

CONCEPT NOTE

20th Meeting of the Parties (MOP 20) of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP)

Technical segment

3-5 June 2024, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Thematic Workshop 3: Sustainable value chains in Central Africa

Introduction

For decades, tropical timber has grappled with numerous challenges and threats as it struggles to maintain its stake in the international timber markets. It is now essential and urgent for tropical timber producing countries and the international tropical timber trade to adopt a positive and proactive approach to addressing the priority challenges of weak forest governance through clear and coherent strategies for reforming and strengthening forest governance and addressing illegal logging and trade more efficiently and effectively. When timber is legally and sustainably produced, processed, traded, and used, the industry enhances the value of standing forests, greatly reducing the risk of deforestation, and making a major contribution to the achievement of sustainable development goals.

The perception that illegal operations are widespread in tropical forests taints the image of the tropical timber sector in certain major import markets while some markets have responded by tightening requirements for legality and sustainability to provide assurance to buyers and consumers for effective action in this regard. With regards to concerns over illegal logging and its associated trade contribution to global deforestation and forest degradation, some major consumers have decided to enact laws to regulate their market, giving preference to legality and sustainability.

In Africa, the Congo Basin forests play a key role in climate change regulation with a significant biodiversity richness. Despite the different pressures on these forests from various actors for different uses, they do contribute to national economies and to the improvement of the livelihoods of local communities depending on them for several products and services (wood, non-wood forest products, ecosystems services....).

At the regional scale, the countries in Central Africa have over the years put in place a set of measures, policies, legal and institutional framework to ensure the sustainable management of their forests. In doing so, these countries benefit from supports of various partners to help them ensure the sustainable management of their forests, the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable development of income-generating activities as well as the development of sustainable value chains. Despite the above, several challenges still limit the development of sustainable value chains in Central Africa. This thematic workshop considers value change chain more broadly and its objective is to unlock constraints and challenges faced in value chain development in Central Africa in order to set a sound basis for sustainable value chains development building on lessons learnt, existing assets and opportunities and to formulate practical recommendations.

The workshop is structured around three sessions as follows:

- **Session 1:** Improving enabling conditions (policy, legal, institutional) to boost the development of sustainable value chains in Central Africa.
- **Session 2 (A):** Understanding Forest Governance Requirements to Boost Value Chains Development in Centra Africa.
- **Session 2 (B):** Addressing challenges of sustainable forest management and market access of timber from Central Africa.
- **Session 3:** Presentation and validation of key results and recommendations of the workshop.

The workshop is organized by the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) at its 20th CBFP Conference of the Parties to take place from 3 to 5 June 2024 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. It benefits from the collaboration of three institutions, namely the Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux (ATIBT), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).

2 Programme

Tuesday, 4 June 2024 (10h-12h30)	
Session 1: <i>Improving enabling conditions (policy, legal, institutional) to boost the development of sustainable value chains in Central Africa</i>	
5 mn	Welcome remarks (CBFP)
5 mn	Introduction to session (Moderator: Dr Jeremie Mbairamadji, FAO)
25 mn	Dr Tabuna Honoré , Commissioner ECCAS: Achievements, challenges, opportunities and Innovative approach to boost sustainable development of value chains in Central Africa.
Panels	
17 mn	Ir. José Ilanga Lofonga , Secretary General, Ministry of Agriculture of DRC
17 mn	Ms Monique Catherine Bisseck , Regional Coordinator of African women network for sustainable development in Africa (REFADD)
17 mn	Dr Guillaume Lescuyer , Researcher, CIRAD
17 mn	Mr. Fabrice Ntchango , Permanent Secretary, One Forest Youth initiative (OFYI)
40 mn	Discussions and recommendations
7 mn	Conclusion of session (Moderator: Dr Jeremie Mbairamadji, FAO)
Tuesday, 4 June 2024 (14h30-16h00)	
Session 2 (A): <i>Understanding Forest Governance Requirements to Boost Value Chains Development in Central Africa</i>	
5 mn	Welcome remarks (CBFP)
5 mn	Introduction to session (Moderator: Ms Sheam Satkuru, ITTO)
15 mn	Ms Sheam Satkuru , Executive Director of ITTO: Status and trends of timber trade requirements, such as forest law enforcement, governance and trade regulations, legality verification systems (EUDR, CITES, VPA-FLEGT, etc.), and forest certification schemes.
Panels	
15 mn	Qiang Li , Systems/Market Analyst, Division of Trade and Industry, ITTO
15 mn	Olivier Ahimin Adje , International Consultant
30 mn	Discussions and recommendations
5 mn	Conclusion (Moderator: Ms Sheam Satkuru, ITTO)

Tuesday, 4 June 2024 (16h00-17h30)

Session 2 (B): *Addressing challenges of sustainable forest management and market access of timber from Central Africa.*

- 5 mn Welcome remarks (Mr. Christophe Ducastel, CBFP)
5 mn Introduction to session (Moderator: Gabriel Mola Motya, FIB)
15 mn **Jacqueline Lardit**, ADEFAC Projet coordinator – Forestry Sector Expert/ATIBT: Status and challenges in ensuring sustainable forest management and sustainable supply chains impacting Central African countries.

Panels

- 10 mn **Mr. Franck Monthé**, Head of CITES programme /ATIBT
10 mn **Ms. Nadine Mutaka** –Business Development Manager/Arise IIP Integrated Industrial Platforms
10 mn **Dr William Mala** – Senior Management Landscape & Community/Rainforest Alliance
10 mn **Ms. Laure d’Astorg & Mr. Laurent Sagarra**, Alliance pour la Préservation des Forêts

20 mn Discussions and recommendations
5 mn Conclusion to session (Moderator: Gabriel Mola Motya -FIB)

Wednesday, 5 June 2024 9h30-10h30

Session 3: *Presentation and validation of key results and recommendations of the workshop*

- 5 mn Welcome remarks (CBFP)
5 mn Introduction to session (moderator FAO/ATIBT or ITTO)
10 mn Presentation of results and recommendations session 1 (Moderator: Dr Jeremie Mbairamadji, FAO)
10 mn Presentation of results and recommendations session 2 A (Moderator: Ms Sheam Satkuru, ITTO)
10 mn Presentation of results and recommendations session 2 B (Moderator: Gabriel Mola Motya, FIB)
20 mn Discussions and validation
5 mn Conclusion (moderator FAO/ATIBT or ITTO)

3. Contact Persons

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