

# Forest sector and timber trade in ATIBT focus countries

**ITTC**

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## ATIBT facts

- Founded by FAO/OECD in 1951 as to org tropical timber trade.
- Since 2012 in reform towards an intl organization based on a Member State ratified intl treaty, the ATIBT Convention.
- Members: Countries, industry, NGO, academia, donors, intl orgs.
- Geographic focus: central/West Africa, south-south fertilization.
- Comparative advantage: **60+ years experience, stakeholder trust, access to decision makers, clear strategy, large network with implementation capacity, convening power.**

## Vision

- 30 % of forest loss to agricultural plantations in next 20 years.
- Maintaining of 70 % of natural forests if
  - expensive legal/sustainable timber is in demand at sensitive markets,
  - developpment of timber plantations to undercut illegal logging,
  - advanced timber processing creates jobs and tax revenues, requiring fair competition, justice, science, market demand and access,
  - development of African markets,

All this requires coordinated policies and investments!

# A powerful story to tell

Responsible forestry enables

- Sustainable socio-economic development in Africa.
- Fighting corruption and fostering democratization.
- Enabling good governance and the rule of law.
- Conserving forest ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Maintaining current forest cover and resisting forest conversion, especially if landscape approach is applied.
- Protecting the World's climate.

## Certification

- Shrinking EU tropical timber market. Growing difficulties in selling FSC timber in 2013. EUTR impact, a certification killer?
- Conventional donor support to industry with limited impact. Urgent need for **marketing** of tropical timber and professional **communication** to reverse the negative market trend in sensitive markets. ATIBT is starting a marketing programme.
- Opportunity of double certification FSC-PAFC (PEFC) to enable mixing of tropical with non-tropical certified timber.
- Opportunity to influence certification systems.

## Legality

- Still about 70% of central African forests are logged illegally and illegal timber is still sold in Europe.
- But audited legality verification is growing fast. EUTR impact! Now EUTR needs to be implemented. EU Commission recognizes responsibility for a coordinated approach and integration of « sustainability » into EUTR.
- FLEGT VPAs provide an opportunity. Still a few obstacles to overcome.

## VPA opportunities

- Non availability of FLEGT timber sends negative message to markets, punishing responsible operators! Therefore need for recognition of certification as FLEGT compatible.
- Building VPA national timber tracking systems based on existing private COC systems. ATIBT Cameroon work.
- More trust and collaboration with governments and industry. Better communication.
- Integrating SMEs in VPAs (ATIBT proposal).
- Providing the VPA business case.

## Need for action !

- **Marketing** to increase market uptake of responsible timber. ATIBT-France (AFD-FFEM)-Germany (KfW-BMZ-GIZ)-NL (IDH) approach. This will increase responsible production and protect best our tropical natural forests.
- **Advanced timber processing** in central Africa. ITTO proposal. Training, government framework conditions, availability of loans, producer govt promotion of tropical timber.
- **Responsible production of competitive tropical timber** products; expensive natural forest timber and cheap plantation timber.

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