



de la part du
Peuple japonais



MINISTÈRE DES EAUX ET FORÊTS

REGIONAL WORKSHOP TO EXCHANGE EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS LEARNED ON INDUSTRIAL AND TRADE DEVELOPMENT OF TROPICAL TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS IN AFRICA

24-26 February 2016 Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

ITTO PROJECT PD 700/13 Rev.2 (I)
DEVELOPMENT OF INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE AND FURTHER PROCESSING IN TROPICAL TIMBER AND TIMBER
PRODUCTS – PHASE I [STAGE 1]

Introduction

While many African countries conceal very valuable forest resources, the region still imports of timber and timber products. Indeed, every year, products and wood imports derived from African countries amounted to a value of around \$ 4 billion US, with less than 10% from the African continent due to the low capacity of the processing industry of wood in the region and the lack of policies to promote intra-African trade. However, in many African countries, the rapid growth of their economies and thus the demand for wood supply in the African timber sector a real opportunity. A dynamic timber processing industry backed by a sustainable supply of wood origin could therefore play an important role in the sustainable development of the region.

The need to promote intra-African trade in timber and its derivatives had already been identified in 2009 during an international conference organized by ITTO in Accra (Ghana). Building on the Accra ITTO Action Plan on the development of intra-African timber trade and tropical derivatives adopted at this conference, ITTO, at the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on the Development of Africa (TICAD V), proposed a project to develop intra-African trade seeking for a total of US\$6,274,545. Subsequently, the project was included in the Yokohama Action Plan 2013-2017 of TICAD V and the Government of Japan funded (US\$1,399,989) the Phase I [Stage 1] of the Project for the duration from April 2015 - March 2016. The remaining required budget will be further mobilized from various donors. This project should eventually help African countries of ITTO producer members to sustain their forest resources and progress well on the path of sustainable development.

The development objective is to promote the socio-economic development and sustainable management of African forests through the creation of added value and expansion of further processing and stimulation of trade and wood products of tropical origin in the framework within Africa. As for the specific goal it aims to introduce the consolidated efforts through the implementation of key elements to strengthen the competitiveness of African timber and timber products on the domestic market, intra-regional and global. These key elements include (i) raising awareness of development opportunities between companies, entrepreneurs, investors, policy makers and stakeholders, (ii) favourable conditions on regional and national levels, (iii) technical knowledge and Management and skills in the private sector, (iv) strengthening

of private sector organizations, (v) facilitating access to finance, and (v) improving information and knowledge of markets and technology.

This project aims to eliminate the identified main constraints that impede the expansion of the further processing of tropical timber in value added products and the development of trade, particularly in the context of intra-African trade, through nine (09) areas: (i) trade facilitation provisions relating to trade in timber and timber products in the region, (ii) the development and implementation in pilot countries of national strategies for projects further processing and trade of timber products, (iii) to develop pilot enterprises, business plans and development of commercial activities, (iv) improving market transparency through the creation pilot as an information service on current markets, (v) the adoption of measures facilitating and promoting trade of timber products, (vi) the implementation of technical training pilot the transformation of wood to ten (10) benefiting companies, (vii) strengthening and provision of technical assistance to national industry and trade associations, (viii) the identification of innovative financing and (ix) technology transfer.

Objective

The objectives of the regional workshop are to disseminate results obtained during Phase I [Stage 1] of the project and to collect feedbacks for follow up actions in the next stages.

Venue of the workshop

Hôtel IVOTEL , Abidjan, Ivory Coast

Expected results

The following results are expected:

- A proceedings of the workshop report with findings and recommendations to facilitate the implementation of national strategies;
- A report documenting the experiences and key lessons learned in the development of industry and trade in timber and timber products; and
- A report documenting the prospective reflection on the anchoring mechanisms of the bioeconomy, biotechnology, bioenergy, green economy and bioindustry by African countries ITTO producers.

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