

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

Richard Eba'a Atyi
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

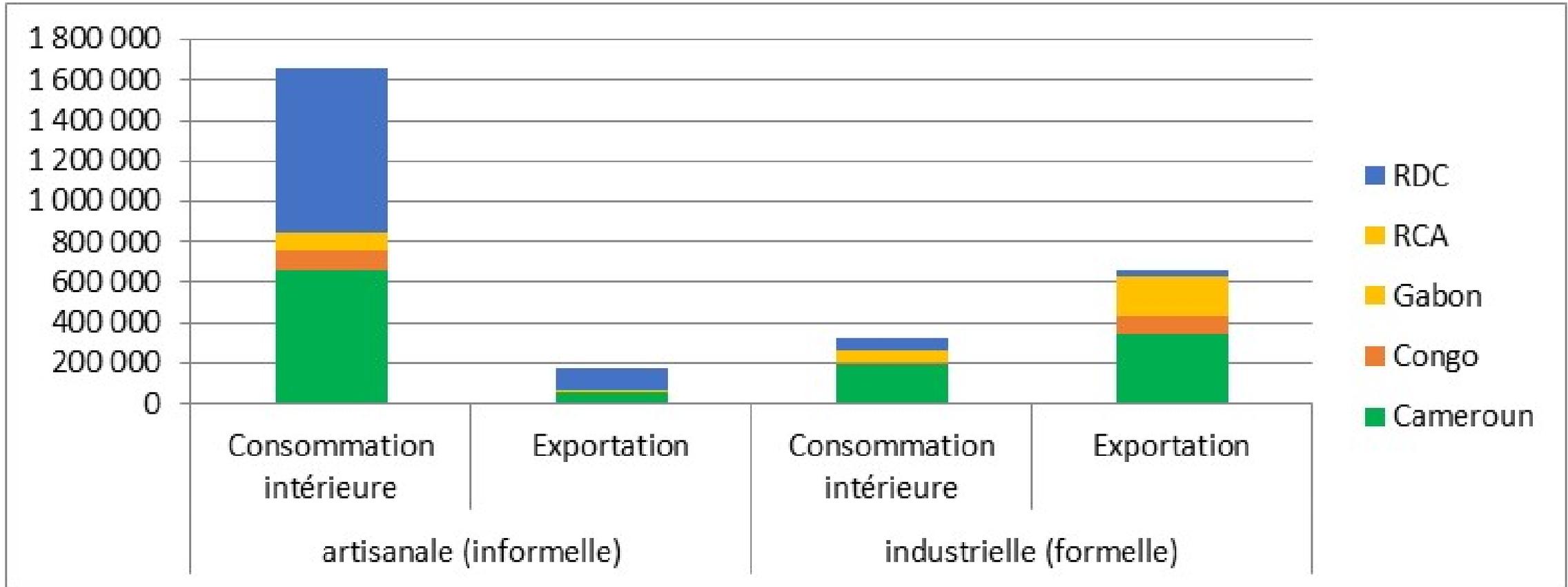


Background

- 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)

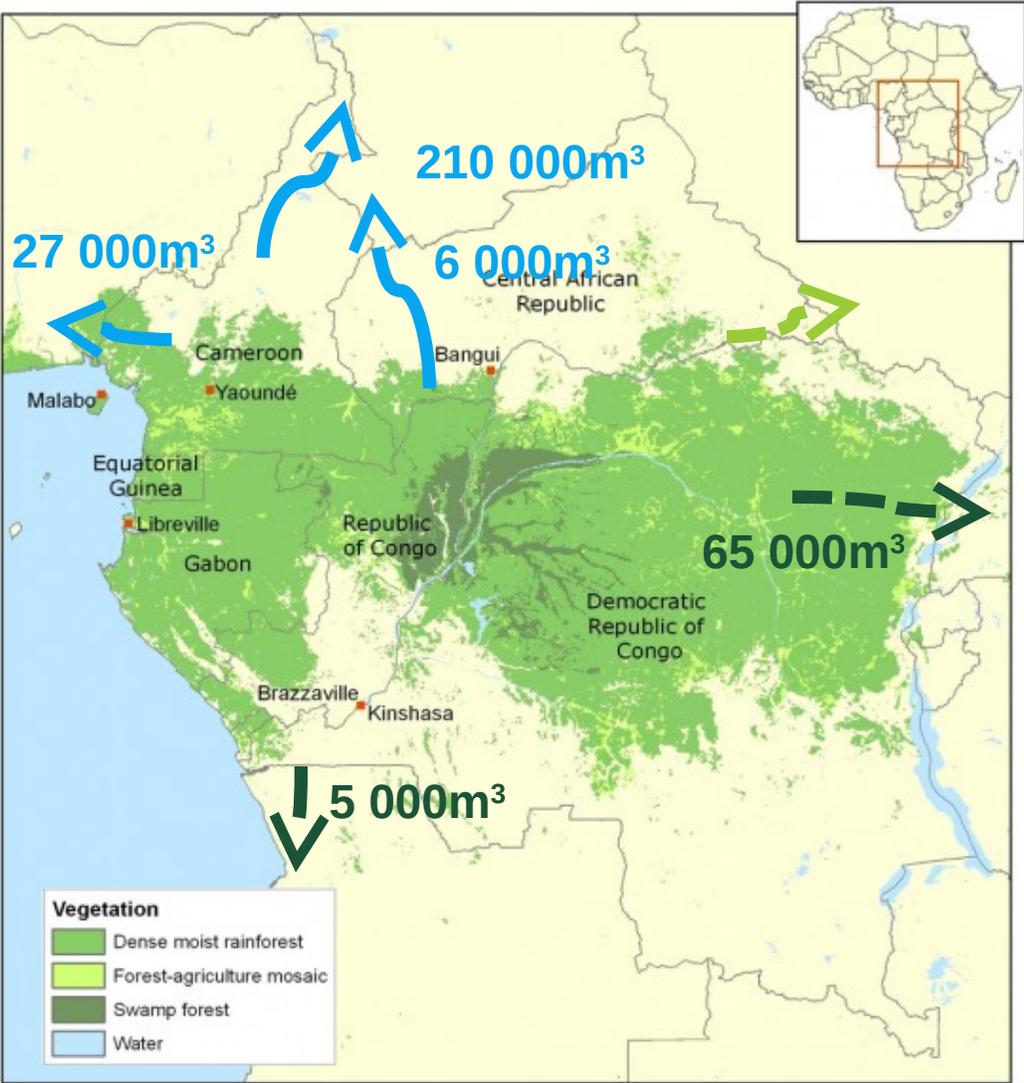
Annual estimate of sawn timber consumption

Sciages (m ³)	CAMEROON (Yaounde, Douala, Bertoua)	GABON (Libreville)	Congo (Pointe- Noire, Brazzaville)	RDC	RCA (Bangui)
Annual consumption	860 000	70 000	109 500	1 023 000	79 000
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
Exportation (indus.)	360 000	151 000	93 000	36 000	26 000
Total ERW	2 867 000	233 000	365 000	3 410 000	263 000

(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

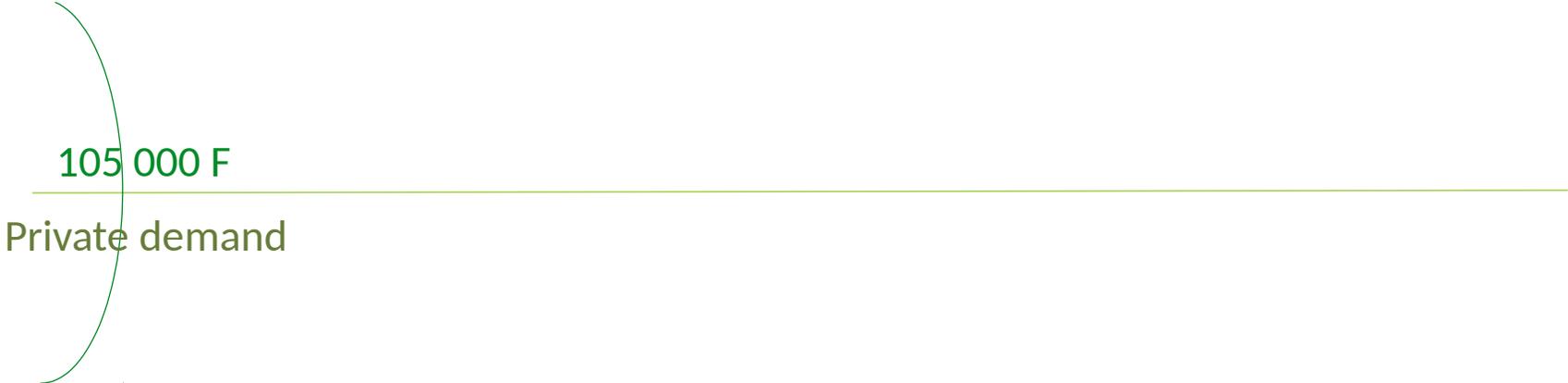
	Cameroon	RCA	Congo	Gabon
Number of direct jobs linked to artisanal sawmilling (full-time/part-time)	40 000	3 000		
Estimated number of direct jobs (full-time equivalent)			2 000	1 000
Number of direct jobs in the industrial forestry sector (OFAC)	13 000	4 000	7 500	14 000

Comparison of national demand and supply for sawn timber

In terms of volume

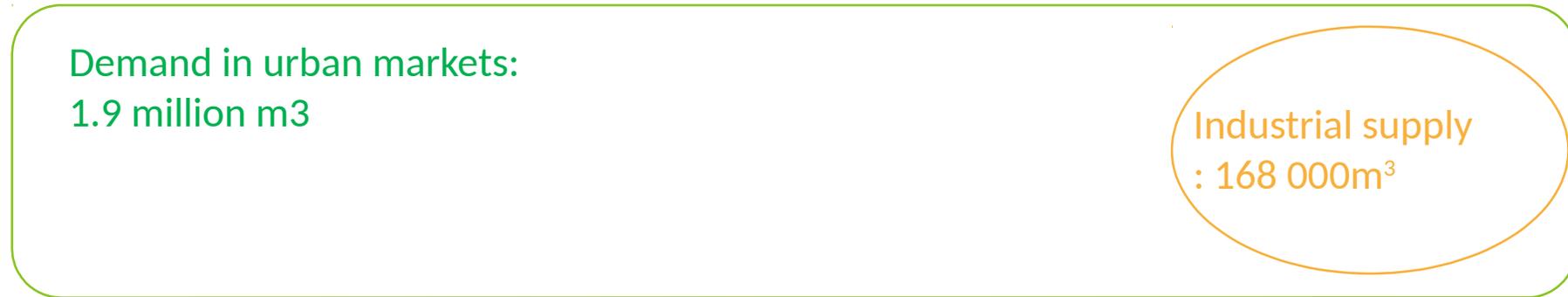


- In terms of price (F.CFA/m³)

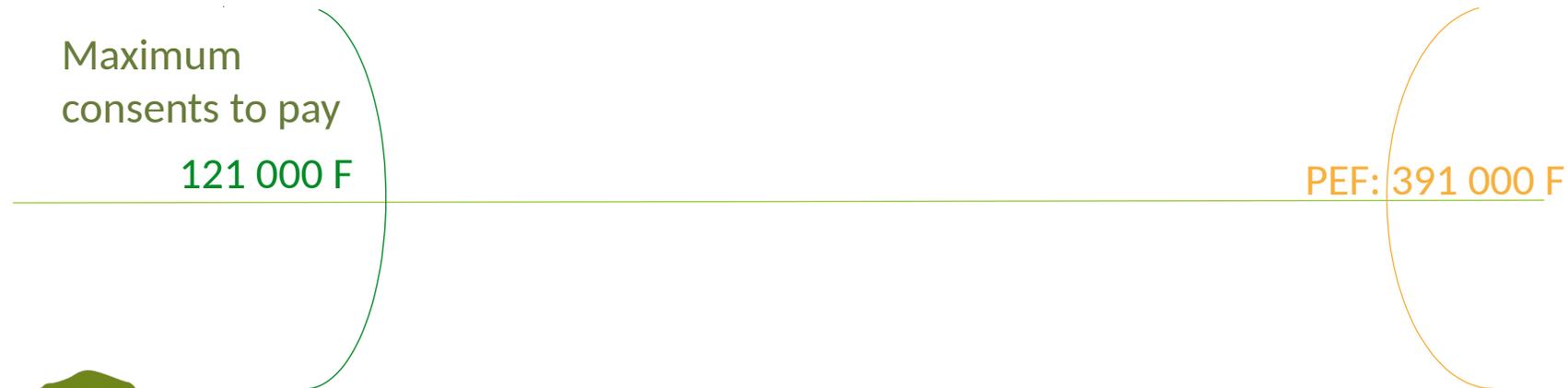


Comparison of national demand and supply for sawn timber

En termes de quantité



- In terms of price (F.CFA/m³)



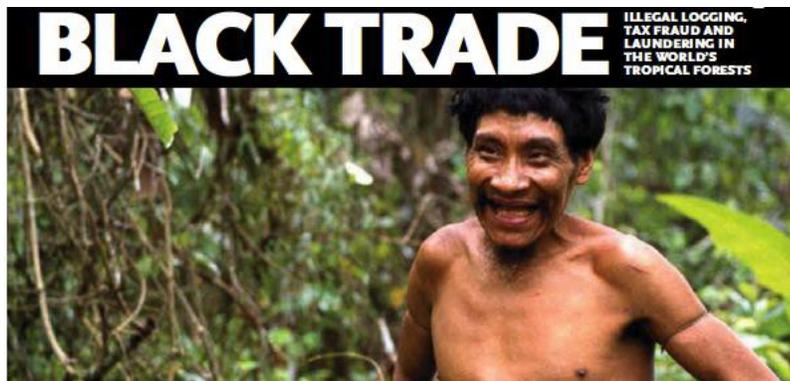
Some challenges



Some challenges



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



World Agroforestry



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.

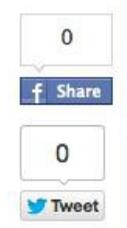


Some challenges



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

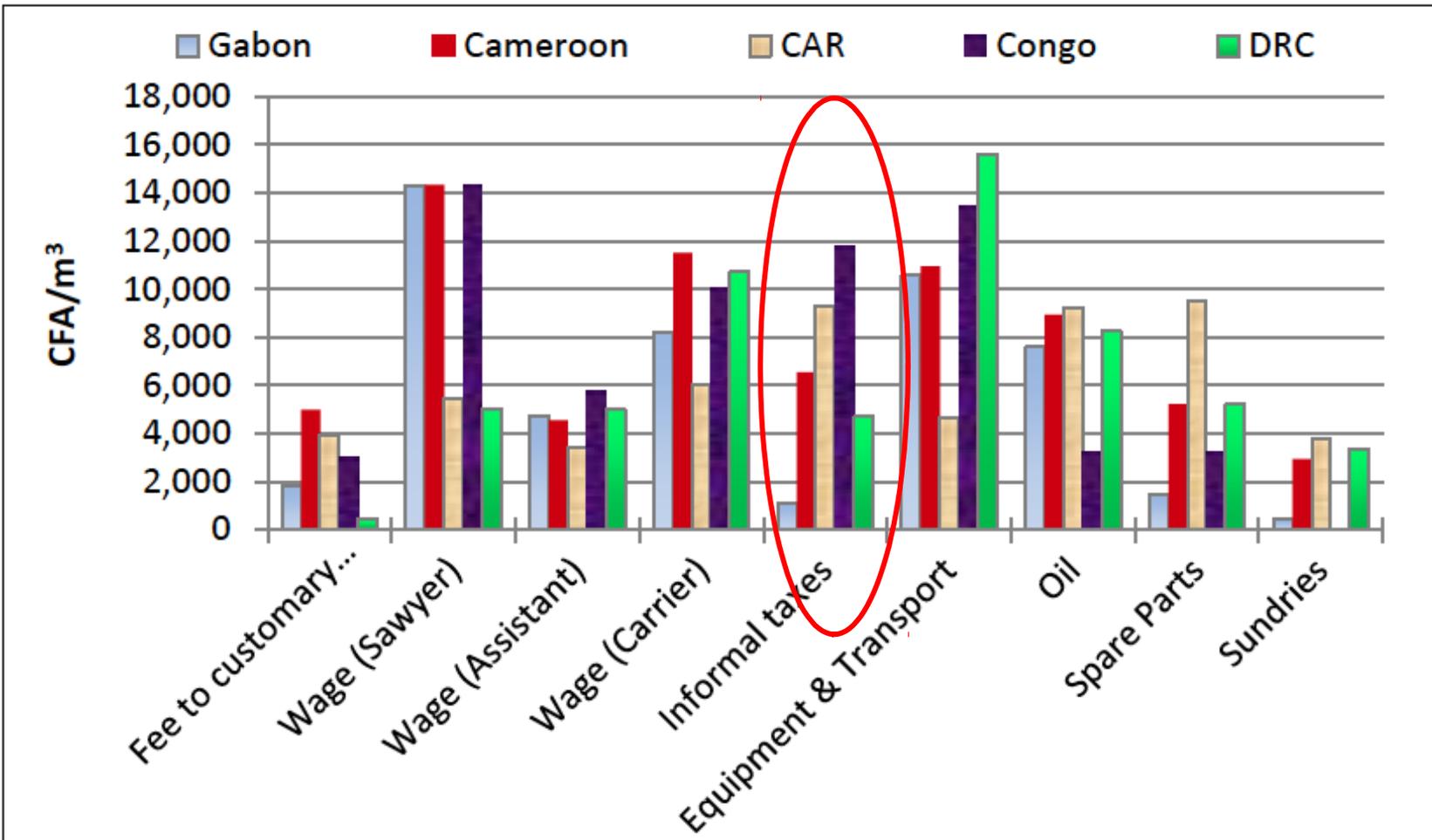
'Invite' (not impose) formalisation

- 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 | worldagroforestry.org | landscapesfuture.org

foreststreesagroforestry.org | globallandscapesforum.org | resilient-landscapes.org

The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and World Agroforestry (ICRAF) envision a more equitable world where trees in all landscapes, from drylands to the humid tropics, enhance the environment and well-being for all. CIFOR and ICRAF are CGIAR Research Centers.

