harvesting, management

IMPACT: define the impact; set acceptable limits

REDUCTION: assumes that current practices can be improved

General Principles for RIL . . .

1. It must make economic sense – financial incentives more effective than regulations.
2. It must be rooted in national regulatory framework.
3. It must be field orientated – RIL is not an academic concept.

RIL – the International Context ...

Numerous organizations have carried out RIL related activities (USAID, ITTO, FAO, CIFOR, TFF, TFT, GIZ, AusAid, etc.)

- TFF has developed Generic as well as country-specific criteria and indicators defining RIL Standards
- monitoring and evaluation
- Procedures manuals and training modules developed at national levels



defining RIL . . .

- What is essential . . . and what is 'wishful thinking' ?
- RIL: rooted in a global, generic definition; grounded in the national regulatory framework.
- The Goal: to fundamentally change the way companies manage the forest
- How we define RIL determines how it is perceived . . . and ultimately, whether a company chooses to implement it.

defining RIL

- Information collection and mapping
- Setting standards & carrying out operational planning
- Operational aspects (logging activities)
- Deactivation, monitoring & evaluation
- Management systems



The Indonesian Example . . .

- RIL training program initiated in 2000
- National standard consisting of 13 criteria and 33 indicators defining RIL built on TFF's generic standard
- Monitoring and evaluation tool developed
- Weighted scoring system developed
- 5 Technical procedures manuals – "how to..."
- Standardized training modules developed (3)



Reduced Impact Logging Stakeholder Workshop 13

Principle Elements of an RIL Management Regime

- Pre-harvest inventory
- Operational scale contour + tree position maps
- Clearly defined operational and environmental standard
- Operational scale planning
- Site preparation: infrastructure location; opening before logging...
- Adoption of best harvesting practices – felling, skidding,
- Adoption of appropriate (best) technology and techniques
- Optimizing utilization
- Worker safety
- Infrastructure deactivation after logging
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Creating an enabling Management environment – structural and organizational adjustments

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Reduced Impact Logging Stakeholder Workshop 14

Sample of projects implemented . . .

- USAID initiation funding (2 yrs)
- ITTO: Indonesian national RIL training (in partnership with CFET)
- RAFT project (5 years)
- DAFF (1 year)
- PNG: development of a national RIL training proposal for ITTO funding consideration
- small scale ITTO projects
- Importer sponsored projects (Armstrong, DLH, etc.) + private sector contracts
- IFACS – USAID (3 years – ongoing)
- TBI – certification assistance and training

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Reduced Impact Logging Stakeholder Workshop 15

Main Points . . .

- RIL is a holistic concept encompassing all aspects of forest planning and operations
- RIL does not exist in isolation; it must be built on an accepted platform of rules, regulations, laws, standards, etc.
- RIL emphasized the implementation in order to achieve specific goals
- RIL must be practical and cost effective.

In the Fijian context, the platform for RIL is the Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice. Most of the elements of RIL already exist in the FFHCP.

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Reduced Impact Logging Stakeholder Workshop 16

www.tff-indonesia.org

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APPENDIX IV Reduced Impact Logging & the Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice 2010.

(Presentation Power Point and notes from the Workshop presentation of the RIL Consultant to SPC/GIZ , Mr. Arthur W. Klassen)

Reduced Impact Logging Stakeholder Workshop 1

“Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) & the Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice 2010”

SPC / GIZ Regional Project
Climate Protection through Forest Conservation in Pacific Island Countries
PN 10.9073.7-001.00

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Reduced Impact Logging Stakeholder Workshop 2

OUTLINE FOR PRESENTATION

1. Terms of reference
2. Consultation and field visits
3. Overview to the Code
4. Discussion points: Observations from the field
5. Summary

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Reduced Impact Logging Stakeholder Workshop 3

Terms of Reference. . .

“ . . . review Fiji Harvesting Code of Practice in the context of Reduced Impact Logging considerations and provide inputs . . . ”

List of organizations and sites visited:

DFO Western	Pine logging site (Western)
Fiji Pine Ltd.	Vunimaqo native forest Logging
Fiji Pine Trust	Fiji Harwood logging site (Nakurua)
DFO Southern	Fiji Pine plantation areas
Fiji Hardwood Corporation Ltd.	Pine chipping facility
Fiji Mahogany Trust	Fiji Forest Industries Native Logging Site (Northern)
DFO Northern	
Valebasoga Tropic Boards	
Waigele Sawmill	
Fiji Forest Industries	

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Reduced Impact Logging Stakeholder Workshop 4

Structure of this presentation:

- discuss specific topics drawn from the Code using 'key words'
- present observations and comments on:
 - ❖ strengths and weaknesses,
 - ❖ opportunities for improvement, and,
 - ❖ constraints

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Reduced Impact Logging Stakeholder Workshop 5

DEFINING RIL . . . review

RIL is defined as timber harvesting technologies and management practices designed to:

- minimize impact on the environmental values and related social aspects of the forest and its function;
- minimize damage to potential future crop trees, soils and other forest values;
- provide safe working conditions; and
- improve timber utilization and recovery in the forest.

(From TFFs RIL Generic Standard – refer to www.tff-indonesia.org)

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Reduced Impact Logging Stakeholder Workshop 6

CONTEXT OF RIL

Scope: RIL covers the entire spectrum of forest management activities from inventory through to post harvesting monitoring and evaluation (including management systems).

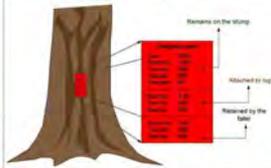
Context: Detailed definition of RIL must be couched within policy and legislative frameworks and technical forest management considerations. In this case the 'framework' is the Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice.

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Reduced Impact Logging Stakeholder Workshop 7

1. Inventory, information, maps (scale)

- Pre-planning requirements.
- Inventory sampling procedures reviewed.
- Maps available at 1:10,000 with 20 m. contour interval ... inappropriate for operational planning and monitoring




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Reduced Impact Logging Stakeholder Workshop 8

2. Standards, planning (diameter limit) ...

- Most technical standards are already in the Code
- Planning requirements generally good but constrained by map scale.
- Species specific diameter limit proposal a significant issue (along with proposal for tree marking)



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Reduced Impact Logging Stakeholder Workshop 9

3. Felling, bucking, utilization

- Directional felling a 'non-issue'
- Observations in the field generally favorable
- Excessive waste observed in the mahogany logging site.
- Need for better allocation in pine areas

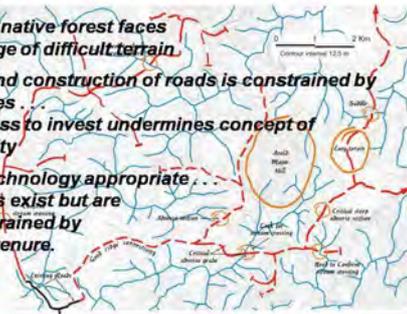


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Reduced Impact Logging Stakeholder Workshop 10

4. Logging, terrain, roads, technology

- Logging in native forest faces the challenge of difficult terrain.
- Planning and construction of roads is constrained by short tenures ... unwillingness to invest undermines concept of sustainability
- Logging technology appropriate ... alternatives exist but are likely constrained by short term tenure.



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Reduced Impact Logging Stakeholder Workshop 11

5. Deactivation, silvicultural treatment

- What happens after logging? ... deterioration of the native forest
- Cross-ditching already in the Code
- Delay of (2 year) in replanting of Mahogany ... Major silvicultural and cost implications.
- Use of fire ?



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Reduced Impact Logging Stakeholder Workshop 12

6. Monitoring, evaluation, (jurisdiction)

- Rigorous evaluation system already in place but seems to lack sensitivity.
- Development of internal monitoring procedures (along with standards or "standard operating procedures" would strengthen monitoring ...



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Main Observations

- *Training of overarching importance*
- *Tenure and scale – constraints to improvements (mapping, technology, infrastructure investment, etc.)*
- *Clear need for a better map base (1:5,000 with 5 m contour intervals; vegetation types, etc.)*
- *Evaluation procedures should be re-examined to install more sensitivity to better reflect actual field situations.*
- *RIL . . . It's already in the Code!*

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