

# Smallholder timber supply for domestic and regional markets in central Africa: importance and challenges

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Pittaya, 14-17 November





# What I'll be talking about ...

1.

Overview of the  
artisanal timber sector  
in Central Africa

2.

Some challenges

3.

Few ideas

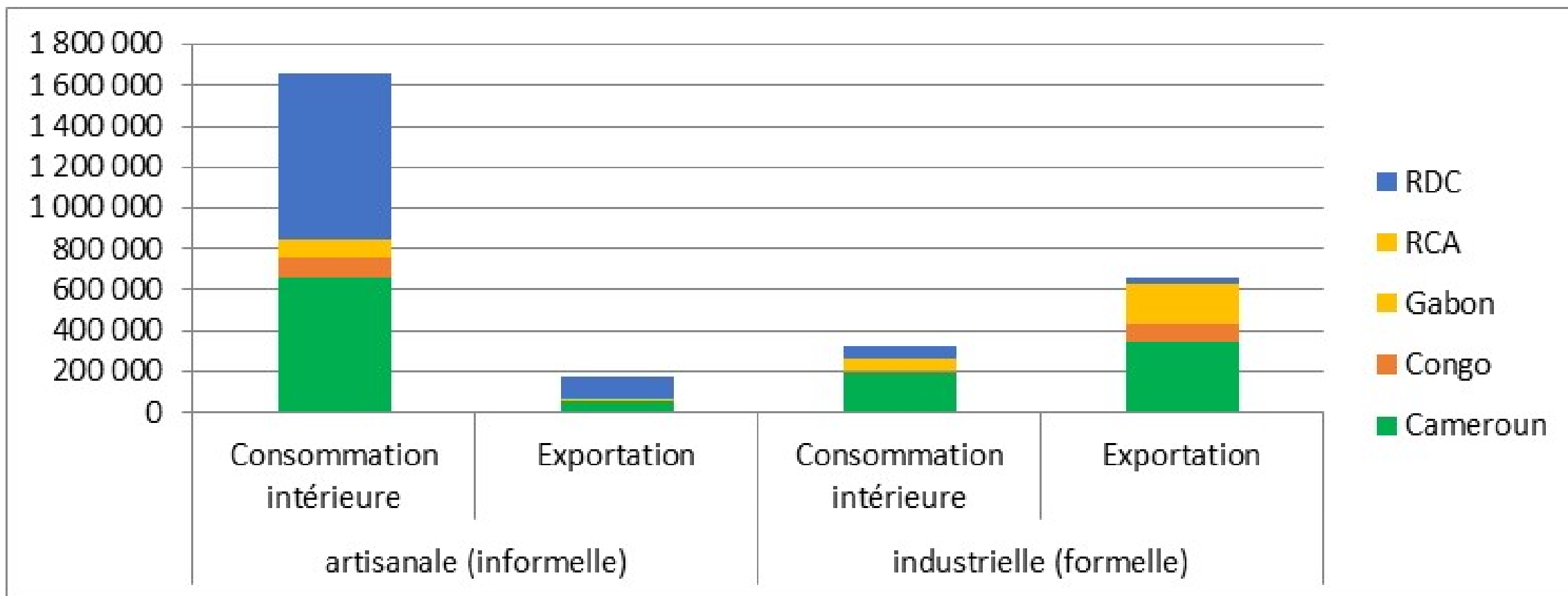


# Background

- In Central Africa, small-scale timber production is informal but organised.
- They are responding to growing national and regional demand.
- The volumes produced are equal to or greater than those exploited by the industrial sector.
- The species harvested are the same as those used for export.
- They generate significant employment and income in rural and urban areas.
- They contribute little to the national accounts.



# Origin and volume of sawn wood produced in Central Africa



(source: Lescuyer & Cerutti, 2013)



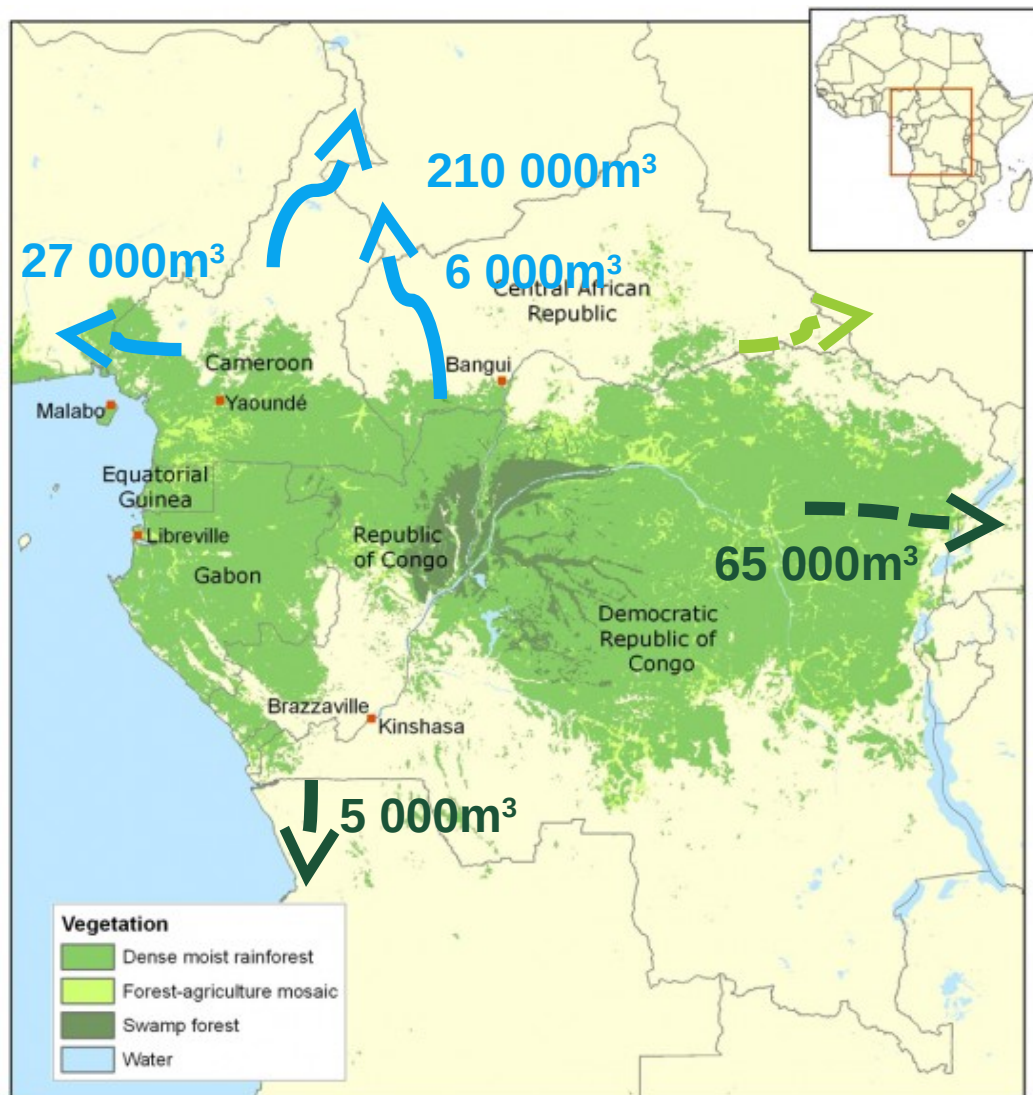
# Annual estimate of sawn timber consumption

Sciages (m <sup>3</sup> )	CAMEROON (Yaounde, Douala, Bertoua)	GABON (Libreville)	Congo (Pointe- Noire, Brazzaville)	RDC	RCA (Bangui)
<b>Annual consumption</b>	<b>860 000</b>	<b>70 000</b>	<b>109 500</b>	<b>1 023 000</b>	<b>79 000</b>
Industrial sawnwood	198 000	20 000	10 500	61 000	3 000
Artisanal sawnwood	662 000	50 000	99 000	962 000	76 000
Annual consumption per inhabitant	0,072	0,064	0,047	0,03	0,076
<b>Exportation (indus.)</b>	<b>360 000</b>	<b>151 000</b>	<b>93 000</b>	<b>36 000</b>	<b>26 000</b>
<b>Total ERW</b>	<b>2 867 000</b>	<b>233 000</b>	<b>365 000</b>	<b>3 410 000</b>	<b>263 000</b>

(sources: Lescuyer & Cerutti, 2013; Lescuyer et al. 2014; Dubiez et al. 2018)



# Intra-African sawnwood exports





# Main impacts on rural economies in Central Africa

- A significant source of income (tree purchase, salary, sawyer profit): XAF 30 billion in Cameroon, 6.4 billion in Congo, 2.7 billion in Gabon, 640 million in CAR per year.
- Direct employment in rural areas

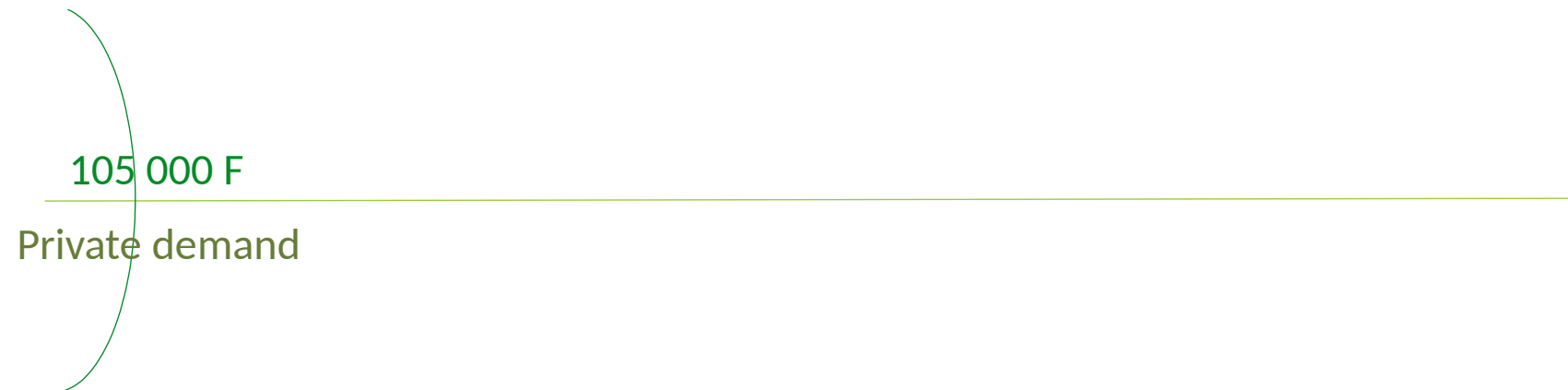
	Cameroon	RCA	Congo	Gabon
Number of direct jobs linked to artisanal sawmilling (full-time/part-time)	40 000	3 000		
Estimated number of direct jobs (full-time equivalent)			2 000	1 000
Number of direct jobs in the industrial forestry sector (OFAC)	13 000	4 000	7 500	14 000

# Comparison of national demand and supply for sawn timber

In terms of volume



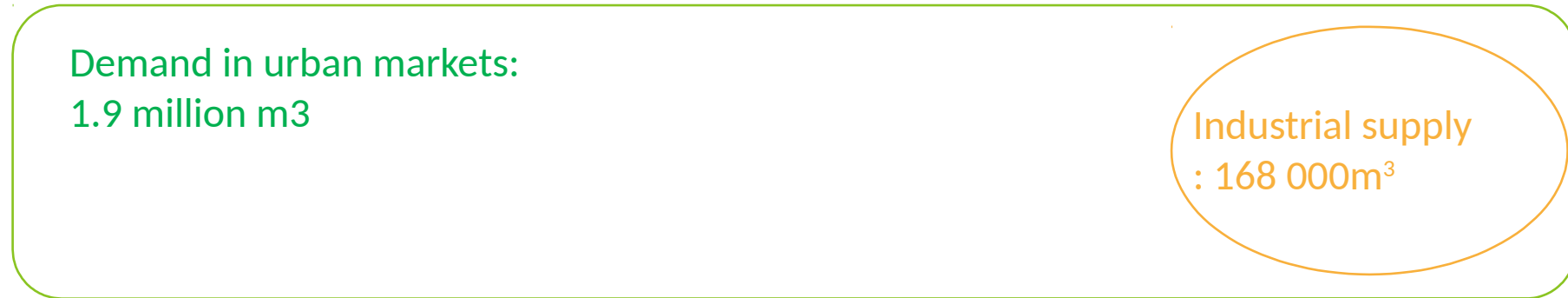
- In terms of price (F.CFA/m<sup>3</sup>)



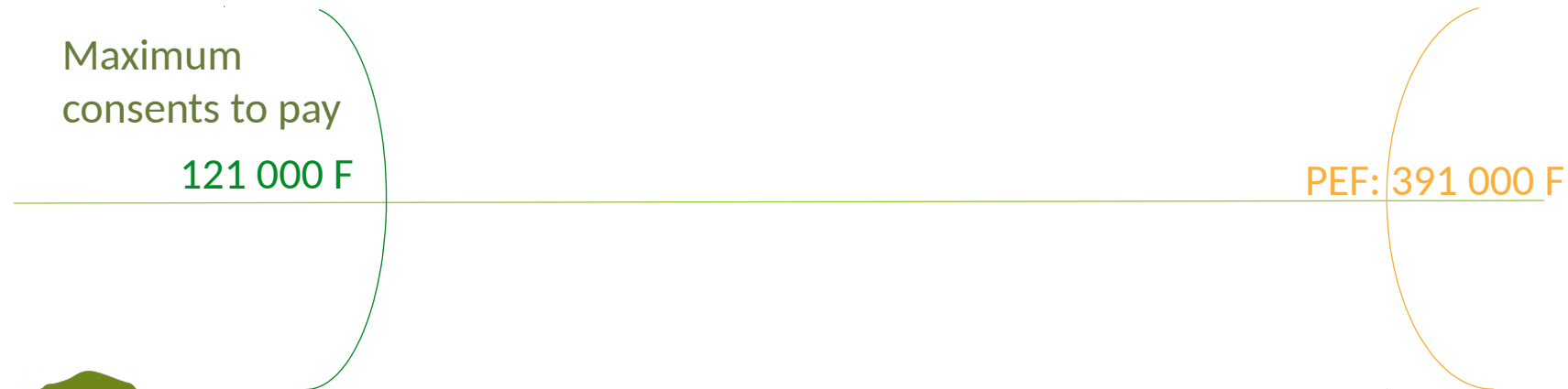


# Comparison of national demand and supply for sawn timber

En termes de quantité



■ In terms of price (F.CFA/m³)



# Some challenges





# Some challenges



- Illegal ≠ Illegitimate ≠ Non Sustainable
- Legal ≠ Legitimate ≠ Sustainable



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Home > News > Blogs > Making Waves > DRC logging is out of control as Chatham House study lays bare

## DRC logging is out of control as Chatham House study lays bare

Blogpost by **Raoul Monsembula** - April 1, 2014 at 12:08

3 comments



Almost all of the logging in the Democratic Republic of Congo is illegal, says a new report by the UK-based think tank, Chatham House. Though the figure of 87% is a startling one, it is not surprising for those of us here at Greenpeace who have been working on forestry issues in the Congo Basin.



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# Some challenges



## Boycott the Danzer Group!

Posted by admin - 1 December 2004 at 8:00am - 0 Comments



- 'Traditional' support from NGOs and CSOs not easy to obtain
- 'Traditional' policy options (e.g. bans) generally useless





# Few ideas



# Why can't they have a permit?

Countries	Small-scale logging permit	Current constraints
Cameroon	Small-scale logging permit Timber exploitation permits	Little granted and even less demanded, complex procedures, high costs
Gabon	Discretionary permits	Suspended; multiple alternative titles
Congo	Special permits	Suspended in several regions; barely granted elsewhere
RDC	Artisanal felling permit	Granted on a variable basis, and in the absence of a CFCL
RCA	Artisanal Logging Permit	Not allocated

# 'Invite' (not impose) formalisation

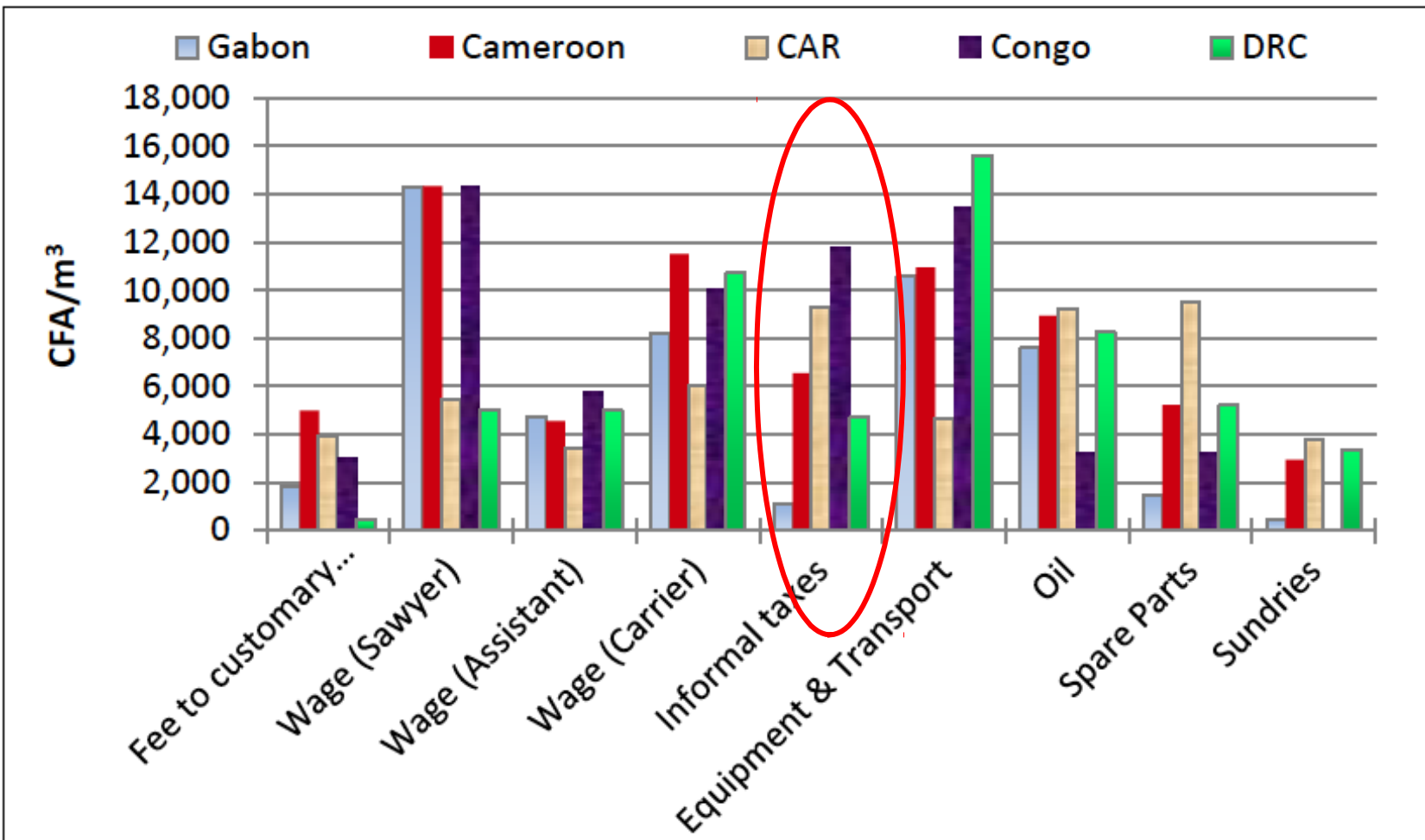
- Things a government could do
- Check whether 'customary' ownership is possible (positive impacts on rural livelihoods → timber prices, check ecological impacts)
- Promote 'legal' demand through public procurement policies (better prices, incentives to improve quality, get registered, pay taxes)
- Support with control, provision of transparent data and information
- Facilitate micro-credit (decrease risk of overdependence on debts)
- Avoid criminalisation and avoid (re)inventing the market





# Governance

- ‘The biggest challenge is to overcome the inability of governments to stimulate legal trade...’



# Thank you

[cifor.org](http://cifor.org) | [worldagroforestry.org](http://worldagroforestry.org) | [landscapesfuture.org](http://landscapesfuture.org)

[foreststreesagroforestry.org](http://foreststreesagroforestry.org) | [globallandscapesforum.org](http://globallandscapesforum.org) | [resilient-landscapes.org](http://resilient-landscapes.org)

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