



THE LEADING AUTHORITY ON TROPICAL TIMBER

ACTIVITY REPORT 2019

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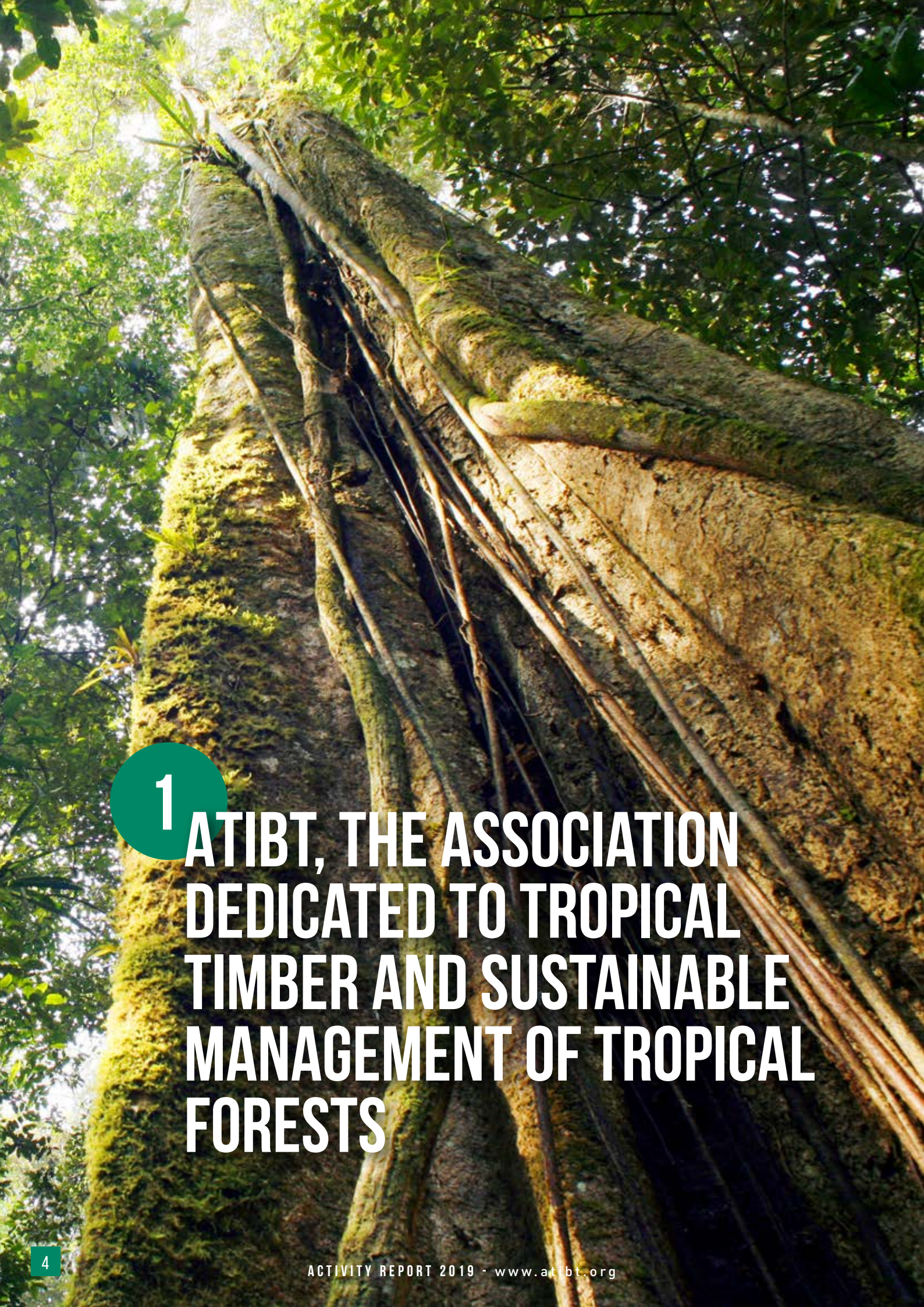
www.atibt.org

ACRONYMS

AFD:	French Agency For Development
ATIBT:	International Tropical Timber Technical Association
CBFP:	Congo Basin Forest Partnership
CFT:	Compagnie Forestière De Transformation
CIB:	Congolaise Industrielle Des Bois
CIRAD:	Centre De Coopération Internationale En Recherche Agronomique Pour Le Développement
CITES:	Convention On International Trade In Endangered Species Of Wild Fauna And Flora
COMIFAC:	Commission Des Forêts D'Afrique Centrale
CTWPDA:	The China Timber & Wood Production Distribution Association
DRC:	Democratic Republic Of Congo
ETTF:	European Timber Trade Federation
EUTR:	European Union Timber Regulation
FAO:	Food And Agriculture Organization Of The United Nations
FSC:	Forest Stewardship Council
FFEM:	Fonds Français Pour L'environnement Mondial
FIB:	Fibres Industries Bois
GFBC:	Groupement De La Filière Bois Du Cameroun
GGSC:	Global Green Supply Chain
GNFT:	Groupe National Des Forêts Tropicales
IDH:	The Sustainable Trade Initiative
ITTO:	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN:	The World Conservation Union
LCB:	Le Commerce Du Bois
LKTS:	Lesser Known Timber Species
NGOs:	Non-Governmental Organizations
ONFI:	Office National Des Forêts International
PEFC/PAFC:	Programme For The Endorsment Of Forest Certification
PES:	Payments For Environmental Services
PPECF:	Programme De Promotion De L'exploitation Certifiée Des Forêts
SPIB:	Syndicat Des Producteurs Industriels Du Bois
STTC:	European Sustainable Tropical Timber Coalition
SW4SW:	Sustainable Wood For Sustainable World
UE:	European Union
ULG:	University Of Liège
UFIGA:	Union Des Forestiers Et Industriels Du Bois Du Gabon
WRI:	World Resources Institute

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1 ATIBT, THE ASSOCIATION DEDICATED TO TROPICAL TIMBER AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF TROPICAL FORESTS



FOREWORD

OLMAN SERRANO - ATIBT PRESIDENT



***Forest concessionaires contribute to at least
9 of the 17 sustainable development goals***



When I was invited to write this foreword, the Activity Report 2019 was nearly completed. The timing coincided with the unprecedented challenges we have all been facing since early 2020 with the COVID-19 pandemic. Since this report is about the activities of 2019, I will not address here this world crisis.

Nevertheless, please allow me to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the victims of this pandemic, to express my gratitude to all front line workers worldwide and in particular to all of our members in their efforts taken to safeguard the health of their employees and family members in the forest concessions, transformation units, offices, warehouses, salesrooms, etc. Our ATIBT team has been and will continue sharing information about the impact of this pandemic in the tropical forestry sector via the weekly ATIBT Newsletter.

This report presents information on how our Association is structured, how it operates, and which are the statutory bodies for its governance. The report also describes who are our members, and which are the main donors financially and technically supporting a wide range of common objectives.

The main outcomes of the projects implemented in collaboration with key partners during the year 2019 describe how are we advancing in the sustainable management of the tropical forests and the degree of

contribution to the different country's social and economic development.

In fact, all activities carried out over the year by ATIBT were focused in the first place in support to our members, who in turn are willing to improve their operations. That includes the way resources are managed, how local capacities are developed, or how tropical wood products are perceived by policy makers or the public in general. This support also includes the provision of guidance on how best national legislations in the countries they operate can be respected, and how regional and international agreements affecting the use and trade of tropical wood products should be taken into account.

ATIBT members are making efforts in contributing to several initiatives and agreements, in favour of the conservation of biological diversity, by minimising forest degradation and avoiding deforestation.

For example, tropical forest concession managers and legally produced and traded wood products, contribute to at least nine out of the seventeen United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). One of them is SDG 15 "Life on Land" which contains indicator 15.2.1 "Progress towards Sustainable Forest Management".

This is also in line with the communication made by the European Commission in July 2019 on "Stepping up EU Action to Protect



and Restore the World's Forests", with the overall aim to protect and grow the world's forest cover to improve people's health and livelihoods and ensure a healthy planet for our children and grandchildren. ATIBT is determined and has the capacity to contribute to these goals, as world leading Association in the tropical sector.

All ATIBT members managing forest concessions demonstrate this contribution by obtaining through significant investments and long procedures an independent third party assessed certificate. It is sometimes a voluntary, internationally recognized certificate, such as PEFC/PAFC or FSC and sometimes it is a legality related, also third party verified certificate. A good example reported in 2019 includes an ATIBT member based in the Democratic Republic of Congo, near Kisangani, obtaining an internationally recognized certificate on legality for the management of its concession.

The implementation of ATIBT activities planned for 2020 will be facing many challenges. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of casualties and the economic downturn caused by the confinement will certainly affect project activities and more importantly, the ability of

ATIBT members to recover. We are nevertheless confident that our members, with the continuous support from our partners, in particular from the donor community, will be in a position to contribute to "building back better", each one in its specific sector, leaving no one behind.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all those institutions committed to support the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable management and utilization of the tropical forests, for their provision of financial means and active engagement, that made possible the effective functioning of our Association. Our appreciation goes to the German Development Bank (KfW), the European Commission (EU), the French Agency for Development (AFD), the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

My appreciation goes also to the tireless efforts of Benoit Jobbé-Duval, Director General of ATIBT and his team, in dealing with many complex issues on the day to day basis, to the members of the Executive Bureau as well as to the Board of Directors, for their valuable time and dedication in guiding the activities of our Association.



FOREWORD

BENOÎT JOBBÉ-DUVAL - ATIBT GENERAL DIRECTOR _____



***ATIBT is an under-used media for the members,
yet it allows them to be heard at the highest level.***



The ATIBT team is pleased to present its annual report one more year, and hopes to share with you the many experiences of 2019. This report illustrates the diversity of the actions carried out for the members and for the industry, in terms of defending their interests, improving knowledge, and disseminating messages about tropical timber and sustainable management. ATIBT is also always looking for improvements regarding its organisation and efficiency. The resources dedicated to communication have been strengthened in 2019, with the «ATIBT newsletter» now distributed weekly and the «Fair&Precious newsletter» distributed monthly in partnership with the STTC newsletter. We hope you all find these readings useful. It should be noted that these means of communication are at the service and disposal of ATIBT members, who can thus rely on our association to express opinions and be heard at the highest level. ATIBT is a media for them, frequently an under-used media.

The ATIBT projects continued and in 2019 they gained more budgetary scope, since the Association's turnover was more than 1.5 million euros. This figure multiplies by 6 the amount of membership fees paid to the Association by its members! This proportion is due to the interest in our sector shown by a number of donors, whom we would like to thank

here for their continued support. Moreover, membership fees are more necessary than ever, as they are a sign that the private sector remains strongly mobilized. They are also a powerful lever to set up studies and projects, source of so much information and progress.

The year 2019 ended after a Forum in China that was exceptional in its organization - partnership with 3 other organizations - and also in its scope, as it gathered more than 350 people. It was an opportunity for an in-depth meeting with Chinese actors, since their presence on the African continent is now very significant: nearly 50% of the Congo Basin's wood production is exported to Asia. Chinese foresters are present in approximately the same proportions in the 3 countries of Cameroon, Gabon and the Republic of Congo.

The signing of an agreement between ATIBT and the Chinese association CTWPDA aimed to improve the exchange of information between our two organisations.

In this editorial, on behalf of the members, partners and collaborators, I would like to thank Mr. Robert Hunink, who has been the president of the Association for the last 5 years, and welcome the arrival of Mr. Olman Serrano, whom the members have elected to lead the organization.

ATIBT' GOVERNANCE

ATIBT contributes to the sustainable and responsible development of the tropical forestry sector, from the forest to the markets.



The Association aims to facilitate effective and innovative cooperation among all relevant stakeholders to develop and implement sustainable and responsible management of tropical forests, in order to increase their contribution to the long-term development of the economies of forest countries.

In particular, the Association represents forest loggers and industries, mainly based in Africa, suppliers of tropical timber products, and all other stakeholders involved in responsible forest management. As such, it promotes sustainably harvested tropical timber on world markets.

ATIBT intends to contribute through its action to the protection and conservation

of tropical forests for future generations, through the promotion of certified, sustainably managed forest concessions and networks of protected areas. ATIBT is in line with the evolution of market demand and interest in legal and/or certified tropical timber products.

The Association gathers the following governing bodies: the General Assembly, the Board of Directors and its Executive Office and the Secretariat.

The Board of Directors may also decide to create various Subsidiary Bodies (Commissions, Committees, Thematic Working Groups, etc.).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Olman SERRANO	ATIBT PRESIDENT	
Michel ROUGERON	TREASURER OF ATIBT	www.pallisco-cifm.com
Robert HUNINK	CEB - PRECIOUS WOODS - Gabon	www.preciouswoods.com
Benoît DEMARQUEZ	TEREA - France	www.terea.net
Françoise VAN DE VEN	UFIGA - Gabon	www.ufiga.org
Ulrich GRAUERT	INTERHOLCO - Switzerland	www.interholco.com/en
Pierre TATY	STATE - Republic of Congo	www.mefdd.cg
Yves YALIBANDA	STATE - Central African Republic	www.dailymotion.com/video/xv6cvd
Paolo BRACCIANO	REGALIS - United Arab Emirates	www.regaliswood.com/contact
Jan Willem HUNINK	CIB-OLAM - Singapore	www.olamgroup.com/locations/west-and-central-africa/republic-of-congo.html
Bernard CASSAGNE	FRM - France	www.frm-ingenierie.com
Pierre-Emmanuel LECLERCQ	ONFI - France	www.onfinternational.org
André DE BOER	ETTF - Netherlands	www.ettf.info/ettf_news
Jean Louis DOUCET	UNIV. GEMBLoux - Belgium	www.gembloux.ulg.ac.be/biodiversite-et-paysage/contact
Francis ROUGIER	ROUGIER - France	www.rougier.fr
Emmanuel GROUTEL	WALE - France	www.woodexpert.fr/r%C3%A9f%C3%A9rences
Alain KARSENTY	CIRAD - France	www.cirad.fr
Dominik MOHR	CID - France	www.cid-bois.fr/accueil
Sven WALTER	FAO - Italy	www.fao.org
Stefano CORA	CORA DOMENICO & FIGLI - Italy	www.coralegnami.it/en/cora-wood-gabon
Maarten WIJMA	WIJMA - Netherlands	www.wijma.com
Stéphane RIVAIN	OREADE BRECHE - France	www.oreade-breche.fr
Peter LATHAM	LATHAM / PEFC - United Kingdom	www.pefc.org
Harrison OCHIENG KOJWANG	FSC - Mexico	www.fsc.org/en

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

OLMAN SERRANO
MICHEL ROUGERON
ROBERT HUNINK

BENOÎT DEMARQUEZ
FRANÇOISE VAN DE VEN
ULRICH GRAUERT

ATIBT MEMBERS | IN 2019

JOINED US IN 2019 :

KINOMÉ
GLOBAL TIMBER
HERMPAC
DUURZAAMHOUT
TIMBER TRADE FEDERATION
BVRIO
CFT
TERRATIMBER
Nicolas DUBART

BAILLEURS / DONORS

AFD
Christophe DU CASTEL
COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE
EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Elizabeth GUTTENSTEIN
FAO
Sven WALTER
OIBT/ITTO
Gerhard DIETERLE

ÉTATS / STATES

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REPUBLIC OF CONGO
Pierre TATY
RÉPUBLIQUE DE CÔTE D'IVOIRE
REPUBLIC OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE
Claude SORO DOPLÉ
RÉPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
Yves YALIBANDA

PRODUCTEURS / FOURNISSEURS / COMMERCE PRODUCERS / SUPPLIERS / TRADE

ALPICAM S.A.R.L.
Giorgio GIORGETTI
BAILLIE LUMBER
Jesper BACH
BASSO LEGNAMI
Giovanni BASSO
BROOKS BROS
Darren MCCARTHY
CABD
Jean-Jacques BOUTROT
CEMA BOIS DE L'ATLAS
Abdelmajid EL JAI
CHANZY BOIS
Jean-Marie FENART
CIB
Christian SCHWARTZ
CID
Dominik MOHR
CFT
Karim AMMACHA
CORA WOOD GABON
Jean-François CAMI
CORA A DOMENICO & FIGLI SPA
Stefano CORA
DENDERWOOD
Hicham CHINE
DESIGN PARQUET
Joseph et Yves PANAGET
DMBP DISPANO - POINT P
Serge CHEVALIER
DUURZAAM HOUT BV
John DE HAAN
ETS. PIERRE HENRY & FILS
Patrick FAURE
EXOTT
Tim VAN CAUWENBERGHE

FIBRES INDUSTRIES BOIS

Yvan MAINIX
GIESELMANN GMBH & CO KG
Matthias GIESELMANN
GLOBAL TIMBER
Anders BITZER
HARDWOODS
Thomas HERGA
HERMPAC
Mark ERICSCON
HUPKES HOUTHANDEL
Hans VAN HEEEDEN
IFO
Patrick GEOFFROY
IMPEXO International GmbH
Bertrand ECKLE
INTERHOLCO AG
Ulrich GRAUERT
INVOICEGREEN
Abel GUILLEN
JAF GROUP
Katharina SCHABASSER
JAMMES
Francis JAMMES
LATHAMS
Nick LATHAM LONZA
LONZA
Peter FILIUS
LUMBER UNIPESOAAL LDA.
Gabriel COSTA
MINH CUONG
Tan Sy NGUYEN
NHG TIMBER
Guy GOODWIN
OLAM INTERNATIONAL LTD
Darshan RAIYANI
PALLISCO CIFM
Paul LAGOUTE
PASQUET MENUISERIE
Vincent PASQUET
PELTIER BOIS
Pascal FAIRIER
THE PENROD COMPANY
Tim HEIDT
PRECIOUS WOODS
Markus BRUETSCH
RAIL EUROPE
Aurélien LAMBERT
REGALIS
Paolo Lorenzo BRACCIANO
SYLVACO - GROUPE MALVAUX
Guillaume de la PESCHARDIERE
ROUGIER AFRIQUE
INTERNATIONAL
Luc AUGUIN
MOKABI SA (GROUPE ROUGIER)
ROUGIER GABON
SCBT
Michel ROUGERON
SFM
Jean-François YVON
SOMIVAB
Andrea RIGONI
TIMBERSEA
Santos MARCHESSI
TIMTRADE SRL
Eugenio COLAO
TRANCHIVOIRE
Domenico GIOSTRA
TROPICA BOIS
Jean-Claude BILLAUD
VASTO LEGNO S.P.A.
Roberto / Ennio DAJELLI
VANDECASTEELE HOUTIMPORT
Geneviève STANDAERT
WIJMA KAMPEN B.V.
Gijsbert BURGMAN

ENTREPRISES DE SERVICE ET BUREAUX D'ÉTUDES SERVICES PROVIDERS

BOCS
Ilse FLIEGE
BUREAU VERITAS
Yves KOKAM
DWS DUBAI WOOD SHOW
Walid FARGHAL
FOREZIENNE MFLS
Sébastien VALOIS
FORM INTERNATIONAL
Rik SOOLs
FRM INGENIERIE
Bernard CASSAGNE
GFEC
Marius KOMBILA
GSEZ
Nitin MISRA
KINOMÉ
Nicolas MÉTRO
ONF INTERNATIONAL
Pierre Emmanuel LECLERCQ
OREADE BRECHE
Stéphane RIVAIN
NEPCON
Sandra RAZANAMANDRANTO
SNCF RÉSEAU
Patrizia GREGORI
SOLICAZ
Elodie BRUNSTEIN
STIHL
Johannes WETZEL
STRATEMARK
Bertrand FAUCON
TEREA
Benoît DEMARQUEZ
TERMOLENGO

ASSOCIATIONS & SYNDICATS ASSOCIATIONS AND UNIONS

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Grace BLACKHAM
ETTF
André DE BOER
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DO FEDECOMLENGO**
Massimo FIORINI
FEDUSTRIA
Filip DE JAEGER
FIB
Gabriel MOLA MOTYA
GD HOLZ
Thomas GOEBEL
GFBC
Valentin MOUYENGA
LCB
Arnaud HETROIT
NATURE +
Charles BRACKE
SPIB
Boubacar Ben SALAH
TTF
David HOPKINS
UFIGA
Françoise VAN DE VEN

ONG / NGOS

FONDATION PRINCE ALBERT II
Leslie BUS
FSC INTERNATIONAL
Angela ROTT
PEFC COUNCIL
Benjamin GUNNEBERG
UICN
Dr. Anghu ANGU KENNETH

WCS
Emma J STOKES
WRI
Marie VALLÉE
WWF
Jean BAKOUMA

RECHERCHE / RESEARCH

CIRAD
Rémy MARCHAL
ENSTIB
Laurent BLERON
ERAIFT
Michel BAUDOUIN
UNIV LIEGE - GEMBOUX
Jean-Louis DOUCET

MEMBRES INDIVIDUELS INDIVIDUALS MEMBERS

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Jacqueline BERGERON
Cabinet PFIT
Isidoro BIANCHI
Olivier BONNEAU
OBBOIS
Bérénice CASTADOT
TFM-CONSULTING
Antoine DE LA ROCHEFORDIERE
Olivier DEVILLARD
Nicolas DUBART
Richard FAYS
FAYSWOOD
Edoardo GIVONE
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FRANCETIMBER
Emmanuel GROUTEL
WALE
Nicolas JAMET
ABARCO
Julie Bertille LANDRY
Pierre-Yves LE FLECHER
Alain LEMAIGRE
ALCEBOIS
Florinda MARTIN
SOTOMAR
Marin MAKOCKI
TERRATIMBER
Olivier MEGARD
Christian MORASSO
Vincent PELÉ
EKWATO
NICOLAS PERTHUISOT

MEMBRES HONORAIRES HONORARY MEMBERS

EX-PRÉSIDENT INDUSTREE BOIS
Franck CRET
EX-PRÉSIDENT
Willy DELVINGT
EX-PRÉSIDENT CONSULTLAND
Jean-Jacques LANDROT
EX-PRÉSIDENT
Henri MONTCERISIER
EX-PRÉSIDENT
Olman SERRANO
EX-PRÉSIDENT
Hinrich STOLL
EX-PRÉSIDENT
Robert HUNINK

JOINED US EARLY 2020:

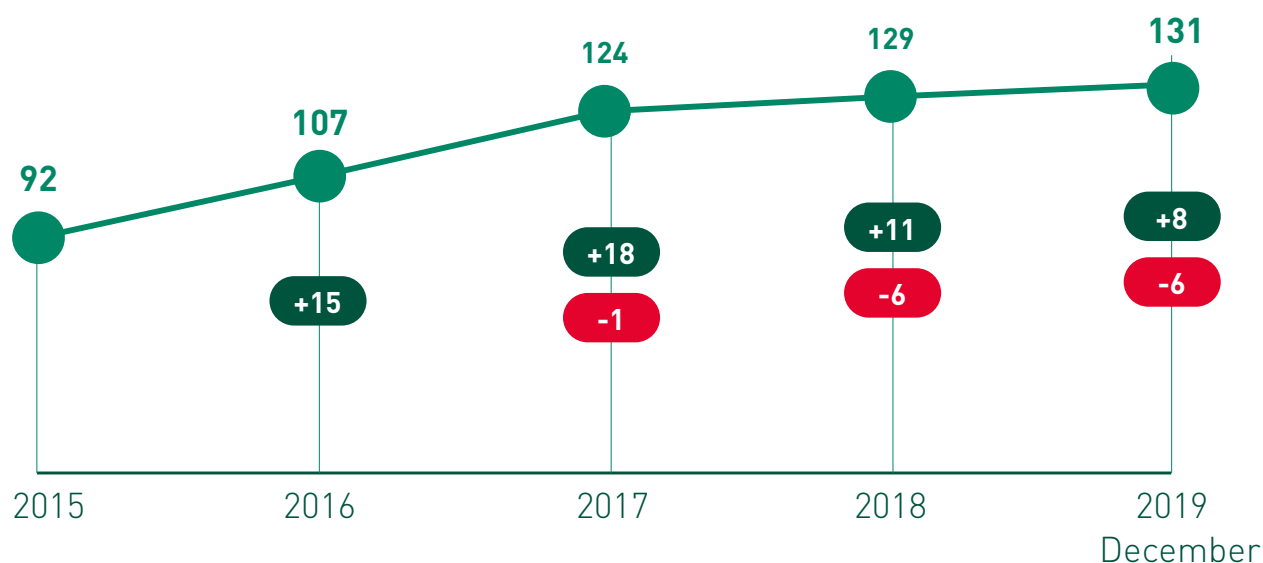
SOLICAZ
GFEC
INVOICEGREEN SL

MEMBERSHIP TREND

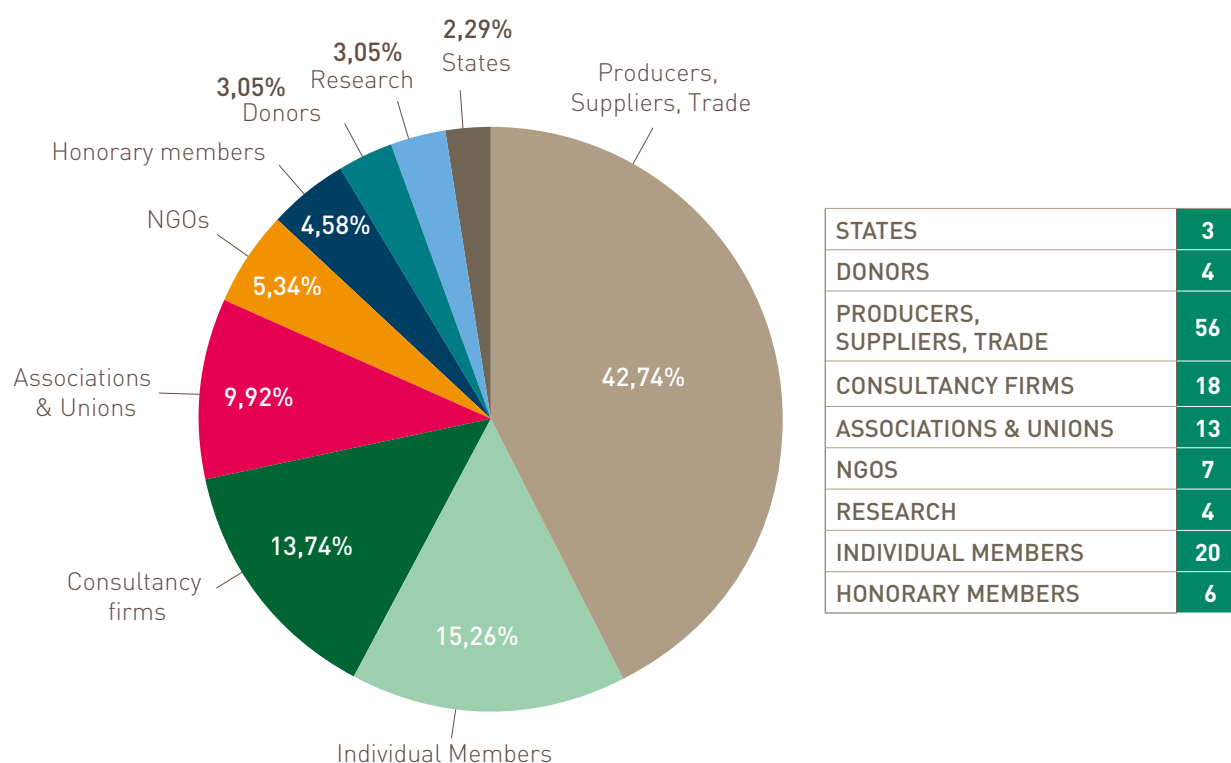
The ATIBT has 131 members from about 30 different countries by the end of 2019. 74 of the members are companies and design offices and 20 are individual members. 6 members left ATIBT in 2019.

Their departure was compensated by the arrival of 8 new members. Among the members, we have 6 honorary members, all former president of ATIBT.

EVOLUTION OF THE MEMBERS' SINCE 2015



MEMBERSHIP TREND



REPRESENTATIVENESS OF ATIBT IN THE TROPICAL TIMBER SECTOR

ATIBT brings together stakeholders from the whole sector, with producers mainly from Central and West Africa and importers and processors from Europe, America and Asia. In addition, there are also service companies, consultancy firms, trade unions, associations and NGOs. Individual members, research centres

and three States (Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Central African Republic) are also members of the association. ATIBT is thus truly representative, and the Association is often called upon to debate the major issues of the sector and the future of sustainable management of tropical forests.

A TEAM AT THE SERVICE OF THE SECTOR

The ATIBT team is made up of permanent staff, who ensure the daily work of the association, and consultants involved on the long term in project implementation, which sometimes have a duration of few years.



The staff of the Association as a whole defends the values of ATIBT, which are responsibility, transparency, integrity, respect and cooperation.

All the team members are well versed in topics related to tropical wood or sustainable management.

Some experts are contracted by ATIBT for specific studies. We present here only the permanent team and the long-term experts. Employees or experts under contract, the whole team has the same values of commitment, friendliness and acts above all in the interest of the members of the Association and partners.



BENOÎT JOBBÉ-DUVAL, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Benoît Jobbé-Duval has 15 years of experience working in research and development in tropical environments, in Cambodia, Guatemala, Mexico and especially in Africa, with eight years spent between Gabon and the Ivory Coast. Before joining ATIBT, Benoit was working during 13 years in the wood industry in Spain.



PATRICK MARTIN : TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Patrick Martin is a wood construction engineer from ENSTIB and a Doctorate in Wood Sciences from ENGREF. Patrick provides technical support to companies (information, training, expertise, publishing of technical books) and participates in the revision of standards relating to tropical timber.



CAMILLE RENARD: PROJECT COORDINATOR

Camille Renard is graduated with an MBA and a Master 2 in International Financial Analysis from Laval University in Quebec. Through her transversal profile and sensitivity to development and environmental issues, she joins ATIBT to put her experience at the service of the association both for the financial management of the entire association and to coordinate various missions of specific actions of communication, of setting up and management of projects.



JACQUELINE LARDIT-VAN DE POL: PROJECT LEADER

Jacqueline Lardit holds an MSc in Sustainable Management of Tropical Natural Resources and has been working in Central Africa since 2000. There she has held positions as project manager for various organizations and as management and certification officer for forestry companies. She joined ATIBT in April 2016 to manage the FLEGT-IP project. Jacqueline is the secretary of ATIBT Forest-Industry Commission and in 2019 she was the FLEGT-REDD project leader within ATIBT.



CAROLINE DUHESME: PROJECT LEADER

Caroline Duhesme has a University Technological Diploma in Agronomy, and is also a graduate of the Ecole Supérieure du Bois de Nantes. Caroline has been Quality Audit Manager (ISO 9001) Bureau Veritas Certification and Forest Management and Chain of Custody Audit Manager (Bureau Veritas Certification - Eurocertifor [March 2004]. Caroline is the secretary of the certification commission of ATIBT.



GERMAIN YENE: PROJECT LEADER

Germain YENE is a Water and Forestry Engineer. He has been working on forest and agro-industrial management issues in Central and West Africa for about twenty years, and has also carried out certification audits. Germain is currently the Coordinator of the PAFC project for the Congo Basin, which will last approximately 26 months until 2021.



ALAIN TIOTSOP: PROJECT LEADER

Alain TIOTSOP is a Forest Engineer, based in Brazzaville, and is currently in charge of the Flegt-Certification project as project referent for Congo. In this respect, he is in charge of the ATIBT office in Congo.



MANISSA TANHCHALEUN: PROJECT LEADER

Manissa TANHCHALEUN is currently in charge of the coordination of the FAO projects of the ATIBT. She holds a Master 2 International Solidarity and Social Action - IRCOM (Angers).



MAYLIS BORELLI: DEPUTY PROJECT LEADER

Maylis Borelli is an Engineer in Agriculture, Forestry and Environment, and holds a degree from the Purpan Engineering School in Toulouse (master 2). Maylis also has a Natura-Dis training in «management of natural areas».



NANCY M'CHANGAMA: ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT

With a degree in accounting and organizational management, Nancy works part-time for ATIBT and part-time for LCB.



2019

IN A FLASH

We present here the great moments of our Association, which took place throughout the year 2019. These actions aim to illustrate the contribution of ATIBT to the protection and conservation of tropical forests through the existence of a legal and sustainable forest economy, through the promotion of certified forest concessions and through the development of this exceptional material that is tropical wood.

As we frequently point out, the main strategic axes of ATIBT are :

- The sustainable management of tropical forests,
- Further processing of wood towards more value added,
- The improvement of conditions of access to world markets, promotion and development of the market for legal and/or certified tropical timber products.

The ATIBT' interest in reforestation issues is also underlined, and this theme is thus added to the themes mentioned above.

THE AGENDA OF ATIBT IN 2019 HAS BEEN MARKED, MONTH AFTER MONTH, BY THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

JANUARY

- ATIBT think tank (2nd edition)
- ATIBT's participation in the SNCF study trip to Japan
- ATIBT meeting - Alliance Against Deforestation
- LCB Tropical Timber Commission in La Rochelle
- LKTS - FSC meeting in Utrecht
- IDH - Probos meeting in Utrecht
- Cité du Développement Durable General Meeting
- Meeting with the CITES in Geneva

FEBRUARY

- Meeting of the ATIBT Certification Commission, in Nogent-sur-Marne
- Meeting of the ATIBT Marketing Commission, in Nogent-sur-Marne
- Meeting in Paris, of the « Groupe National des Forêts Tropicales (GNFT) » on the National Strategy for the Protection of Tropical Forests.
- General Meeting of the Cité du Développement Durable, in Nogent-sur-Marne
- ATIBT and FSC meeting in Bonn

MARCH

- **Following the «Toxic Trade» video**, the «Kevazingogate» triggers many consequences in the forest sector in Gabon, and a strong position of the unions of the forest and wood sector.
- GGSC - ATIBT Mission in the Congo Basin (Cameroon, Gabon, Congo)
- SPOTT Workshop - Libreville, in coordination with UFIGA and ATIBT
- SPOTT Workshop - Douala, in coordination with GFBC and ATIBT
- SPOTT Workshop - Brazzaville, in coordination with ATIBT-Congo
- 7th meeting of the ECCPDP Policy and Orientation Committee
- Presentation of the Open Timber Portal by the WRI, and Timber trade Portal, by ATIBT, in Nogent-sur Marne

MAY

- ATIBT visit to Fedecomlegno (Italian Federation) in Italy
- AFD meeting with the Cité du Développement Durable (Sustainable Development City)
- FAO Day: «Support to the development of guiding legal elements for forest management, and timber production and trade».
- ATIBT preparatory mission for the 2019 Forum in China
- World Agroforestry Congress at CIRAD - Montpellier
- ATIBT visit to ITTO, Japan

JUNE

- Steering Committee meeting and meeting of the ATIBT and Marketing Commission at AFD
- Sixth Meeting of the Governing Council of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP). Malabo, Equatorial Guinea
- Meeting with the Malaysian Timber Council in Nogent
- Workshop on sustainable management and supply chain in the wood industry, with GGSC, UFIAG, DBA, Agro Paris Tech
- Gabon Wood Show in Libreville
- FSC France General Assembly

JULY

- 29th Global Forum on Forest Governance, Chatham House - London, UK
- «First third-party certification of legality in the DRC! CFT has obtained the «Legal Source TM» certificate of legality for its logging activities in the DRC.

SEPTEMBER

- Meeting of the ATIBT Marketing Commission, in Nogent-sur-Marne
- TroPikantes festival at the Cité du Développement durable, with the round table on forests and biodiversity «What needs to change? »

OCTOBER

- ETTF General Assembly, Antwerp
- Board of Directors and General Assembly of ATIBT
- A new President for the ATIBT: Mr Olman Serrano was appointed at the last ATIBT General Assembly as the new President of the ATIBT. He thus replaces Mr Robert Hunink.
- ATIBT Forum in Shanghai, China.
- CTWPDA Hardwood Conference in Huzhou, China.

NOVEMBER

- Paris Peace Forum (with a session on traceability in Cameroon)
- STTC Conference in Berlin
- International Hardwood conference in Berlin
- Global Forest Industry Forum - Sustainable Wood for Sustainable World (SW4SW) in Nanning, China
- PAFC Congo Basin Certification Standards Development Workshop at Hotel Dorian, Libreville.

DECEMBER

- Republic of Congo - Closing workshop of the FAO project «Structured participation of the Congolese private sector in the elaboration of regulatory texts and technical documents of the FLEGT VPA».

2 ATIBT' COMMISSIONS, AT THE HEART OF THE ASSOCIATION

The ATIBT commissions must be increasingly at the heart of the association's decisions, especially at the technical level. It is indeed the role of the Commission to validate projects prior to be proposed to the different donors, after an evaluation of their significance and their link with the interests of the members and the sector. A number of projects are thus directly linked to these commissions, as presented below.

THE MARKETING COMMISSION



This Marketing Commission pursues the dual objective of promoting sustainable forest management in producer countries and developing the market share of FSC and PEFC-PAFC certified wood in consumer countries. Under the supervision of ATIBT, it is composed of certified forest managers, donors and technicians from the timber and marketing sector.

Its action takes the form of the Fair&Precious marketing programme which has benefited from the support of AFD and now KFW-PPECF.

Fair&Precious, through its 10 commitments linked with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, highlights good practices in sustainable forest management and promotes the purchase of certified wood.

Its action takes the form of many collaborations (international agencies, NGOs, trade unions, certifications, brand partners, etc.), the management of its digital media (website and social networks Instagram and LinkedIn), the production of campaigns

and clips, press relations in 6 European countries (France, Germany, United Kingdom, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands), the organisation of international events and the management of a Think Tank dedicated to the model of sustainable forest management.

The ATIBT Marketing Commission also carries out projects essential to the visibility of the actors responsible for the tropical timber sector: Dryades (Life Cycle Assessment), Baï TV (Protection and enhancement of wildlife), Thémis (Due Diligence), PSE (Payment for Ecosystem Services), LKTS (Development of the use of lesser known species).

Chaired by Mr Olman Serrano, the commission met 3 times in 2019, and has an average of 16 to 18 members.

One more year, the commission focused on the sustainable and responsible development of the «African tropical timber» sector, and continued the deployment of the «Fair&Precious» brand.

We can underline that the members of the commission devoted many discussions this year to the problems linked to illegality, which is still too present in our sector. The various possibilities for countering illegal trafficking were studied.

The reports of the marketing commission are all in the 2019 activity report of the marketing program, which is distributed on request to the members of the association.



THE CERTIFICATION COMMISSION

The launch of the ATIBT certification commission was carried out on 13 February 2019, during a first meeting in Nogent-Sur-Marne with Nicolas Perthuisot and Sophie Dirou (co-presidents) and Caroline Duhesme (secretary). A draft roadmap and rules of procedure for this commission was developed.

The main objectives of this commission are to bring together the actors concerned by forest certification issues, to fully contribute to the consultation and decision-making processes of the new certification standards and finally to answer the questions of the ATIBT members.

A call for expression of interest to be a member was also published and some people expressed their interest to participate in this commission.

These are main themes around the activities of the Commission in 2019:

- The PAFC - Congo Basin project, initiated in June 2019, allowing a PEFC regional

approach, in connection with the 3 PAFCs of Cameroon, Gabon and Congo.

- Monitoring the existing standards: for FSC, this is about following the subject of Intact Forest Landscapes (or IFL), following motion 34 voted at the FSC General Assembly in Vancouver in 2017, and also the preparation of the FSC 2020 GA. For PEFC, it was mainly the follow-up of the regional PAFC project (implemented by ATIBT with PPECF funding).
- Monitoring and analysis of legality certification schemes.
- Monitoring and involvement in the National Strategy against Imported Deforestation (NSID).
- Initiating a reflection on the opportunities of Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES).

In 2020, the Certification Commission will launch its activities by defining the members, preparing and validating a roadmap.

THE TRAINING COMMISSION

The objectives of this commission are:

- To create a network facilitating exchanges on the supply and demand of training courses;
- To meet the training needs of the industry in the short and long term related to the sector in general (production, processing, certification, development, sustainable management, markets, technical training such as felling, sharpening ...);
- To study solutions for setting up or strengthening educational systems in Africa that meet the needs of the wood sector (forestry and processing);
- To centralize information concerning training (training organisations, training schedules linked to the sector, knowledge of projects linked to training).

In 2019, following a feasibility study on AFD's support for continuous training in the forest-wood sector, a 5 million euro grant was allocated to RIFFEAC for the «Project on Support for the Development of Continuous Training in the forestry sector in Central Africa» (ADEFAC). This 5-year project will start at the beginning of 2020 and will be deployed in at least 4 Central African countries: Cameroon, Congo, Gabon and DRC. ATIBT is the delegated project owner and is leading its implementation through the establishment of a technical implementation team. The ATIBT training commission will also be animated through this project.

In 2020, the project technical team will implement the following activities:

- Setting up the project management system.
- Mapping all the actors of the project and setting up a thematic working group «continuous training»:
 - managers and employees of timber sector companies - for their training needs ;
 - training institutions - for their current training programmes and their capacity to provide vocational training;
 - administrations, development partners and other organisations for their support programmes to improve the supply of vocational training) in the target countries, which are Cameroon, Congo, Gabon and DRC.
- Collecting and capitalisazing existing training modules and tools.
- Setting up a framework contract for the mobilization of complementary technical assistance for short-term expertise, particularly in the context of technical training and training of trainers.
- Setting up a mechanism for the organisation, implementation and evaluation of continuing training.
- Communicating about the project.

THE TECHNICAL COMMISSION

The ATIBT technical commission held on 14 January 2020 in Nogent-sur-Marne reported on many activities carried out in 2019. It was chaired by Mr. Emmanuel GROUTEL and Patrick MARTIN was the secretary. They recalled that this technical commission was the concern of all professionals in this sector and that the technical aspect of ATIBT was a major focus.

The commission finalized and validated the document entitled «The levels of wood processing», as well as an erratum of the General Nomenclature of Tropical Timber by distinguishing 3 species in the genus *Afzelia*: Doussié, Pachy and Lingué, and 2 species in the genus *Pterocarpus* in order to distinguish Padouk from *Pterocarpus tinctorius* (listed in the CITES appendices).

In view of the results of the analysis of material yields according to the classification rules, the Commission decided not to recommend the use of the SATA rules, and requests that a working group revise the ATIBT classification rules focusing on the FAS and AIC classes.

At the proposal of one of its members, the commission considers that a 5-day training course should be offered to professionals to address the specificities of wood material, its trade and regulatory aspects. The commission would also like a document to be drawn up containing the essential information for managing disputes (claim deadlines, tolerances, assessment of damage and communication).

Finally, the future Dryades project aimed at producing collective Environmental Declarations for products requires co-financing from professional organisations representing the private sector. These data are becoming essential in view of the European regulatory changes.



THE FOREST AND INDUSTRY COMMISSION

The Forest and Industry Commission was relaunched in 2018 after a long period of inactivity. It is chaired by M. Nicolas Bayol and its secretary is Mrs. Jacqueline Lardit van de Pol. Members were identified among representatives of African-based companies, consulting firms and professional associations members of ATIBT. It reinforces the link between the ATIBT team and forestry and timber industrial companies in Central and West Africa through the following objectives:

- Conducting a reflection with the field actors in order to actively contribute to

the international debates on the tropical forestry sector, by responding pragmatically to the demands of the international dialogue on the subject of sustainable forest management and market developments;

- Uniting the various stakeholders in producer countries around major issues relating to the tropical timber and forestry sector, participating in debates, adopting and defending common positions by leading an «Africa» network to conduct studies, share experiences, share investments and deal with technical issues;

- Maintaining a link between producer and consumer countries, communicating on the measures implemented in producer countries and contributing to a better visibility of the sector.

Given the physical distances between the members of the commission, most of the exchanges take place through a mailing group.

In 2019, the commission defended the interests of member forest companies in Africa at the CITES COP18, held in Geneva on the 18th-27th August 2019. On the same subject (determination of rare and/or endangered species, subject to prohibition or restrictive measures of exploitation), it also contributed to the ATIBT' response on the proposed list of species prohibited from importing of Nordic Swan.

During the year 2020, the commission will work on the subject of renewing the management plans for the second rotation, based on a review of the implementation of the first rotation. Indeed, several companies, which were pioneers in the development of sustainable management in the late 1990s, will soon reach the end of their first rotation of operations. All of these companies are third-party certified according to a sustainable management standard, and are constantly seeking to optimise this inclusive management.

Other lines of work are currently being considered by the commission, notably concerning the industrialization of the sector, in order to improve the valorization of the forest resources available and to guarantee the competitiveness of the sector.

THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

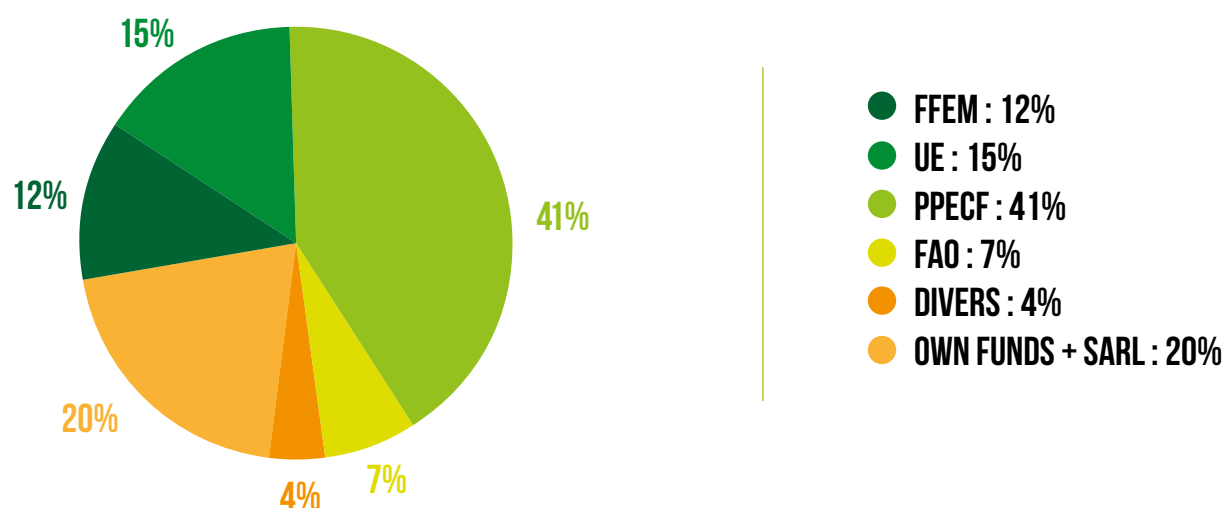
The Scientific Council has a critical and independent opinion on the activities of ATIBT, while benefiting from the framework of the Association. The Council can be consulted by ATIBT or can call upon the Association to give an opinion on a scientific problem in a specific theme considered as a priority for ATIBT. The Scientific Council is composed of scientific organisations that are members of ATIBT and non-member organisations, with a good balance between organisations from the North and the South. The presence of external scientists from various backgrounds enable a neutral and independent diagnosis. The Scientific Council must be able to provide facts and elements to support the work of the Commissions. To this end, it feeds their work with the most relevant scientific publications. It also ensures that the results of research with implications in terms of forest management are made available to the public in

the form of short notes, notably for the ATIBT website. In 2019, several members of this council were involved in setting up and monitoring the dynamics of forest stands in the concessions.

Among the 2019 activities, we can highlight the contribution of different members of the Scientific Council for the writing of a letter to the Nordic Swan, co-signed by COMIFAC, ETTF, UFIGA, GFBC, FIB. Indeed, this consultation launched by Nordic Swan Ecolabel aims at banning a number of tropical wood species based on the CITES, IUCN and Rainforest Alliance lists, which has caused a large number of scientists to react. This, because only the species included in CITES (afrormosia, bubinga) are under a regulated export and the IUCN Red List needs to be updated. Thus, various arguments on the ecological level were presented to the Nordic Swan.

3 KEY FIGURES

ORIGIN OF ATIBT' RESSOURCES



ATIBT' FINANCIAL SITUATION

ASSO + SARL

Sources in K€	2 019	2018	Variation	Variation %
Membership fees and privates partnerships	219	229	-10	-5 %
Grants	1 038	916	122	13 %
Miscellaneous and Exceptional	44	45	-1	-1 %
TOTAL	1 301	1 189	111	9 %

Uses	2 019	2018	Variation K€	Variation %
Project implementation and consultancy	571	466	105	22 %
Missions for projects implementation	195	120	75	62 %
Wage costs	397	468	-71	-15 %
Operational charges/Miscellaneous	133	142	-9	-7 %
TOTAL	1 296	1 196	100	8 %
Result	6	-6	12	

SOME FIGURES ABOUT THE SECTOR IN THE CONGO BASIN

Tableau de synthèse ATIBT concernant les principales données de la filière forêt-bois du bassin du Congo
Actualisation juin 2020 avec la contribution de l'OFAC et de la COMIFAC

Éléments de comparaison	Cameroun	Gabon	Congo	RDC	RCA
Forêt et exploitation					
Surface de forêt dense humide accessible (% du pays) ¹	18,6 millions ha	22,3 millions ha	17,1 millions ha	102 millions ha	6,9 millions ha
Surface attribuée à l'exploitation industrielle ¹	6,4 millions ha	14,7 millions ha (OFAC 2018)	14,2 millions ha (OFAC 2017)	12,2 millions ha (OFAC 2018)	3,7 millions ha (OFAC 2018)
Surfaces certifiées totales dont	2,7 millions ha	2,4 millions ha	3,4 millions ha ²	0,7 million ha	0 ha
FSC PAFC/PEFC	0,3 million ha	2 millions ha	2,9 millions ha	0 ha	0 ha
Légalité+ (certif légalité +FSC CW)	2,7 millions ha	0,4 million ha	1,5 millions ha	0,7 million ha	0 ha
Nombre de grandes entreprises	Une soixantaine	Une quarantaine	Une trentaine	Environ une dizaine	Environ une dizaine
Nombre de petites entreprises et d'artisans ³	ND	ND	15 PME	En 2014 ⁴ : 105 permis artisanaux attribués dans la province orientale 70 dans la province Équateur, 47 dans le Bandundu En 2018 Plus de 1400 exploitants membres de l'ACEFA ⁵	
Production formelle de grume (m ³) ⁶	3 Millions	1,5 Million	1,8 Million	0,2 Million	0,5 Million
Production informelle estimée (en équivalent grumes) ⁷	2,4 Millions	0,2 Million	0,3 Million	3,4 Millions	0,1 Million
Part des 4 premiers producteurs sur la production ⁸	7%	40%	56%	91%	70%
Principales essences exploitées par l'industrie	Ayous, Sapelli, Tali, Azobé Okan, Fraké, Iroko, Padouk, Kosipo, Dabéma	Okoumé (Env. 80%), Okan, Azobé, Béli, Padouk,	Sapelli, Okoumé, Ayous, Tali, Sipo, Okan, Mukulungu	Sapelli, Afrormosia, Tali, Sipo, Wenge	Sapelli, Ayous, Mukulungu, Tali, Iroko
Part des 3 premières essences sur la production	50% (2016)	84% (2014)	66% (2016)	44% (2017)	64% (OFAC 2018)
Essences exploitées artisanalement	Ayous, Movingui, Iroko, Sapelli, Bilinga, Moabi	Okoumé, Bilinga, Izombé	Okoumé, Limba (Sud) Sapelli, Sipo (Nord)	Afrormosia, Wenge, Sapelli,	
Exportations de grumes en m³ ⁹	827 737	0	798 905	139 842	332 920
Exportations de grumes ¹⁰ vers la Chine en m³	583 600	0	462 200	ND	ND
Contribution du secteur au PIB ¹¹	4,7% (2018)	3,3% (2018)	4,9% (2015)	0,15% (2016)	2,8% (2018)

¹ Données OFAC 2018

² Le total est supérieur à la somme des FSC/PAFC + Légalité en raison de doubles certifications

³ Entreprises exploitant semi industriellement et/ou vendant leurs produits d'abord sur le marché local

⁴ ITIE, 2015 - Rapport sur l'étude de cadrage du Secteur Forestier en RDC

⁵ Source : ACEFA

⁶ Rapport BAD/FRMi Vision stratégique et industrialisation de la filière bois en Afrique Centrale, 2018 ; Sauf Congo : MEF 2018

⁷ Divers rapports du CIFOR

⁸ Rapport BAD/FRMi Vision stratégique et industrialisation de la filière bois en Afrique Centrale, 2018, sauf Cameroun et RCA : OFAC 2018

⁹ OFAC 2018

¹⁰ Données CTWPDA 2018. Noter que l'export de grumes de la Guinée Équatoriale vers la Chine a été de 1 114 700 m³ en 2018

¹¹ Données OFAC

Tableau de synthèse ATIBT concernant les principales données de la filière forêt-bois du bassin du Congo
Actualisation juin 2020 avec la contribution de l'OFAC et de la COMIFAC

Éléments de comparaison	Cameroun	Gabon	Congo	RDC	RCA
Transformation du bois					
Nombre d'usines de transformation industrielle (1^{ère} à 3^e transformation) ¹²	150	166	29	5	5
Exportations (m³) ¹³					
- de sciages	832 845	481 619	104 202	52 124	15 558
- de contreplaqués	9 890	30 405	25 868	0	0
- de placages	75 140	351 810	28 206	312	0
Exportations bois transformé en Chine ¹⁴ en m³	134 300	524 700	38 600	ND	ND
Transformation artisanale (sciages) ¹⁵	715 000 m ³ (2010)	50 000 m ³ (2010)	Env. 100 000 m ³ (2011)	Env. 1 million m ³ (2014)	ND
Autre information	Existence d'un marché Intérieur du bois en croissance	ZES de Nkok 40 entreprises 900 000 m ³ transformés/an	Réflexion en cours de création d'une ZES et mise en place prévue d'un mécanisme de partage de production	Des ressources encore très largement sous-valorisées	
Marchés publics	Réflexion en cours (projet ESSOR)	ND	Réflexion en cours	ND	
Données socio-économiques					
Nombre d'emplois dans le secteur forestier industriel	13 000 ¹⁶	3 000 entreprises forestières 10 000 industries du bois ¹⁷ dont ZES Nkok 3000 emplois Au total 22% des emplois hors pétrole	7 500	4 523 ¹⁸	ND
Nombre d'emplois dans le sciage artisanal	40 000	ND	2 000	9 000 à 15 000 ¹⁹ mais sans doute beaucoup plus (50 000 emplois selon Lescuyer en 2014)	ND
Emplois indirects	150 000	Entre 2 000 et 5 000 ¹⁶	5 000 ¹⁶	ND	ND
Syndicats et partenaires potentiels ²⁰	GFBC (12 entreprises), FECAPROBOIS (200 entr. et plus de 1 000 employés), ANCOVA (450 membres à Yaoundé) Intersyndicale rencontrant des difficultés de mise en œuvre	UFIGA (15 entreprises), SIAG (6 entr.), UFIAG (11 entr.), FGBSP (150 entr.). L'UFIGA assure le secrétariat permanent de l'Intersyndicale.	UNICONGO (4 entreprises), UNIBOIS (environ 15 PME)	FIB (5 entreprises). ACEFA (1400 membres) Beaucoup de PME et TPE ne sont pas inscrites dans des syndicats. Rôle et potentiel énorme pour la FIB.	
Engagement dans le FLEGT	APV signé en 2010 Mise en œuvre au ralenti Évaluation de la mise en œuvre de l'APV en cours	APV non signé Négociation en cours depuis septembre	APV signé en 2010 En cours de mise en œuvre Quelques avancées en termes de transparence, d'implication de la société civile, de traçabilité et d'amélioration du cadre réglementaire	APV non signé Négociation au ralenti depuis septembre 2011	APV signé le 28 novembre 2011

¹² Données OFAC 2018, pour certains pays, seulement pour les entreprises de 1^{ère} transformation

¹³ Données OFAC 2018

¹⁴ Données CTWPDA 2018

¹⁵ Divers rapports CIFOR

¹⁶ État des forêts, 2013

¹⁷ FRM, 2017 – Impact de la mesure d'interdiction d'exportation des grumes sur la forêt, l'industrie du bois et l'économie du Gabon

¹⁸ Source : FIB

¹⁹ Nguinguiri et al., 2006

²⁰ GFBC, UFIGA, UNICONGO et FIB sont les 4 grands syndicats d'entreprises industrielles exportatrices de bois de la région. Toutes les surfaces certifiées FSC dans le bassin du Congo sont le fait de membres de ces syndicats

4

MAIN ACTIVITIES IN 2019

ADVOCACY WORK CONDUCTED BY OUR ASSOCIATION

The projects have very often enable to mobilize expertise and consultation processes with forestry and industrial companies for joint advocacy by the private sector on, among others, the following topics:

- Cameroon: revision of legality grids ;
- Congo: draft of the new Forest Code and the computerised legality verification system (SIVL); Advocacy for the recognition of certification in the FLEGT VPA process ;
- Côte d'Ivoire: the decrees implementing the new Forest Code ;
- Gabon: pilot tests for a national traceability system ;
- DRC: national and provincial decrees on the subjects of (para)taxation and log transport.

TRAINING ACTIVITIES

PREPARATION OF THE ADEFAC PROJECT

After signing of a convention in 2018 between ATIBT and the Network of Forest and Environmental Training Institutions of Central Africa (RIFFEAC), discussions on the future ADEFAC project continue. Throughout 2019, AFD conducted a feasibility study on this project which concerns the strengthening of the training-employment match in the forest-environment sector in Central Africa. A project launch should take place in early 2020 between RIFFEAC (project owner) and ATIBT (delegated project owner).

The project aims to improve the ability of actors to be employed and their qualifications in the forestry sector in order to contribute to the sustainable management of the forests of the Congo Basin. It is divided into three components:

- Improving and sustaining the continuous training system of the forest-wood sector in Central Africa by (i) structuring and updating the training needs of professional circles, (ii) strengthening a certified offer and (iii) seeking a sustainable and institutionalized regional system, in line with national systems.
- Deploying continuous training actions, according to a detailed system of organization, implementation and evaluation.
- Supporting a complementary technical assistance mechanism to ensure a transition to the project scale.

The project, which will be implemented over 5 years with a budget of 5 million euros AFD, aims to train 200 trainers and 640 trainees, with a knock-on effect on more than 2 500 professionals in the sector.

CAMEROONIAN CUSTOMS TRAINING

At the request of forest companies, PPECF financed an intervention consisting of the training of 15 Cameroonian Customs agents by ATIBT.

The training was held at the former Customs Directorate of Douala from 7 to 10 October 2019.

The programme of this training included:

- an introduction to anatomy to control the species declared from 30 wood samples most frequently found on the market,
- exchanges on the definitions of processing levels and methods for measuring planks, squared timber, studs and logs.

This intervention ended with the drafting of a practical guide for field staff, containing the main information essential for control officers. The Cameroonian Customs Administration appreciated this intervention and affirmed its willingness to strengthen knowledge of this profession and potentially to set up a laboratory able to generate the necessary reports.



Training Cameroonian customs to species identification.



The second ATIBT think tank was held from 8 to 10 January 2019, in Nogent sur Marne, and brought together around 70 people. A first edition took place in May 2018. The objective of the two meetings was to discuss with the main actors of the sector to stabilize and then increase forest certification in Central Africa.

Indeed, forest certification has greatly contributed to the improvement of the practices of tropical forest operators, but there has been a slowdown or even a decline due, among other things, to the change of hands of several concessions in the Congo Basin. This transfer can be explained by several internal and external causes, notably an under-valuation of certified timber.

Therefore, ATIBT, its members, partners and donors are thinking about the concession model, in a strategic prospective for the maintenance of forest cover, relying on the private sector and seeking to improve the valorization of the services provided by forestry companies. Increasing the value of the multiple services provided by certified forest companies could be part of the solution, whether it be the carbon market, eco-tourism, or ecosystem services or

those related to education. But if these markets remain to be explored, do they exist, are they profitable?

The themes tackled by the Think Tank concerned the image of tropical timber, its new markets, coaching for forest certification, species to be promoted, new marketing rules, new tax regulations, dematerialization of documents and the role and responsibilities of forest concessionaires in an Africa that will double in population. Dialogue with Asian actors, whether based in Africa or importers in Asia, was also at the centre of the debates, with the participation of representatives of Chinese professional associations. This dialogue notably made it possible to lay the foundations for the joint organisation of the ATIBT Forum in Shanghai in October 2019.

During the Think Tank, thematic working groups were created with the most recognised stakeholders in the profession so that they could speak with one voice and implement an action plan to reverse the current trend towards sustainable management in the Congo Basin.

This meeting was facilitated by Claude Garcia, a CIRAD-ETH researcher.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

In addition to the missions carried out within the framework of the projects, the project steering committees, or the meetings of the ATIBT commissions, which we report on in the corresponding chapters, participation in the major events of the sector, at the international level, is one of the priorities of ATIBT to always contribute to a better communication and advocacy on the importance of the sector to achieve a sustainable management of tropical forests. These events have led the ATIBT team in Europe, Africa (Gabon, Cameroon, Congo), Japan and China. We summarize here the main meetings.

MEETING WITH THE CITES IN GENEVA ON 28 JANUARY.

ATIBT (Benoit Jobbé-Duval, Director, and Nicolas Bayol, President of the ATIBT Forest - Industry Commission) met the Cites team in charge of plants, as well as Mr. Tom De Meulenaer, Head of Scientific Services of Cites. The ATIBT team was introduced to Mrs. Ivonne Higuero, Secretary General of Cites.

In general, ATIBT' objective was to make itself better known by CITES and to inform it about its work and possible future contributions of the association.

The Cites team thanked ATIBT for its presence and expressed its satisfaction for this meeting.

It was highlighted that ATIBT and its members have a great knowledge of the populations of tree species in the Congo Basin through the forest inventories carried out, but also through the Dynaffor project, and that this knowledge should be shared as much as possible with Cites. It is therefore necessary to get involved and to be in the existing working groups, and in particular the Plants Committee.

This visit also aimed to better understand CITES rules and procedures.

MEETING OF THE « GROUPE NATIONAL DES FORÊTS TROPICALES » (GNFT) IN PARIS, ON THE SNDI, ON 14 FEBRUARY.



The National Group on Tropical Forests (GNFT), an informal consultative body whose objective is to discuss French doctrine and guidelines on tropical forests, met on February 14 to present the implementation of the French National Strategy to Combat Imported Deforestation (SNDI). Adopted in November 2018, this strategy aims to implement actions by 2018 to put an end by 2030 to the importation of unsustainable forest or agricultural products contributing to deforestation.

Through 5 orientations, it is broken down into 17 objectives and associated measures. During this meeting, the flagship measures identified to start the implementation of the SNDI were presented by the pilot ministries (MTES, MEAE):

- Developing a roadmap by the end of 2019 for each exporting country or region: these roadmaps, based on a partnership approach and constructive dialogue with producer countries and stakeholders, will include an institutional and an operational component. In parallel with the dialogue with producer countries, a dialogue will be initiated with other consumer countries such as China and India, in order to work collectively to improve the sustainability of supply chains for risky raw materials and to generate commitments.
- Establishing the Platform to Combat Imported Deforestation, which will be multi-sectoral, and will aim at public/private linkages and information sharing. This platform will offer 3 main types of functionalities: mobilization of stakeholders, information system, import monitoring and risk alert system, and development of a «zero deforestation» label. This last point is in its early stages, and should be the subject of a participatory reflection (invitations planned for next spring) and a first online version in the fall.
- Publishing the «zero deforestation» public procurement policy: the educational guide «Public procurement and zero deforestation» for public buyers was presented. It will help raise awareness among public buyers about purchases at risk from imported deforestation and will suggest ways to avoid or limit them, with a goal of zero imported deforestation in 2022.

SPOTT WORKSHOPS IN THE CONGO BASIN, IN COORDINATION WITH ATIBT, UFIGA AND GFBC, FROM FEBRUARY 27 TO MARCH 7

The Zoological Society of London and ATIBT with the associations UFIGA and GFBC organised a series of forums on the theme of transparency in the forest sector.

The forums - held on 26 February in Libreville, 4 March in Douala and 7 March in Brazzaville - brought together representatives from industry, civil society and government administrations.

Members of UFIGA in Gabon, GFBC in Cameroon, Unibois and Unicongo in Congo Brazzaville and other forum participants discussed the benefits and challenges associated with greater transparency. At each forum, the companies were able to

take advantage of morning sessions exclusively dedicated to the industry to exchange views on the current state and future of transparency in their sector and discuss the role of the SPOTT initiative.

Plenary sessions in the afternoon, with representatives from industry, civil society and administrations, followed discussions on the opportunities related to transparency in the forest sector as well as the factors hindering more transparency and how to overcome them. The contributions of certification and the evolution of legal frameworks to greater transparency and sustainable forest management were also at the heart of the discussions.

The notion of collaboration was put forward by the ZSL team, calling for a dialogue and capacity building approach to promote greater transparency. At the forums, ZSL presented to participants the objectives of SPOTT, its initiative

to increase transparency in tropical forestry. SPOTT publishes independent assessments of companies on their commitments and policies towards environmental, social and governance issues.



7TH MEETING OF THE PPEFC DECISION-MAKING AND STEERING COMMITTEE TUESDAY 19 - WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH

The actions of the PPECF are structured around 3 axes: (1) establishing the conceptual and institutional conditions conducive to certification, (2) improving the quality of operations, and (3) strengthening communication on sustainable operations.

For all these 3 groups, the main ideas around which the debate took place were the following:

- The continuation of the support of the Regional PAFC and the Regional FSC. The involvement of the institutions and COMIFAC in the actions to be implemented is particularly important. It was recalled that the search for a coordinator for the recently launched Regional PAFC project was a priority.
- Support for communal and community forests to improve utilization practices and their profitability. The idea of a «brokering platform», which was previously raised during the last ATIBT think tank, was developed. A feasibility study is likely to be financed, and the objectives will be to further explore the possibility of group certification and to promote the valorization of non-timber forest resources.
- The continuation of the reflection with a view to compensated taxation. A feasibility study conducted by CIRAD will aim to propose tax reduction mechanisms for certified companies.
- Good governance at the landscape scale by capitalizing on similar approaches, notably the approach of «Model Forests».
- The promotion of traceability tools in conjunction with other organizations such as UFIGA in Gabon, and attempting to build bridges with existing systems.
- Strengthening training in the forest-environment sector by involving training institutions such as RIFFEAC.
- Continuing to provide coaching to forest enterprises, by developing arguments on the advantages of forest certification, facilitating experience sharing as much as possible, and setting up a system for anticipating and responding to possible questions from certain NGOs (documentation, crisis communication and complaints mechanism).
- Promoting the valorisation of by-products (charcoal, etc.), NTFPs ;
- Continued use of new technologies in certified logging and anti-poaching (drones, optimization of SMART software) and involvement of local residents in data collection.
- Continuing support for the development of Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) methods among concessionaires.
- Continuing to implement the Fair&Precious brand marketing program, with the emphasis on obtaining indicators that can demonstrate the impact of the actions implemented as part of the marketing program, working with platforms (STTC) and national importers' federations (Le Commerce du Bois in France) with which synergies are to be exploited, and strengthening the correlation between the F&P brand and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- The support of a COMIFAC label was also mentioned. COMIFAC will have internal discussions to better define the issues.

- Finally, it was wished to strengthen communication to the general public in the sub-region on forest certification and sustainable management at the regional, national and local levels.
- Various presentations were made on other themes, such as the environmental impact of tropical woods and the study of the life cycle of tropical wood products. This topic presented by ATIBT could be the subject of a new project.

PRESENTATION OF THE OPEN TIMBER PORTAL (OTP) AND THE TIMBER TRADE PORTAL (TTP), BY ATIBT, IN NOGENT-SUR-MARNE, ON THURSDAY 28 MARCH

On March 28th in Nogent sur Marne, ATIBT and WRI presented their Open Timber Portal & Timber Trade Portal platforms in the framework of a workshop on due diligence organized by LCB.

Bringing together around 40 participants, mainly composed of European private operators, but also representatives of competent authorities and other bodies involved in the EUBN, this workshop aimed to present two complementary information initiatives on legal timber trade, the platforms www.opentimberportal.org (OTP, a WRI initiative) and www.timbertradeportal.com (TTP initiative of ETTF-ATIBT).

These presentations were associated with a workshop organised by Le Commerce du Bois on due diligence (for its members).

Le site Timber Trade Portal (TTP)
www.timbertradeportal.com

The TTP (implemented through ATIBT' FLEGT-REDD project, funded by the FFEM) allows operators to exercise due diligence in the framework of the UBR by providing information that feeds into their own risk analysis, on a case-by-case basis, by making available factual information such as forest sector data, legislative framework, laws and regulations, key documents and prohibitions and quotas, CITES processes, VPAs, certification, contacts, etc.

It encourages the individual responsibility of (EU) operators by improving access to information and creating conditions for a fair competition.

The platform presents 23 country profiles, mainly located in tropical areas such as Africa, Asia and Latin America, which are regularly reviewed and updated.

WORLD AGROFORESTRY CONGRESS AT CIRAD MONTPELLIER, FROM 20 TO 25 MAY

ATIBT and Kinomé presented an agroforestry model of cocoa-wood association at the 4th World Agroforestry Congress held in Montpellier from 20 to 22 May 2019. Contacts and information were made to identify opportunities to test this model and its relevance for the timber sector.

The 4th World Agroforestry Congress was held this week in Montpellier. With more than 1000 participants, this event brought together renowned congress participants and speakers from all over the world to address all major research issues in agroforestry. In particular, the congress was organized around :

- High-level plenary sessions with scientists, decision-makers and other leading personalities
- Focused parallel sessions covering all major agroforestry research topics
- Participatory poster sessions
- Interactive sessions with citizens, the private sector and decision-makers
- Dialogue between stakeholders in the forums and round tables

SIXTH MEETING OF THE CONGO BASIN FOREST PARTNERSHIP GOVERNING COUNCIL IN MALABO, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, JUNE 12-13



On the occasion of the sixth meeting of the PFBC Council held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 13 June 2019, the various groups met successively, notably that of the Private Sector group, where ATIBT is located, that of the Regional group in which COMIFAC as well as other organizations of the sub-region are located, and finally on 14 June the meeting of the CBFP Council took place.

Prior to these two meetings, on 12 June 2019, a High Level Policy Dialogue between the financial partners (meeting within the group of Donors) took place to which the Director General of ATIBT was invited.

This political dialogue focused on the financing of economic and social development projects for the benefit of forest and protected area populations.

ATIBT underlined in its speech made in the context of the opening of the Council, the role of law-abiding forestry companies, and particularly the role of certified companies, in combating deforestation, and pointed out the difficulties in aligning under the same objectives NGOs, the private sector, governments, and countries consuming tropical foodstuffs, which sometimes have other priorities than biodiversity conservation, and the fight against climate change.

COCOA AGROFORESTRY SYSTEMS IN CONGO BASIN AND COTE D'IVOIRE

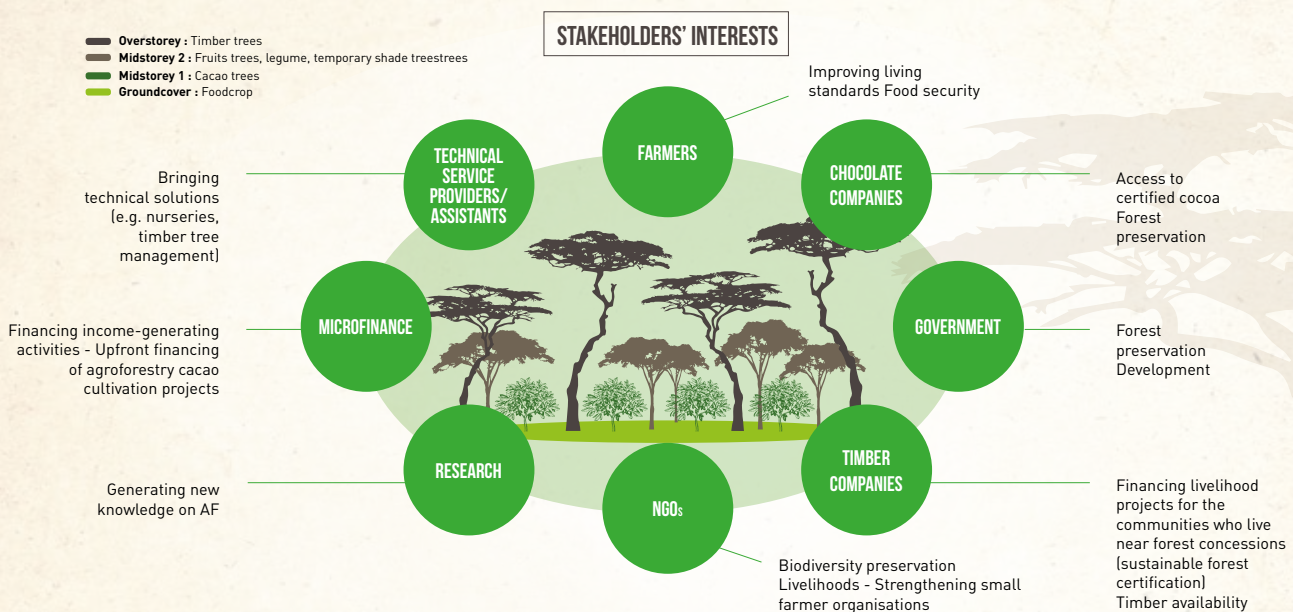


THE ROLE OF TIMBER TREES



FROM A DIVERSITY OF INITIAL LANDSCAPES:

ONE GLOBAL APPROACH TO ACHIEVE A CACAO-TIMBER TREE ASSOCIATION MODEL



KEY LEARNINGS

- The agroforestry model depends on production goals
- A strong synergy between farmers, NGOs and donors is essential to successful initiatives
- Funding is key to start off the initial stages of a project as the inability to pay for initial costs may prevent excellent investments from being made
A virtuous cycle is then triggered: aid > certification > livelihood improvement > savings > reinvestment > scaling up

PROSPECTS

- Large-scale dissemination of knowledge of agroforestry systems to other Fair Trade certified cooperatives
- Enhancing the value of timber trees grown in agroforestry systems with the new 'Trees outside forest' PEFC standard
- Development of financial mechanisms
- The legal framework needs to be adapted



This poster is financed by FFEM, through the FLEGT-REDD+ project implemented by ATIBT.

Article references:
Cocoa agroforestry systems in the Congo Basin and Côte d'Ivoire: The role of timber tree species The role of timber trees
Fare Y., Duhesme C., Rivain S., Perthuisot N., Stoll J., Guillard B., Jobbé-Duval B.

The article is based on the following projects:
Project FLEGT-REDD+ (2013-2020 / FFEM): The integration of Central and Western Africa's tropical timber industry into the FLEGT and REDD+ mechanisms
Équité program (2016-2019 / FFEM-AFD): Strengthening family agriculture and supporting Fair Trade development in Western Africa.
Kinomé 1 ATIBT | Oréade-Brèche | Commerce Equitable France | AVSF



The information on this poster is based on an article written by the Agroforestry cluster of the Cité du Développement Durable.

2ND EDITION OF THE GABON WOOD SHOW IN LIBREVILLE, JUNE 24-26

The second edition of the Gabon Woodshow took place from 24 to 26 June 2019 in Libreville. UFIGA entertained in its stand Mr Nkoghe Bekalé, Prime Minister, and Professor White, Minister of Forestry, Sea and Environment of Gabon, in charge of the climate plan. UFIGA represented ATIBT at this event.

The participants exchanged on the unbearable situation of wood products blocked for export from the port of Owendo, a strong concern of UFIGA member companies.

This show enabled ATIBT and UFIGA to present the progress of the FLEGT, REDD+ and certification projects to the coordinator of the Programme for the Promotion of Certified Exploitation of Forests (PPECF). The project is progressing well in Gabon! 5 logging companies have already signed a contract with the PPECF to benefit from coaching activities in the certification process, and 5 other companies have also expressed interest in applying.

29TH GLOBAL FORUM ON FOREST GOVERNANCE, CHATHAM HOUSE - LONDON, UK, 1-2 JULY

The 29th Global Forum on Forest Governance took place on 1 and 2 July, in collaboration with the Global Timber Forum (GTF) to develop a session on the private sector. The annual two-day event, previously known as the «Illegal Logging Update and Stakeholder Consultation Meeting», includes sessions on progress on transparency and accountability in the forest sector, next steps in the implementation of the EU-Honduras VPA, how licensing initiatives address forest legality and deforestation, and efforts to promote gender equality in forest policy processes. The private sector was given the opportunity to speak at a round table bringing together NGOs, institutions such as Interpol, selected government officials and representatives of the private sector.

It was stressed that forest governance is vital for sustainable forest management and for enabling legal timber trade. The event provided an opportunity for stakeholders from across the forest sector, including governments, industry and civil society, to discuss the latest developments in improving forest governance around the world.

Panels during the two days of discussions were (1) Coordinating deforestation and legality initiatives, (2) Ghana's progress towards a legal and sustainable forest sector, (3) Honduras - next steps for VPA implementation, (4) Transparency in the forest sector, (5) Progress in the forest sector, (6) Supporting legal compliance: successful approaches to support the private sector, and (7) Gender equity in forestry and land use policy making. The session on the private sector was more of a «private sector approach» than a detailed description of the organizations' activities.

ATIBT intervened to present the efforts of certified forest companies in the Congo Basin and the challenges they face, including :

- Exchanges on FLEGT and certification in terms of lessons learned and challenges/opportunities for the private sector;
- The importance of certification to the Congo Basin and opportunities to support its development;
- The declining profitability of natural forest exploitation and the importance

of finding new sources of financing by promoting environmental services;

- The rise of Asian operators in the forest industry and the importance of dialogue

with Chinese associations and companies;

- The unfair competition of the informal sector against the legal sector.

ATIBT FORUM IN SHANGHAI, CHINA, OCTOBER 21-25

A specific section is reserved for this event in this 2019 report, and a detailed report of the event has been circulated by ATIBT.

In summary, the International Forum: «Green Global Supply Chains Together», held in Shanghai last October, brought together 350 major players in the tropical forest products sector. Co-organized by

CTWPDA, CNFT NFGA, ITTO and ATIBT, it led to the creation of the Green Global Supply Chain Network to encourage the responsible production and consumption of forest products. ITTO has just published its own report on the Forum. It is available online on the ITTO website. To download the French version, please go to the ITTO website.





STTC CONFERENCE IN BERLIN ON NOVEMBER 20

ATIBT participated in the STTC 2019 Conference (European Coalition for Tropical Timber from Sustainably Managed Forests) in Berlin on the 20th of November. It gathered an audience of more than 110 people from all over Europe and beyond, including timber suppliers, importers, trade federations, government agencies and NGOs. It was co-hosted by the German Timber Trade Association «GD Holz», the founder of the STTC «IDH» initiative for sustainable trade and the City of Berlin, a member of the STTC.

While there is a consensus that third party certification is the best way to ensure sustainable forest management, the consensus of the STTC conference was that there is also room for coordination, collaboration and exchange with other programmes and initiatives for verification of legality and sustainable forest management. In the end, it was agreed that these two approaches converged in the same direction - the maintenance of the forest and its ecological, social and economic benefits and sustainable international trade in timber.

The event included a series of presentations, providing the audience present with an update on the European market for sustainably managed tropical timber, the promotion of tropical timber and various approaches to verifying legality and sustainable management and the lessons they could learn from each other.

They served as a backdrop for lively and stimulating roundtable discussions among the participants. There was also an ongoing program of conversation sessions. Speakers presented specific topics, from the impact of certification on landscapes in Indonesia and Peru, to timber tracking tools, the impact of FLEGT in producing countries and market trends from the perspective of the concessionaire and trader. Conference participants then had the opportunity to delve deeper into the topic, ask questions and share their experience and expertise.

INTERNATIONAL HARDWOOD CONFERENCE (IHC) IN BERLIN ON NOVEMBER 21-22



The 2019 edition of the International Hardwood Conference (IHC) was held in Berlin on 21 and 22 November. The International Hardwood Conference is one of the most important professional congresses for the hardwood industry and attracts a large number of visitors from all over the world every two years.

As usual, the event was jointly organised by the European Sawmill Industry Organisation (ESO) and the European Timber Trade Federation (ETTF). This year's conference was held in Berlin in cooperation with the German Association of Sawmills and the Wood Industry (DeSH). The symposium held in the capital city attracted 125 participants from 20 countries, continuing the success of recent years. «The large number of participants clearly showed that Berlin is an outstanding stage for the IHC 2019. We were able to demonstrate how wood as a building material opens up new markets in growing cities and discussed the possibilities and potential of hardwoods with experienced experts,» said Maria Kiefer-Polz, Vice President of ESO.

Analyses and assessments of current market developments by experts from around the world were provided during the meeting. After a relatively posi-

tive period in 2018, European hardwood markets this year have felt the pinch of global trade tensions and the general economic slowdown, with a slight slowdown in Chinese demand for European hardwoods. This year, demand in ESO producing countries is expected to decline slightly by 1.3%, while production is expected to slow slightly by 0.7%.

In addition to an excellent overview of the market, participants can use the derived trends and specificities of the different regions as a basis for their long-term planning and strategic direction. Climate change and its consequences for the forest and wood industry was another key topic. In the context of this discussion, the future availability of tree species with regard to the adaptation of forests to climate change was examined. Market flows of tropical timber were also discussed. In the current political scenario, where environmental concerns are high on the agenda, wood products have enormous potential to help the EU achieve its environmental goals.

Josef Braml from the German Council on Foreign Relations analysed the impact of the current trade conflict between the USA and China. In addition, this year's programme focused specifically on the opportunities offered by environmental product declarations and life cycle considerations.

«Once again this year, the topics were as diverse as the participants from all around the world. In addition to the exchange of expertise and networking opportunities, we can look back on the content of a successful event,» summed up Andreas von Möller, former ETTF President and conference moderator, at the end of the event.

PAFC CONGO BASIN CERTIFICATION STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP AT THE DORIAN HOTEL, LIBREVILLE, NOVEMBER 25-29

The Forum members and the experts assisting them had lively and constructive discussions to arrive at the first version of the PAFC CB standards at the end of the Libreville workshop from 25 to 29 November.

Organised within the framework of the project «Implementation of a regional approach for the development of PAFC certification systems», carried out by ATIBT, with the financial support of PPECF, PEFC International and the technical support of TERE, the first workshop of the PAFC CB Certification Standards Development Forum was held at the Leet-Dorian Hotel in Libreville from 25 to 29 November last.

This workshop brought together representatives of stakeholders members of the PAFC Congo Basin Certification Standards Development Forum from Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, Gabon and DRC as well as experts assisting the Forum and representatives of some institutions such as COMIFAC.

During five days, the members of the Forum and the experts exchanged on the requirements and annexes of the working documents proposed by TERE and a group of experts on the forest management standard. The lively, heated, sometimes passionate but constructive discussions resulted in the first draft of the above-mentioned PAFC CB certification standard of forest management.

As foreseen by the development process of the said standards, these first versions of the standards will be submitted for public consultation by mid-December 2019 in order to collect and use the comments of stakeholders.

At the end of the workshop, the participants reaffirmed their commitment and willingness to contribute to the development of the PAFC Congo Basin certification standards.

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY ATIBT

ATIBT AND FOREST CERTIFICATION IN THE CONGO BASIN

The project «Establishment of a regional approach for the development of PAFC certification systems», was launched in 2019 financed by PPECF, PEFC International and IDH, and aiming at the creation of the regional forest certification scheme PAFC Congo Basin.

It is within this framework that Germain Yéné joined the team to coordinate the project from Yaoundé. Started in June 2019, the project achieved:

- The elaboration by a group of experts of a draft sub-regional forest certification standard, harmonized for the three countries concerned (Cameroon, Gabon, Congo) ;
- the organisation of the forum 25 to 29 November 2019 (temporary consultation body responsible for developing by consensus forest management and chain of custody standards PAFC Congo Basin);
- the launch of a first public consultation on 13 December 2019.

The project should result in 2020 in the submission of a complete file to PEFC International to investigate the recognition of the Regional PAFC by PEFC.



The association has also continued to support companies towards a certification process through coaching, jointly with the PPECF and thanks to the actions of FLEGT-Certification referents set up in 4 countries. The strongest progress concerns Gabon, due to President Ali Bongo Ondimba's declaration on the obligation for logging companies to be certified. As a result, 5 companies have been diagnosed and two companies have signed a coaching contract. In Congo, two additional companies have signed up to carry out a diagnosis, and in DRC, a diagnosis has been carried out.

STUDIES AND REFLEXIONS CONDUCTED ON AGROFORESTRY AND TIMBER PLANTATIONS

ATIBT deepens its reflections and initiatives on reforestation issues

Agroforestry is making a strong comeback in many forums and projects because of the benefits offered by this model. At the initiative of the actors of the Cité du Développement of Nogent sur Marne, a first meeting of the «agroforestry group» of the Cité took place on the 25th of April 2018 with the aim of meeting around a common theme: agroforestry. This first meeting was attended by ONFI, Kinomé, CIRAD, Fair Trade and ATIBT. This was followed in 2019 by a presence at the World Agroforestry Congress in Montpellier, which was very stimulating for the group (to which Oréade Brèche and AVSF were added). Organized by CIRAD and INRA with Agropolis International and Montpellier University of Excellence, the fourth World Agroforestry Congress was held from 20 to 25 May 2019 in Montpellier, France: «Agroforestry: strengthening the links between science, society and public policies». In collaboration as partners of the Cité du Développement Durable, ATIBT

and Kinomé presented a poster based on a work carried out by ATIBT in 2018, and financed by the FFEM, concerning the study of the opportunity of agroforestry projects of cultivation under shade of forest species. In 2020, the «agroforestry group» of the Cité du Développement Durable of Nogent sur Marne will continue to meet and find synergies between its actors around its theme.

For many experts, agroforestry is the most reliable means of preventing climate change, fighting poverty and ensuring food security. It also contributes to the protection of biodiversity, the innovation of certification systems, the improvement of agro-ecological techniques, the development of ecosystem services, the transformation of production chains...so many issues and challenges that concern ATIBT and all its members.

In 2020, ATIBT wishes to continue its reflections and actions on reforestation in general in order to contribute to the evolution of the forest concession model

with a view to making the tropical rainforest a sustainable lever for the development of populations and territories. This will ensure the diversification of activities aimed at securing wood resources, restoring degraded forests, and protecting forests not allocated as forest permits for overexploitation.

Through the FLEGT REDD project (FFEM funding), the studies on agroforestry and plantation initiated in 2018 will continue, in particular through support for the feasibility of concrete projects carried by the private forestry sector. These feasibility studies will be accompanied by plantation and agroforestry guides to help companies set up projects on these themes (key partners, tools, models, financing, etc.). The specific objectives of the studies are : (i) to identify and accompany opportunities for plantation projects in order to increase the availability of timber, while giving great importance to environmental and

social impact; (ii) to develop partnerships between plantation and forestry operators in order to provide an opportunity for income diversification, which is ecologically acceptable and socially very positive in the agricultural series of forest concessions.

In addition, ATIBT also wishes to focus in 2020 on issues of assisted natural regeneration, including initiatives of its members emerging in the Congo Basin.

The FLEGT REDD certification projects will come to an end at the end of 2020 and ATIBT wishes to initiate a reflection to propose a new project in the continuity of support for sustainable forest management. This project could include themes such as the review of management plans (phase 2), reforestation (through inclusive reforestation of innovative plantations, agroforestry projects and the use of assisted natural regeneration) and the development of secondary species.

REDD+ AND FLEGT (VPAS AND EUTR) ACTIVITIES

Activities related to the fight against climate change

The activities of the FLEGT REDD project, financed by the FFEM, oriented towards REDD+ have evolved to take into account the issues of planting, agroforestry and PES.

The «agroforestry group» of the Cité du Développement Durable du Jardin d'Agro-nomie Tropicale, under the leadership of ATIBT, participated in the 4th World Agroforestry Congress organized by CIRAD in Montpellier from 20 to 22 May 2019. Within the framework of this participation, ATIBT, in connection with the FLEGT REDD project, occupied a stand and presented several visibility tools on the subject of cocoa plantations under shade of timber species (poster, brochures and copies of the report of the study on this subject carried out for ATIBT by the Kinomé and Oréade-Brèche consortium in 2018).

In 2020 two feasibility studies will be carried out for the financing and implementation of two agroforestry projects and two timber plantation projects.

Also in the framework of REDD+ activities, expertise will also be carried out to explore real possibilities for payments for environmental services created or maintained by forest companies certified by third parties for sustainable management.



This is a key issue for the forestry sector. Indeed, forestry companies provide many ecosystem services in addition to their core business, as forest managers, for which they are not remunerated. Moreover, despite the institutional initiatives and many efforts made so far, there is a dilemma that needs to be resolved quickly if the chances of achieving the objectives of the 2030 agenda are not to be jeopardized in the long term. Through the study to be

carried out by Venturexpert, the aim will be to improve confidence by initially providing a valuation method and then eventually a technology to serve positive impact valuation. For this, it would be a question of setting up a technology that would valorize the data coming from traceability services (remote sensing, camera, NGOs, local population, administration, etc.) in order to convince private sector investors to invest in PES.

FLEGT VPA-related activities and promotion of third-party verified certification



In 2019 the grant contracts for the implementation of the FLEGT-REDD and FLEGT-IP projects with the FFEM and the EU respectively were extended until 2020. Thanks to these projects and the one with PPECF-COMIFAC, a large number of activities have been implemented by the partners FIB (DRC), UFIGA (Gabon), GFBC (Cameroon), and SPIB (Côte d'Ivoire), and the ATIBT office in Congo. All of these partner associations have been strengthened by the appointment of a FLEGT-Certification focal point within the office. Part of the activities were funded by individual projects through the EU-FAO FLEGT programme.

Among the results, status reports from private sector actors in the timber sector in Cameroon, Congo, Gabon and DRC. They can all be downloaded from the ATIBT website.

UFIGA and FIB have developed websites, accessible via www.ufiga.org and www.fib-rdc.org respectively, which are regularly updated.

All the partners have set up regulatory and informational monitoring, and have recorded a very large number of regulatory texts in archives available to all actors in the forest-wood sector (notably on the UFIGA and FIB websites).

Thanks to many contacts and information and exchange sessions of FLEGT-Certification referents with forestry companies, the PPECF coaching programme has grown: 28 companies have been identified to enter the third-party verified certification process, including 19 in Gabon, 5 in Congo, 3 in DRC and 1 in Cameroon.

The year 2020 will be marked by the development and publication of thematic short films on topics related to the FLEGT Action Plan and forest certification.

Also in the year 2020 the website www.timbertradeportal.com will be updated and made available in both English and French to inform European importers about key data from 23 timber producing countries, enabling due diligence under the EUTR and the Lacey Act.

From 2013 to 2019, the French Global Environment Facility has co-financed the project «Structure and Dynamics of Central African Forests: Towards rules for timber exploitation integrating the ecological functioning of tree populations and the variability of environmental conditions (DynAfFor)». This project covered 5 countries, totalling the bulk of the region's dense tropical rainforests: Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo.

ATIBT was the project owner for this project, with the CIRAD, Nature+ and the University of Liège (ULG) Faculté de Gembloux as project managers. The project partners were the forestry companies Pallisco, Rougier, CEB, CIB and Wijma.

The origin of the DynAfFor is based on the increased recognition of the forests functions that ensure sustainability of Central African forests utilization. However, the data available on these forests, and enabling this improvement in knowledge, are still few and often old, and little used by forest sector professionals and decision-makers. In the short period of time during which the first management plans drawn up at the end of the 1990s will come to an end, it is essential to provide food for thought on the revision of procedures and management plans in order to guarantee genuine sustainable management of forest areas.

The DynAfFor project has therefore set itself two main objectives. The first objective was to quantify the effects of the environment, forest exploitation and their interactions on forest dynamics and the processes that drive them - growth, recruitment, mortality. To this end, the project was to set up a network of mechanisms for monitoring the dynamics of

forest populations and stands and to provide forest management stakeholders with decision-making tools. The second objective was, based on the network set up, the scientific results obtained and the tools developed, to improve the knowledge and practice of stakeholders in the region: forest operators, forest administrations, research organizations.

DynAfFor has thus made it possible to improve knowledge of the functioning of Central African forests and to include this knowledge in forest dynamics models that can be used, thanks to a simulator, by all stakeholders interested in the future of the forests. It also made it possible to raise the main problems facing the «foresters of the future» in the region.

At the origin of the project, the choice was made to work directly with forestry companies. This choice was based on the experience accumulated by DynAfFor's project managers on pre-existing schemes in the region. These 10 sites in the DynAfFor network present a wide range of conditions, especially geological. The soils of Djoum (SFID), Mbang (SFID), Pallisco and Ma'an (Wijma), all located in southern Cameroon on gneiss or micaschists, are the most clayey (40 to 70% clay) while those of Yoko, on alluvium of sandstone origin, are the least clayey (15% clay) and at the same time the most sandy. The soils of other sites such as CEB, Mamfé (Wijma), Mbaïki (RCA), Loundoungou (CIB), Mokabi (Rougier), located respectively on volcano-sedimentary rocks, have intermediate textures. Within a site, soil texture also varies according to topography, particularly at the Pallisco, CEB and Loundoungou (CIB) sites.

At the end of 2018, the DynAfFor project adopted a «Communication and Capita-

lization» axis to mobilize Central African stakeholders around research results, leading to decision-making to ensure the sustainability of forest management. This is how the DYNAFAC collective was born.

In 2020, this project will come to an end, and a synthesis document will be produced, enabling a wide audience to better understand the scope of its results.

KNOWLEDGE OF THE TROPICAL WOOD AS RAW MATERIAL

DECISIONS AT THE LEVEL OF THE ATIBT TECHNICAL COMMISSION



The ATIBT Technical Commission, as indicated above, finalized and validated the document entitled «Levels of wood processing», as well as an erratum of the General Nomenclature of Tropical Timber by distinguishing 3 species in the genus *Afzelia*: Doussié, Pachy and Lingué, and 2 species in the genus *Pterocarpus* in order to distinguish Padouk from *Pterocarpus tinctorius* (listed in the CITES Appendices). It should be noted that ATIBT has decided to put online, in 2020, the 2016 edition of

the «Tropical Timber Nomenclature», so far only available in paper format. However, the paper format is of course still available.

In view of the results of the analysis of material yields according to the classification rules, the commission decided not to recommend the use of the SATA rules, and requested that a working group revise the ATIBT classification rules focusing on the FAS and AIC classes.

IMPROVEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT LESSER KNOWN TIMBER SPECIES (LKTS)

All the environmental debates make the tropical forest a major subject because of its recognized role in climatic balances, in the preservation of biodiversity as well as in the lives of indigenous peoples. The Paris Agreements attest to the global awareness of the need for sustainable management of tropical forests as a tool to combat climate change and preserve the forest environment.

Sustainable forest management, and thus its sensible exploitation, is one of the main means of ensuring the future of these rich and indispensable ecosystems.

This vision is part of a series of works carried out by various private and public organisations on the theme of the valorization of new species. We need to start from the available knowledge to diagnose the lacks and actions to be implemented for an effective promotion of new species whose physical characteristics and outlets are unknown or little known but which could be of interest.

A number of criteria are essential when considering the promotion of a new species:

- Healthy stand with usable of exploitable size and conformation
- Wide geographical area and sufficient volumes

- Properties similar to known essences
- Adaptation to transformation processes

The promotion of lesser-known species is a cross-cutting issue for the whole forest and timber sector and requires the implementation of both technical and marketing tools, along four specific lines:

1) Resource: Identifying the species to be promoted according to the quantities that can be mobilised, biological characteristics, accessibility of the resource, etc.

2) Technical: Knowing the properties of the selected woods, defining classification rules and on the other hand training the operators and traders, publishing the technical information.

3) Market: Interesting the consumer in new products, conceiving flagship projects, setting up a monitoring system.

4) Coordination: Bringing together the actions and stakeholders of this theme

A project should logically take shape soon, because the evolution of the resource requires that we take an interest in these lesser known species and find outlets for them on national or export markets.

5

ATIBT' FORUM 2019 IN SHANGHAI



ATIBT initiated a dialogue since May 2018 with the two main initiatives that support and mentor the Chinese private forest sector: CTWPDA and GGSC, as well as the fundamental interaction with ITTO, which has accompanied the GGSC initiative since its inception, thus led to the joint organization of the International Forum «Together Towards Green Global Supply Chains» held from the 22th to 25th of October 2019 in Shanghai, China.

It was funded by the German Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) on the basis of ITTO's LSSC program, and supported by the China Green Carbon Foundation (CGCF), the CTWPDA Timber Sub-Committee, the Shanghai Timber Trade Asso-

ciation (STTA) and the GGSC Secretariat. A significant number of participants were able to join the Forum thanks to the support of donors (EU, KFW, DFID, FFEM, AFD), through the ATIBT and BVRio projects among others.

Nearly 350 participants, members of ATIBT and actors of the forest-wood sector gathered to:

- Discuss the challenges and opportunities of developing networks and collaboration between consumers and producers at the global level,
- Identify needs for capacity building in sustainable forest management and good practices,



- Identify and redefine the role of the private sector in addressing sustainable development goals.
- Encourage international trade through legal and sustainable forest-based supply chains,
- Promote partnerships for global «green» forest-based supply chains.

This 2019 edition was an opportunity for ATIBT to support the move towards legality and to ensure a better understanding of the concrete tools for the implementation of legal and sustainable management of tropical forests in the Congo Basin among Chinese stakeholders. In particular, through the facilitation of discussions on legality and sustainability in global timber supply chains, the state and future of the Congo Basin forests, the economic sustainability of the timber industry in the Congo Basin, and the organisation of a side-event on certification with the GGSC, ATIBT has put forward the FLEGT action plan, the programme for the promotion of certified logging (PPECF), and the legality verification (LAS) and traceability systems.

The day ended with a visit to the Starforest, a museum dedicated to parquet flooring.

ATIBT has thus consolidated its relations with Chinese stakeholders and ensured the sharing of its values with a growing number of Chinese actors operating in the timber-forest sector in Central Africa,

thus strengthening the cluster of actors committed to the sustainable and legal management of tropical timber in the Congo Basin.

The critical situation of tropical forests in resolving climate change and the effects they have on social and economic development calls for the mobilization and commitment of all actors in the forest-based sector to join forces to ensure the legal and sustainable production and consumption of wood throughout the supply chain. To concretise their respective commitments :

1) UFIGA and UFIAG, in the presence of the Minister of Forests of Gabon, Prof. Lee White, signed an agreement of commitment to lead all their members, forest industries in Gabon, towards legality certification, at a minimum, by the end of the year 2022.

2) ATIBT and CTWPDA signed a protocol for information exchange and experience sharing on legality issues and sustainable management of tropical forests.

3) The GGSC initiated the establishment of an international collaborative network and invited the outgoing President of ATIBT, Mr. R. Hunink, to participate in the development of the GGSC Entrepreneur Think-Tank.



The dialogue highlighted the link between legal and sustainable management of tropical forests and climate change mitigation and impacts on biodiversity. It highlighted the importance of legal and sustainable supply chains in the forest-

forest sector and the need for a common dynamic with all stakeholders in order to meet the needs of the present without compromising the capacity of future generations.



Side-event legality/tracability co-organised by GGSC and ATIBT (Shangai)

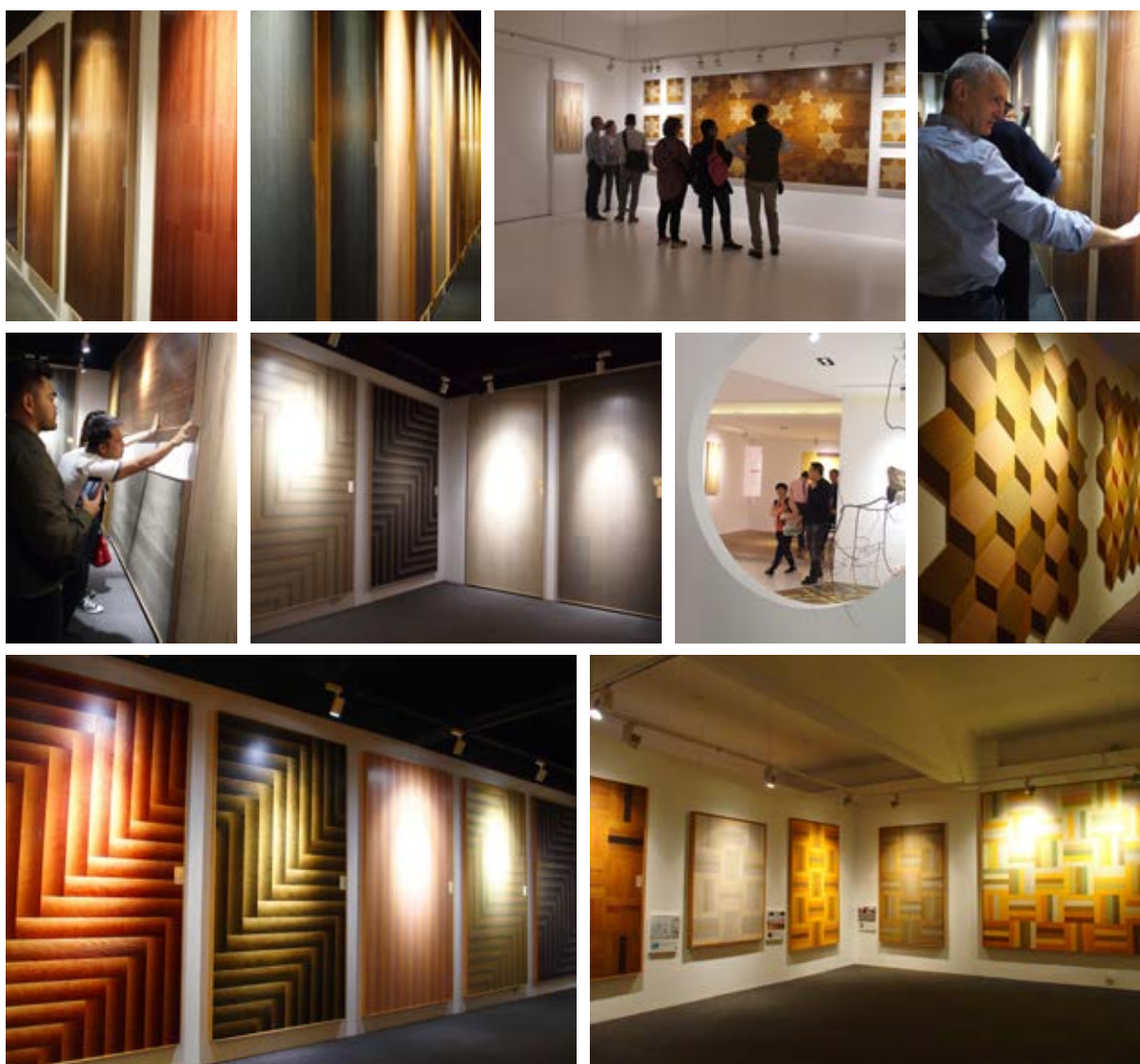


Visit of factories (Nanxun area)

STARFOREST, A MUSEUM DEDICATED TO PARQUET FLOORING



Visit of factories (Nanxun area)



Visit of Starforest museum (Nanxun area)



THANKS

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