

ATIBT MARKET DISCUSSION – ITTO – DECEMBER 2021

Major challenges in sustainable tropical timber management and the future of tropical forests.

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The management of forest concessions in Congo Basin



A management model set up
20 years ago, and in constant
improvement

Certification is stagnating and needs
to be supported by various means



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BACKGROUND

❖ 150 species currently listed and harvestable

- *27 to 37 M m³/year harvestable under management plans*
- *Of which 14 to 18 M m³/year harvestable with the current 54 commercial species*
- *Many species are not really harvested at all*

❖ A marginal place in the world timber production:

- *7 M m³ logs/year in average*
- *1% of the world log production*
- *5% of the tropical log production*

❖ A fall in production coming in the second rotation for some species

- *Mainly for Acajou, Kosipo, Sapelli, Sipo*
- *Okoumé is also concerned*

❖ Limited industrialization

- *1/3 of the logs are exported*
- *Limited to 1st processing*
- *very low 2nd and 3rd processing*
- *Majority of residue that is not recycled*



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BACKGROUND

❖ End of log exports by January 2023

- *Accompanying measures of the CEMAC are being implemented*
- *Certification is being promoted*

❖ New forestry codes Gabon and Republic of Congo

- *The code in Congo is already on its way*
- *The code in Gabon has just been published*

❖ The new production sharing concept in the Republic of Congo and Gabon

- *Two sharing mechanisms, with sale on timber yards and sale on the ground*

❖ The new European Commission regulation to fight against imported deforestation

- *The 8 FLEGT countries remains*
- *The EUTR remains*
- *The deforestation and forest degradation is now considered*



Major challenges in sustainable tropical timber management and the future of tropical forests.

- ❖ **Support the international market for sustainably managed tropical timber**
- ❖ **Continuation of actions planned following the Shanghai forum in 2019 regarding Chinese markets**
- ❖ **Access to domestic markets for formal industrialists and professionalization of independent professionals**
- ❖ Increase production by diversifying the harvested species
- ❖ Industrialize to promote lesser known timber species
- ❖ Improve logistics
- ❖ Changing the Tax system
- ❖ Staff training
- ❖ Strengthening forest and industry research
- ❖ Access to financing



Major challenges in sustainable tropical timber management and the future of tropical forests.

THE FIRST CHALLENGE IS TO HAVE A GOOD IMAGE, SO WE HAVE TO

Support the international market for sustainably managed tropical timber making a good lobbying

The exclusion of tropical timber from the work on the Paris 2024 Olympic village is a serious warning!



Support the international market for sustainably managed tropical timber making a good lobbying

How to improve this lobbying?

WE NEED MORE IMPORTANT VOICES, BUT WE HAVE TO CONSIDER:

- The limits of institutional speaking by Europeans.
- A very positive reception during interventions by actors from the Congo Basin.
- The credibility of advocacy by Africans for the protection of their forests.
- The opportunity to enrich the communication of STTC - Fair&Precious through an ambassador?
- Which ambassadors?

Support the international market for sustainably managed tropical timber making a good lobbying

Working with the authorities of the Congo Basin (and asking them to come to Europe)



Meeting in Paris with the team of the Mayor and with the “diplomatic mission”

The discussion we are currently having with the Paris 2024 Olympic Games construction body led us to organise a "diplomatic mission" with certain ministers (Cameroon, Republic of Congo) in October, with the support of COMIFAC.

We will continue to mobilise these key contacts to promote the value of certified tropical timber in Europe.

Support the international market for sustainably managed tropical timber making a good lobbying

Working with the embassies of the Congo Basin in Europe

The embassies of the Congo Basin countries in Europe are aware that they have a role to play in promoting their countries' products.

We contacted the Gabonese Embassy in France, and obtained a contact person designated by the ambassador to closely monitor issues concerning the tropical wood market

We will now turn to other embassies.



Lilianne Massale,
Gabonese ambassador in
France

Support the international market for sustainably managed tropical timber making a good lobbying

Working with recognised representatives of civil society



Edwige Eyang Effa,
researcher at the Institut de recherches en écologie tropicale du Gabon, and very close from certification issues in Central Africa.



Norbert Gami,
anthropologist, based in the Republic of Congo, and collaborator of WCS, and having presented the ATIBT motions during preparatory sessions for the FSC GA

Support the international market for sustainably managed tropical timber making a good lobbying

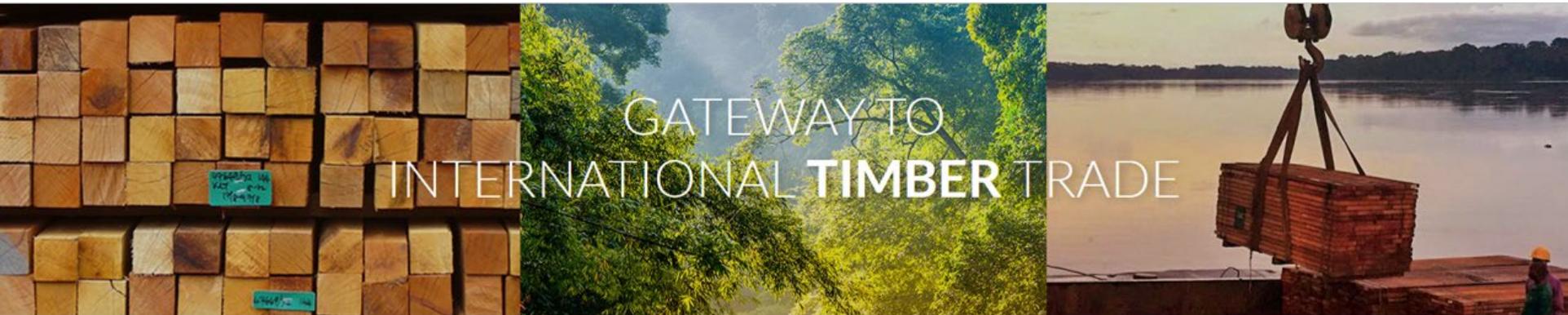
Working with other organizations like Malaysian Timber Council



A meeting took place in Paris in October, bringing together a mission from the Malaysian Timber Council, the ATIBT, a representative of the Gabonese Embassy in Paris and the LCB association. These organisations decided to work better together to promote the importance of consuming sustainable tropical timber.

Support the international market for sustainably managed tropical timber giving credible data with

<https://www.timbertradeportal.com/en/>



TIMBER TRADE PORTAL

- New 2021 website
- 29 country profiles
- Three languages: English, French, Chinese
- Resources: certification and regulation
- Other platforms info and links
- News items

COUNTRY PROFILES





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THE FIRST MARKET IS IN CHINA, SO WE HAVE TO

Continue the actions planned following the Shanghai forum in 2019 regarding Chinese markets

- Developing collaboration with the GGSC platform in China
- Building a database of information accessible to all, including the existing Global Timber Traceability Network (GTTN)
- Integrate existing legality and sustainability verification mechanisms into existing global rules and legal frameworks
- B2B communication and information exchange within the GGSC network



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THE MARKET OF THE FUTURE IS IN AFRICA, SO IT NECESSARY TO OBTAIN THE

Access to domestic markets for formal industrialists and professionalization of independent professionals

Possible measures envisaged:

- Intensify vocational training for craftsmen and VSEs
- Reduce taxes such as VAT, which are often unrecoverable for VSEs and informal sector actors
- Encourage public procurement by producer countries to buy legal and sustainably managed wood products:
 - Public policies must set an example
 - The case of the funeral parlour (a government department that only manufactures coffins from illegal wood) is obvious



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Access to domestic markets for formal industrialists and professionalization of independent professionals

Possible measures envisaged (more):

- Take advantage of current decisions on production sharing to supply the local market as a priority: *Why not connect large and small companies with wood sales + technology transfers?*
- Get certified companies to work together (by financing them) with community forests to accompany these community forests towards certification
- Promote LKTS on local markets



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OTHER IMPORTANT CHALLENGES

- Increase production by diversifying the harvested species
- Industrialize to promote lesser-known timber species
- Improve logistics
- Changing the Tax system
- Staff training
- Strengthening forest and industry research
- Access to financing

THANKS !