

CONGO (Republic of)

Assignment Name: Forest Product Export Control Service		Country: Congo (Brazzaville)	
Location within Country: Pointe Noire, local offices and border crossing points into Cameroon and Central African Republic. Also ports of final export from Cameroon.		Professional Staff Provided by SGS: Project Director, Technical Training Manager plus local field and administrative staff	
Name of Client: Government of the Republic of Congo, Ministry of Forest Economy and the Environment		Nº of Staff: 57 full-time staff on average	
Address: Pointe Noire, Republic of Congo		Duration of Assignment: 2 years, renewable	
Start Date (Month/Year): August 2003	Completion Date (Month/Year): July 2006	Approx. Value/Cost of Services (in Current US\$): USD 2 million per year.	
Names of Associated Consultants: N/A		Professional Staff Provided by Associated Consultants: N/A	
Names of Senior Staff Involved and Functions Performed: Alain Verney, Project Director			
Narrative Description of Project: <p>Congo's Forest Law of 2000 provided the framework for setting up a National Forest Product Export Control Service. The government called upon the services of SGS to create and run this service during its start-up period, and with possible transfer to the forest administration as a fully autonomous unit.</p> <p>The project physically verifies all exports of forest products (e.g.: logs, sawnwood, non-timber products) and calculates the taxes due. It also provides an analysis of activity in the sector, especially of the percentage of local processing of logs into primary wood products, which is subject to quota regulations.</p> <p>Teams of inspectors work throughout the country, especially at land borders and ports. Forest products are marked with a coded label, which identifies their origin and enables forest production to be quantified. The products are physically inspected for identification purposes and for the verification of quantity and quality, and export and transport documents are systematically checked and analysed. An inspection report, which is used to calculate export taxes (to be collected by Customs authorities), is generated for each export consignment. Statistics of forest product exports are supplied to the government administration on a regular basis. The project employs 50 officers on secondment from the forest administration, while SGS has appointed seven managers for supervision and training.</p>			
Description of Services Provided by SGS Staff: <p>SGS is responsible for the complete design, development, installation and operation of the inspection and monitoring service. Implementation also includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct of an awareness campaign for all stakeholders: Government (National and Provincial), landowners and the forest industry. • System design for both field and office computing systems, including field software and database design for the development of a comprehensive forest data management and communication system. • Reporting to Government. • Set-up of operations at strategic locations and provision of logistical support systems and training for inspectors operating at logging camps. 			