



THE LEADING AUTHORITY ON TROPICAL TIMBER

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2021

[www.atibt.org](http://www.atibt.org)



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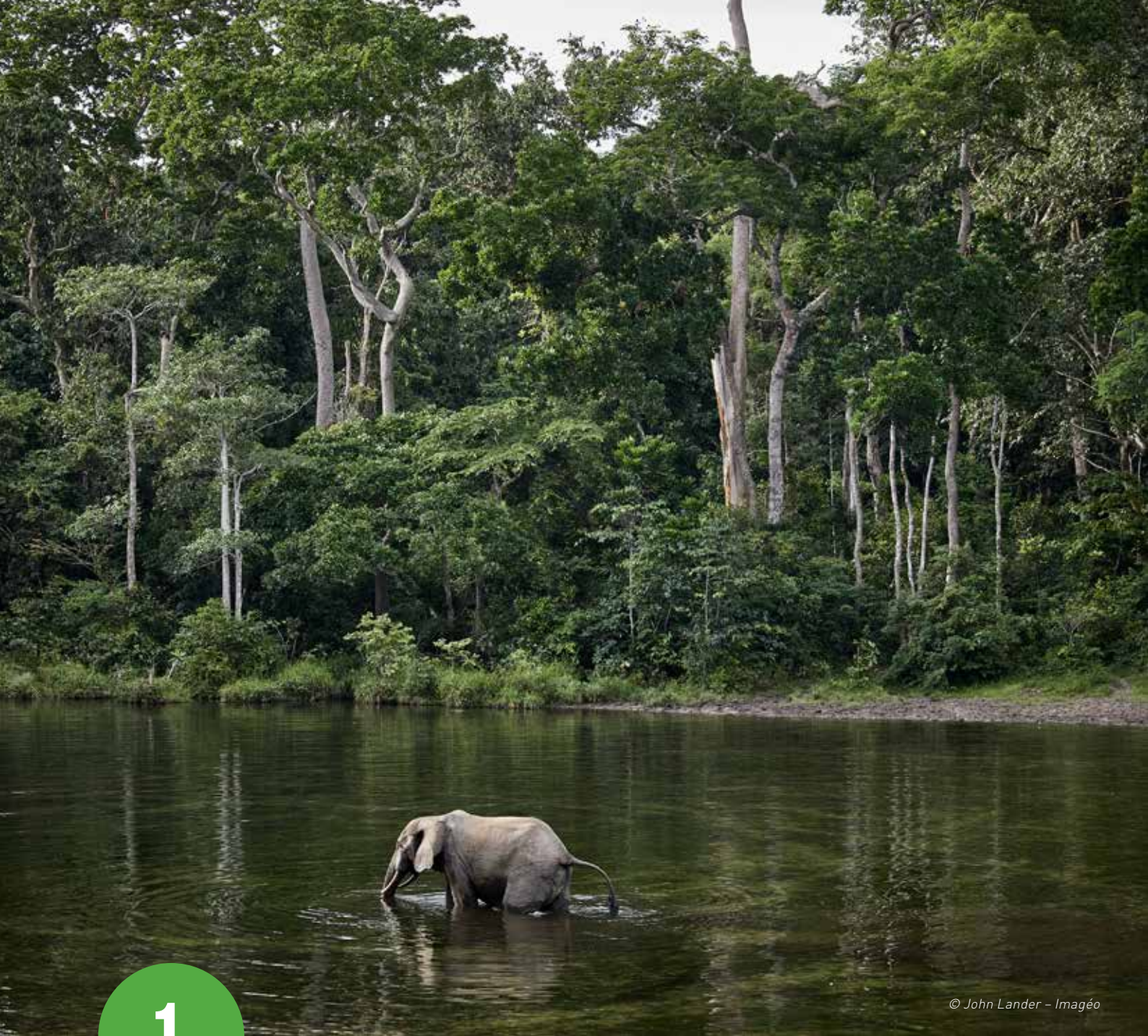
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# ACRONYMS

- AEIM** : Asociación Española de Importadores de Madera (Spanish Association of Timber Importers)  
**AFD**: Agence Française de Développement (French Development Agency)  
**ATIBT**: Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux (International Tropical Timber Technical Association)  
**CBFP**: Congo Basin Forest Partnership  
**CDO**: Comité de Décision et d'Orientation (Decision and Orientation Committee - PPECF)  
**CEMAC**: Communauté Economique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale (Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa)  
**CFT**: Compagnie Forestière De Transformation (Forestry Processing Company)  
**CIB**: Congolaise Industrielle Des Bois (Congolese Industrial Timber Company)  
**CIRAD**: Centre de coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (International Centre of Agricultural Research for Development)  
**CITES**: Convention On International Trade In Endangered Species Of Wild Fauna And Flora  
**COMIFAC**: Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (Central African Forestry Commission)  
**CST**: Comité Scientifique et Technique (Scientific and Technical Committee - AFD)  
**CTWPDA**: The China Timber & Wood Production Distribution Association  
**DEVCO**: Directorate General (DG) International Cooperation and Development (UE)  
**DGENV**: Directorate-General for the Environment (UE)  
**DUE**: Délégation de l'Union Européenne (Delegation of the European Union)  
**EFI**: European Forest Institute  
**ETTF**: European Timber Trade Federation  
**EUTR**: European Union Timber Regulation  
**FAO**: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
**FFEM**: Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (French Facility for Global Environment)  
**FIB**: Fibres Industries Bois (Timber Fibre Industries)  
**FLEGT**: Forests Law Enforcement Governance and Trade  
**FSC**: Forest Stewardship Council  
**GFBC**: Groupement de la Filière Bois du Cameroun (Cameroon Timber Sector Consortium)  
**GGSC**: Global Green Supply Chain  
**GNFT**: Groupe National des Forêts Tropicales (National Rainforest Group)  
**IDH**: Initiative pour le commerce durable (Sustainable Trade Initiative)  
**IFL**: Intact Forest Landscape  
**IUCN**: International Union for Conservation of Nature  
**KfW**: Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau  
**LCB**: Le Commerce du Bois (The Commerce of Timber - France)  
**LKTS**: Lesser Known Timber Species  
**MO**: Maîtrise d'ouvrage (Project ownership)  
**MOD**: Maîtrise d'ouvrage déléguée (Delegated project management)  
**OIBT**: Organisation Internationale des Bois Tropicaux (ITTO - International Tropical Timber Association)  
**ONFI**: Office National des Forêts International (National Office for International Forests)  
**ONG**: Organisation Non Gouvernemental (NGO: Non-Governmental Organisation)  
**PAFC**: Pan African Forest Certification  
**PEFC**: Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification  
**PES**: Payments for Environmental Services  
**PFBC**: Partenariat pour les Forêts du Bassin du Congo (CBFP - Congo Basin Forest Partnership)  
**PME**: Petites et Moyennes Entreprises (Small and Mid-sized Enterprises)  
**PPECF**: Programme de Promotion de l'Exploitation Certifiée des Forêts (Programme for the Promotion of Certified Logging)  
**RDC**: République Démocratique du Congo (DRC: Democratic Republic of Congo)  
**RIFFEAC**: Réseau des Institutions de Formation Forestière et Environnementale de l'Afrique Centrale (Network of Forestry and Environmental Training Institutions of Central Africa)  
**SPIB**: Syndicat des Producteurs Industriels du Bois (Union of Industrial Timber Producers)  
**STTC**: Sustainable Tropical Timber Coalition  
**SVL**: Système de Vérification de la Légalité (Legality Verification System)  
**SW4SW**: Sustainable Wood For Sustainable World  
**TTF**: Timber Trade Federation  
**TPE**: Très Petites Entreprises (Very Small Enterprises - craftsmen)  
**UE**: Union Européenne (European Union)  
**UFIGA**: Union des Forestiers et Industriels du bois du Gabon (Union of Foresters and Timber Industries of Gabon)  
**ULG**: Université de Liège (Liège University)  
**VVNH**: Vereniging Van Nederlandse Houtondernemingen (Timber Federation from Netherland)  
**WRI**: World Resources Institute



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# ATIBT, THE ASSOCIATION DEDICATED TO TIMBER AND SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT



# EDITORIALS

**OLMAN SERRANO** - PRESIDENT OF ATIBT

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*The tropical timber sector,  
a local development for a global impact*



The year 2021 continued to be characterized by unusual events affecting most sectors of the world economy at nearly all levels, particularly as result of the ongoing pandemic that initiated at the end of 2019. The tropical forestry sector was not the exception. Luckily the negative effects of the sanitary crises in 2021 were less in terms of casualties' toll than the year before. Nevertheless, many restrictions continued to be imposed on and off in most countries around the globe and the impacts affecting the social and economic sectors started to emerge, as expected.

Many sectors of the economy were badly hit by the restrictions, such as the airline, tourism, and entertainment industry, just to mention few. Other sectors benefited from the situation, such as online trade, the pharmaceutical industry and the "do it yourself" branch. The latter had a positive impact in the forest products industry, due to the increased consumption in wood products for household applications during the lockdown. Unprecedented increase maritime transport costs and difficulties in the use of containers, exacerbated the world trade. Most value chains were therefore disrupted and haven't yet found a viable stability.

Despite this unprecedented situation, our Association, with the support of our major partners, managed not only to continue

with the day-to-day activities - mostly on teleworking - but to even increase its performance for the benefit of sustainable development in tropical forestry. The historical milestone of ATIBT's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary might have played an important role in motivating the staff under the inspiring leadership of Benoit Jobbe-Duval, supported by the Executive Bureaux, the Board of Directors and of course, by our key partners.

Along the year 2021, some projects were successfully concluded, and other new projects were initiated. This annual report will provide details in each and everyone of them. Every project implemented by ATIBT or under its supervision, aims at contributing to the Association's goals, namely, to improve the sustainable development of tropical forestry. This contribution has multiple positive impacts: from improving resources management and livelihoods of local populations, to increasing carbon sequestration options and thus, adding to climate change mitigation options.

Let us highlight some key examples of project activities, and start by mentioning training programmes in the Congo Basin countries, aiming at improving skills at various levels in the wood processing industry; a solid marketing programme under the trademark "Fair and Precious"; the development of life cycle analysis for



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tropical wood species necessary to calculate the environmental impact of new buildings throughout their life cycle. This is becoming a requisite by the legislation of some European countries for the use of wood in the construction sector; training Webinars performed in five languages on the role and requirements of forest certification and due diligence for the import of tropical wood in countries of the European Union.

As a complement to project activities, lobbying in favour of our Association's mission remains a key component. In this regard, ATIBT was present in major international events, not only virtually but also in presence and thus, taking the opportunity to advocate for the sustainable use of tropical forest resources and the legal trade of wood products.

Some of these major events in presence include the 26th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Glasgow), the IUCN World Conservation Congress (Marseille), the First Forum for African

Sustainable Value Chains (Nice), Conference on the Protection of the African Tropical Forests (Berlin), the Sustainable Tropical Timber Coalition Conference (Utrecht) and the Paris initiative for the conservation of Central African forest (Paris). ATIBT was actively present in numerous Webinars throughout the year on topics dealing with forest certification, intact forest landscapes, meetings of the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest Industries led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and many others.

Our Association would like to recognise the valuable financial support and active engagement of our key partners, making possible the implementation of the above-mentioned achievements. We thank the German Development Bank (KfW), the European Union (EU), the French Agency for Development (AFD), the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).



# ÉDITORIAL

BENOÎT JOBBÉ-DUVAL - DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

*In 2022, it is through joint actions and collective thinking that things will move forward*

In 2021, ATIBT continued to work on many issues on behalf of its members, while at the same time working on itself and the way it operates.

Indeed, as we announced last year, 2021 has been a year of introspection for our association, on the occasion of the audit initiated in 2020, and which essentially took place during 2021. This work highlighted many important areas, including the diversity and complexity of the issues that the association needs to address. Due to the evolution of the working team, it was also necessary to work on our internal organisation.

The diversity of the subjects dealt with is once again a challenge, but what we would like to emphasise is the growing complexity of the problems that our sector has to face. We must therefore continue to define the guidelines for our action, without straying too far from them so as not to lose sight of the key goals!

In 2021, the number of members increased significantly, especially among our core partners, namely the certified forestry companies located in the Congo Basin. But while this increase in membership is good news for us, we know that we are far from solving all of the problems the sector is facing. A number of our members frequently express their impatience in terms of improving the sector's image, the fight against illegal timber,

governance, as well as certain complex technical issues such as the promotion of LKTS species. How can we solve these challenging problems?

Although there were many valuable exchanges throughout 2021 - as in previous years - between the association and its members, we still need to remind everyone that the pandemic seriously impacted our action. In 2022, it is through joint actions and collective thinking that things will move forward. Therefore, even though we will continue to fight on behalf of the companies that make up our association, we will never cease to recommend that an ever stronger collective effort be established.

Together with the logging companies, timber processors and trade associations of both Africa and Europe, we can make proposals, innovate and respond to the changes imposed on us by an increasingly complex world.

Our association's 70th anniversary, which we will celebrate this year, will certainly be a great opportunity to highlight the unity between ATIBT, its members and all of its partners in the sector.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the organisations and individuals who have supported us for another year. Among them, special thanks are due to KFW-PPECF, the AFD, the FFEM, the EU, the FAO and the ITTO.



# ATIBT'S GOVERNANCE

**ATIBT consists of a Board of Directors, a General Assembly and an Executive Council. ATIBT's objectives and strategy are decided by the board and approved by its assembly.**

In terms of ATIBT's governance, the year 2021 saw a major change in December, with the arrival of a new presidency (which is to be ratified by the GA).

As Mr. Olman Serrano expressed his wish to hand over the reins, elections were held in December, and Mrs. Françoise Van de Ven was elected.

The new president is familiar with the tropical timber sector, having led the FIB (*Fédération des Industries du Bois* - Timber Industry Federation) union in the DRC and the UFIGA (*Union des Forestiers et Industriels du Gabon* - Union of Foresters and Timber Industries of Gabon) in Gabon between 2015 and 2021.

She is more than familiar with subjects pertaining to the **study** and **defence** of the economic, material and moral interests

of forestry and timber industry operators, as well as issues relating to forest governance, FLEGT, certification, and the genuine problems the sector is facing (such as logistics).

Moreover, Françoise Van de Ven is familiar with institutions such as the FAO and ITTO, as well as the world of international donors and NGO's.



**In 2021, there were no major changes to the Board of Directors. Some directors were reappointed. This was the case with Pierre Taty and Jan Willem Hunink.**

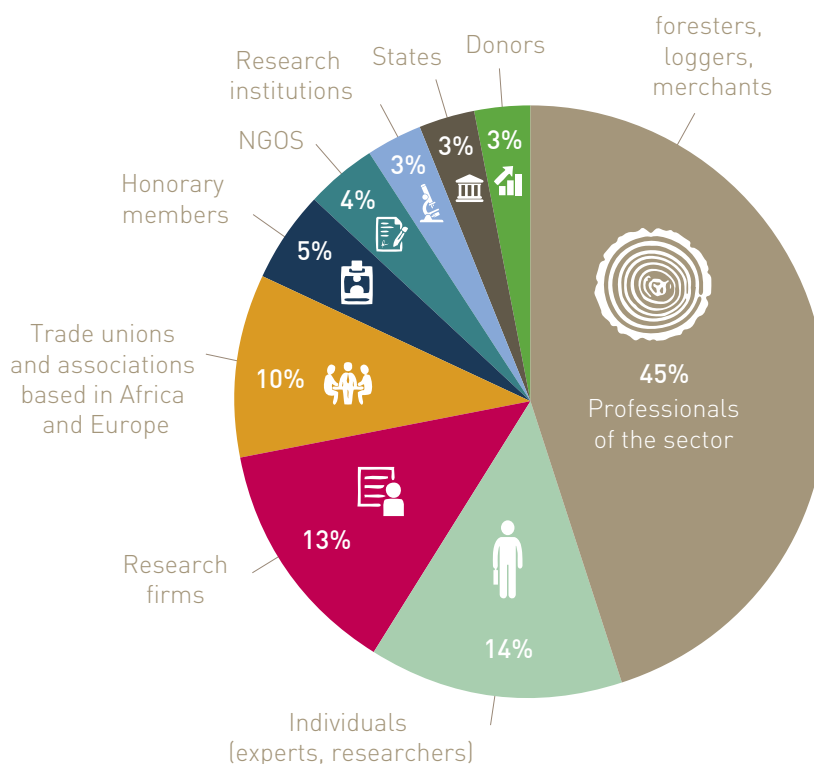
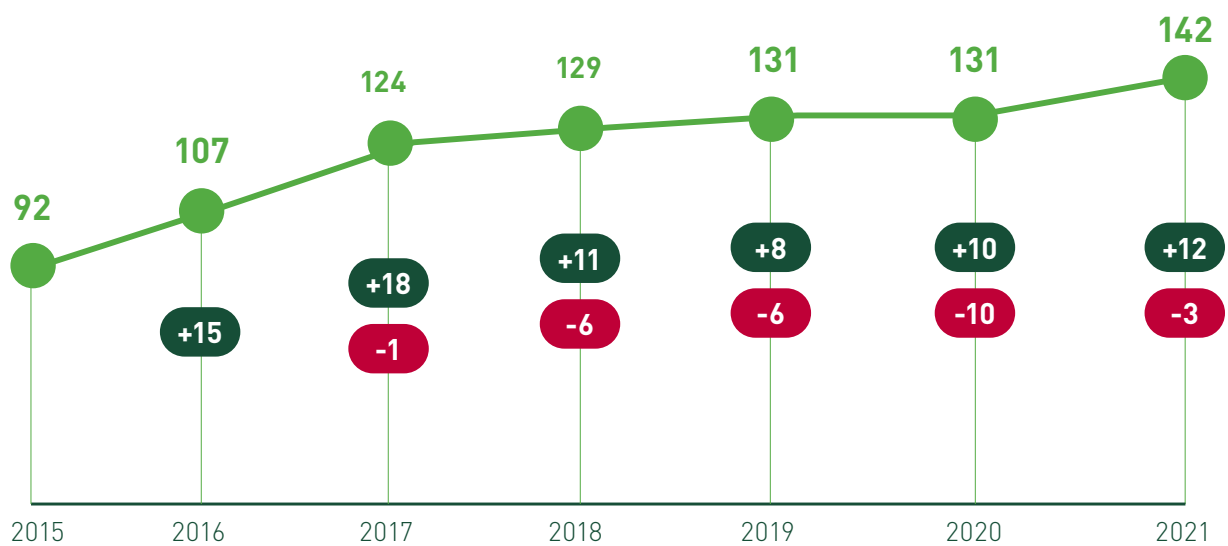
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**The complete list of directors is available here:**  
[https://www.atibt.org/files/upload/governance/20220128\\_ATIBT - LISTE ADMINISTRATEURS.pdf](https://www.atibt.org/files/upload/governance/20220128_ATIBT_-_LISTE_ADMINISTRATEURS.pdf)

# ATIBT'S MEMBERS | IN 2021

In 2021, 1 member left from ATIBT, 2 were expelled for non-payment of dues, and 12 new members joined, mainly at the end of the year (new contributors for 2022). 1 application was rejected.

To date, the number of registered members is therefore 142. In addition to our paid members, there are also honorary members of our association, some of whom continue to play an important role.



The membership directory is permanently available on our website:  
<https://www.atibt.org/fr/membres>

The arrival of new members is always welcomed via our newsletter.

### The companies that joined us in 2021 are as follows:

#### Logging companies:

SEEF (Cameroon)  
IFCO (Democratic Republic of Congo)  
WOODBOS (Gabon)

#### Association of importers:

AEIM (Spain)

#### Timber trade or timber processing companies:

Cross Trade (Germany)  
SORIEL (Spain)  
TOUTBOIS / Arbor (France)

#### Research firms:

ETICWOOD (Spain)

#### Individual members / Experts:

Baptiste Marquant (France)  
J.M. Noiraud (Cameroon)  
F. Van de Ven (Belgium)  
C. Duhesme (France)

## ATIBT'S REPRESENTATION IN THE SECTOR

We regularly review ATIBT's degree of representation in the private sector in relation to the tropical forests and their sustainable management.

With the arrival of a new association of importers, three timber trade or timber processing companies, and three logging companies, representativeness has increased significantly.

In accordance with the 2016 statutes, ATIBT's Board of Directors reflects all of the association's stakeholders. Indeed, ATIBT brings together players from the entire sector, with producers primarily from Central and West Africa and importers and processors from Europe, America and Asia. Also included are service companies, research firms, trade unions, research centres, states (Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Central African Republic), individual members, associations and NGOs.

ATIBT members are players within the sector that are committed to both the legal and sustainable management of tropical forests. The association's members must demonstrate their commitment through third-party verified sustainable management certification if they are concessionaires, or through chain of custody certification if they are merchants or marketers. ATIBT also has members that are structured as associations. This is the case with the producer unions in Central and West Africa, as well as with the European associations of timber importers and traders.

ATIBT is thus truly representative, and as such it is often called upon to debate on the major issues affecting the sector and the future of sustainable tropical forest management.

# ATIBT'S ORIGINS

*2021 marks our association's 70th anniversary!*

In 1946, the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations) and the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) convened an international conference to identify the world's agricultural, forestry and marine resources. The public and private sector forestry experts that were present expressed the wish that an association be created to (1) promote tropical timber, (2) publish statistics by species among both producing and consuming countries, (3) obtain trade information on weights, measures, sea freight and contracts, and (4) explore all means of increasing the production, sale and rational use of timber species.



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**Six years later, in September 1951, the OECD organised an international conference at its headquarters (the Château of La Muette in Paris).**

Officials and professional organisations (consisting of producers, manufacturers, importers, merchants and end-users) attended. They decided to create the ATIBT (International Tropical Timber Technical Association).

**Initially, six work committees were set up:**

- Technical documentation and propaganda,
- Production and consumption statistics,
- Transport and handling,
- Codification of commercial practices and contracts,
- Classification,
- Log and plywood packaging.

70 years later, our association has evolved quite a bit. Following a turnaround in the 1990s due to management plans in the Congo Basin, the certification of sustainable management in 2005, the FLEGT action plan, followed by involvement in the fight against deforestation, ATIBT is now more anchored in the producing countries. Its objective remains the promotion of tropical timber, but through best practices, and the responsible management of tropical forests.

# ATIBT'S 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**In 2022, the ATIBT will celebrate its 70th anniversary. As the year 2021 was still heavily impacted by the sanitary situation, it wasn't possible to organise an event to honour this anniversary.**

Moreover, the final quarter of 2021 marked the launch of the organisation of a major event tied to the life of the Association: the return of the ATIBT Forum within the framework of the Carrefour International du Bois trade show in Nantes from 1 to 3 June 2022, as well as the gala evening organised in honour of ATIBT's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 31 May 2022.

This next Forum will focus on market-related issues and will address a wide range of topics, with the participation of speakers from different backgrounds. In addition, the ATIBT will be present on three stands: a stand specific to the Association, an inter-company "Fair&Precious" stand which will allow us to highlight our members and their commitment to sustainable forest management, as well as an institutional Congo Basin stand. Prior to the Forum, the gala evening will be organised in an exceptional setting, the "Gallery of the Machines"!

This week will provide an opportunity to exchange on the markets and on technical subjects, and also to meet in a friendly and festive setting on the occasion of ATIBT's 70th anniversary.



# THE REVISION OF ATIBT'S STATUTES

During the Board of Directors meeting held on 10 December 2021, the modification of the association's statutes was added to its agenda, in accordance with article 8.1.2. of these statutes.

Several needs were expressed by certain members, and this also follows a review that was conducted by a law firm in 2021:

- The need to standardise the reference expressions and concepts used in the statutes;
- The modification of Article 4, which needs to be better drafted with regard to the Association's mission and vision, as it is fundamental that the purpose be well specified;
- The modification of points on governance, in particular on voting, membership, etc.
- The need to provide for the remuneration of our association's president, within the limits of what the law allows, given our status as an association under the 1901 law.

The new statutes retain all of their requirements in terms of complying with specific additional commitments, including:

- For producers: being engaged in a credible verification process in terms of their activities, carried out by a recognised third-party (third-party certification);
- For European importers: compliance with the EU Timber Regulation's requirements;
- For non-European importers: compliance with the chain of custody of the legality of their purchases, which they have previously established;
- For trade associations: promoting the implementation of the EUTR for European countries and VPAs for relevant countries; they commit to promoting verification of the legality of their own members' activities (by a recognised third party), forest certification, and anti-corruption measures.



The new statutes can now be seen at the [www.atibt.org](http://www.atibt.org) website

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# A TEAM DEDICATED TO THE SECTOR

The ATIBT team consists of permanent staff in charge of managing the association, as well as experts in charge of specific projects or studies. These experts often have long-term ties with the association, through actions that are part of a lasting relationship.

Certain other experts are commissioned by ATIBT for specific studies.

Our team currently consists of 12 people split between France, Congo, Gabon and Cameroon. It is presented in full on our website: <https://www.atibt.org/fr/p/57/notre-equipe>

Whether employees or experts under contract, the entire team shares the same

values of commitment and friendliness, and acts above all in the interest of the association's members and partners.

## **A specific note on our team in Congo.**

As a reminder, in 2015 ATIBT signed a headquarters agreement with the Republic of Congo.

For this reason, our Congo team was established in 2018. Headed by Alain Tiotsop, its mission is to bring the signed headquarters agreement to life, to ensure the smooth running of ATIBT's activities in the Republic of Congo, a member country of our association as well as a member of its Board of Directors.



**BENOÎT JOBBÉ-DUVAL**  
*Directeur général ATIBT*

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 Côte d'Ivoire. During all of these years, he worked with the CIRAD sustainable crops unit. Before joining ATIBT, Benoit worked for 13 years in the wood industry in Spain.



### **JACQUELINE LARDIT-VAN DE POL**

*ADEFAC Project Coordinator - Forestry sector expert*

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Jacqueline Lardit-van de Pol joined ATIBT in early 2016 to take charge of the FLEGT-IP project. Her fifteen years of experience in the sub-region, especially in Cameroon and Gabon, and her successive positions as coordinator of an independent observer pilot project for an NGO, manager of legality certification for private companies, and consultant in the evaluation of the APV-FLEGT process for donors have enabled her to gain a solid understanding of the interests, obstacles and capabilities of the various stakeholders. Since April 2020, Jacqueline, based in Gabon, is in charge of the ADEFAC vocational training project, a project that will cover Cameroon, Gabon, the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo over the next 5 years.



### **CAROLINE DUHESME**

*Director of Innovation and Strategy - Certification expert*

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Caroline Duhesme has a University Technological Diploma in Agronomy, and is also a graduate of the Ecole Supérieure du Bois de Nantes. Caroline was Quality Audit Manager (ISO 9001) Bureau Veritas Certification and Forest Management and Chain of Custody Audit Manager (Bureau Veritas Certification - Eurocertifor [March 2004]). Caroline joined ATIBT team in Nogent-sur-Marne in early January 2017 as an Assistant Coordinator of the FLEGT-REDD projects, in particular on the EUTR, REDD+ and VPA components. Caroline is the secretary of the Certification Commission.



### **HORTENSE ELLA-MENYE BATINDEK**

*Communication and monitoring-evaluation manager of the ADEFAC Project*

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Hortense is a Sociologist, Expert in Project Management, Gender and Training Engineering. She is also a member of the Cameroon Development Evaluation Association (CaDEA). Currently working on the ADEFAC project, she is the internal and external communication manager and she is also responsible for its monitoring and evaluation.





### **MARION VAQUIN**

*Administrative and financial manager*

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Graduated with a Master II in Finance from the Sorbonne Business School (IAE Paris), Marion first worked for five years in an accounting and auditing firm. She then spent ten years in various positions within the AFD finance department, where she was director of the department "Regulatory, consolidation and accounting", as well as a member of the ethics committee, before joining ATIBT.



### **ÉLISE MAZEYRAC**

*ADEFAC Project Headquarters Coordinator  
Training project specialist*

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Elise Mazeyrac has a Master 2 Pro training - Education Sciences and a Master in Political Sciences. She specializes in Training Project Management & Training Engineering. Elise joined ATIBT as ADEFAC project manager at the association's headquarters in France.



### **ALAIN TIOTSOP**

*ATIBT Congo Representative - Project Coordinator  
Forest Management expert and auditor*

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Alain Tiotsop is a Forest Engineer based in Brazzaville. He 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. Alain is an FM/COC auditor for Bureau Veritas and has a solid experience in various fields: forest mapping, forest inventories, forest inventory data processing, forest legislation, drafting and implementation of forest management plans, among others. Alain has a strong private sector background.



### **DONATIEN NZALA**

*Forest governance expert with the ASP Congo project*

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Professor Donatien Nzala is a forestry engineer. With a 35-year career as a teacher-researcher at the Marien Ngouabi University (Brazzaville - Congo), he was also Director General of the Forest Economy (2008-2014), then Inspector General of the Forest Economy Services of the Republic of Congo (2014-2017).



### **ALESSANDRA NEGRI**

*Coordinator of timber promotion actions*

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Alessandra has a degree in political science and one from AgroParisTech and has a solid knowledge of environmental issues at both the political and technical levels. She specialises in both environmental strategy and negotiation. Within the framework of a partnership between LCB and ATIBT, Alessandra's missions focus on the promotion of all timber materials. She will be involved in the ATIBT marketing project, and in some key projects, in particular the "Dryades" project (creation of EPD-FDES technical sheets for tropical timber materials).



### **JOSÉPHA COACHE**

*Communication and project coordination support - CSR Officer*

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Josépha Coache holds a master's degree in "Agricultural Development and Economic Policies" from the Sorbonne University's Institut d'Études du Développement. She is currently ATIBT marketing programme assistant as well as the Themis project's assistant, since February 2020.



### **HAYAT HOUMA**

*Assistant accountant*

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Hayat holds a DUT (University diploma) in law from the University Paris XIII, and a training as assistant accountant from the same university.

Hayat joined ATIBT in May 2020, as administrative and accounting assistant of the association.

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### **FLORA AMBOULOU**

*Administrative, accounting  
and logistics assistant (Brazzaville)*

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Having obtained a Master II degree in financial management at the Ecole Supérieure de Gestion et d'Administration des Entreprises ESGAE, where she pursued all her higher education studies, Flora Amboulou, in addition to her position as Administrative, Accounting and Logistical Assistant for the ATIBT Congo, supports the team in all organisational and material management activities.

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**ATIBT would also like to thank Mr. Germain Yéné,  
coordinator of the Congo Basin PAFC project,  
for his consulting work**

# ATIBT'S ORGANISATIONAL AUDIT, AN IN-DEPTH EXAMINATION OF THE ASSOCIATION'S OPERATIONS

In 2021, a strategic and organisational audit of ATIBT was conducted. This review made it possible to formulate a number of recommendations.

For example, ATIBT's associative dynamics regarding the governance bodies were observed, and led to consideration regarding the operational balance of the Executive Bureau and the Board of Directors.

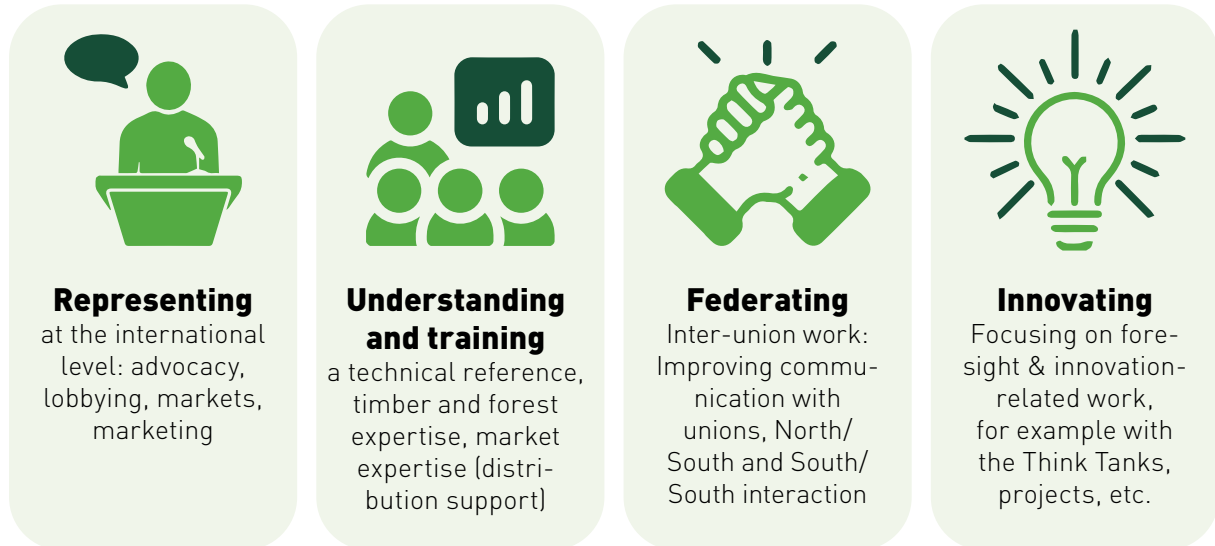
The identity of the association, which is complex due to the diversity of its members, was also the subject of recommendations. Indeed, between its historical mandate of "representing and defending the interests of the timber sector", which is important to the historical members, and its more recent mandate (included in the 2016 statutes) of being a "platform for sectoral dialogue on the sustainable management of tropical forests", which is seen as forward-thinking and of major interest in terms of the new global environmental challenges by the more recent members, ATIBT's missions are multiply-ing and are sometimes not completely understood by its members.

**But, generally speaking, the missions pertaining to sustainable management, legality, certification and the fight against deforestation are common denominators that nobody questions.**

**A number of genuine observations were made. For example:**

- The newsletter is highly appreciated thanks to its content and its regularity;
- The websites look professional, but ATIBT's visual identity is dispersed among the 3 websites;
- The events have virtual formats that should be maintained, but they should be thought of as complementary to the face-to-face formats that should also be maintained;
- Think tanks are a useful tool for periodic sectoral dialogue open to the outside world, donors in particular. They should not be a place for decision-making, but for discussions;
- The commissions are places for internal strategic thought, and support the steering committees for certain specific actions such as the marketing programme and vocational training actions;
- Projects and actions funded by donors sometimes have an added value that is not sufficiently highlighted, clarified and explained to the members;
- The technical expertise services are a recent mechanism that is still not clearly structured and communicated;
- Lobbying and political advocacy are a major issue but are not sufficiently developed or visible within ATIBT.

Lastly, the audit made it possible to clarify one's understanding of ATIBT's role and to reformulate its missions. Until now, although the association's areas of intervention were representation, marketing, technical considerations and forests, the missions were reformulated to better communicate what we do. Thus, the areas of intervention have been redefined as follows:

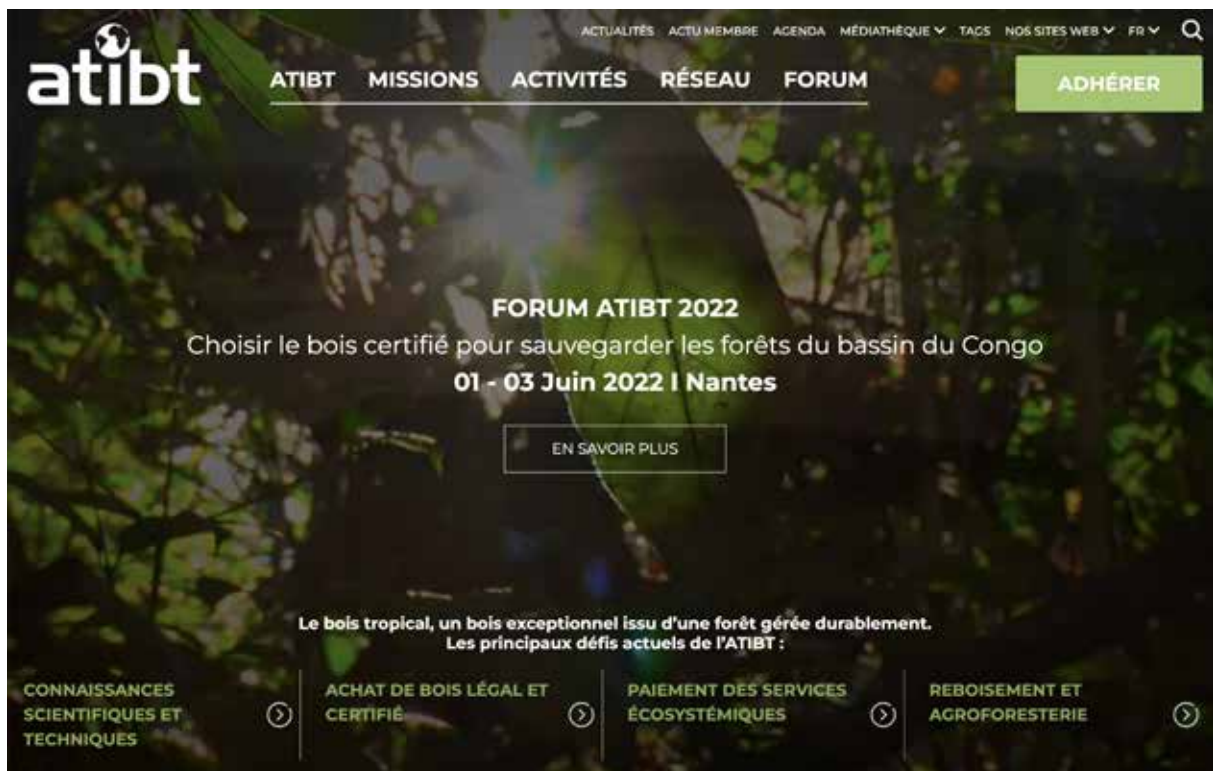


**Further reflection on the conclusions of this audit will continue in 2022.**



# ATIBT'S WEBSITES, SOCIAL NETWORKS AND VISIBILITY

This point is developed in the "information sharing" chapter, in the actions carried out by ATIBT in 2021.



# 2021

## AT A GLANCE

### JANUARY

- **11 January 2021:** One Planet Summit for Biodiversity
- **14 January 2021:** Webinar: "Responsible sourcing to combat deforestation" organised by the Alliance for the Preservation of Forests (14:00 to 15:30)
- **14 January 2021:** ADEFAC, Cameroon, Detailed presentation of the ADEFAC project to the Minister in charge of small and medium-sized companies and handicrafts
- **28 January 2021:** AFD Forest STC (webinar)

### FEBRUARY

- **1 February 2021:** Webinar on PAFC BC's regional system by PEFC
- **2-27 February 2021:** Regional exhibit entitled "The future of forests is in your hands!" by the CIRAD at the French Institute in Yaoundé (Cameroon)
- **17-19 February 2021:** Webinar on due diligence in Spain: "Compliance with the EUTR's requirements" by Preferred by Nature
- **23-25 February 2021:** Webinar on due diligence in Germany: "Compliance with the EUTR's requirements" by Preferred by Nature
- **26 February 2021:** Webinar on due diligence in Belgium: "Compliance with the EUTR's requirements" by Preferred by Nature

### MARCH

- **2-4 March 2021:** Webinar on due diligence in the Netherlands: "Compliance with the EUTR's requirements" by Preferred by Nature
- **3-5 March 2021:** Webinar on due diligence in France: "Compliance with the EUTR's requirements" by Preferred by Nature
- **11 March 2021:** ADEFAC's COPIL meeting
- **12 March 2021:** Launch of the Dynafac collective website
- **26 March - 3 April 2021:** Regional exhibit entitled "The future of forests is in your hands!" by the CIRAD at the French Institute in Douala (Cameroon)

## APRIL

- **7 April 2021:** Webinar entitled "The role of forest certification within the EUTR", Spanish and English session, by ATIBT and Preferred by Nature
- **8 April 2021:** Webinar entitled "The role of forest certification within the EUTR", French session, by ATIBT and Preferred by Nature
- **9 April 2021:** Webinar entitled "The role of forest certification within the EUTR", Dutch session, by ATIBT and Preferred by Nature
- **20 April 2021:** Webinar entitled "The role of forest certification within the EUTR", Spanish session, by ATIBT and Preferred by Nature
- **21 April 2021:** ATIBT Marketing Commission
- **27 April 2021:** ATIBT Timber - Standardisation Commission
- **28-30 April 2021:** 16th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

## MAY

- **5-7 May 2021:** PEFC members meetings
- **26 May 2021:** ATIBT Board of Directors meeting
- **28 May 2021:** ATIBT General Assembly meeting
- **30 May - 4 June 2021:** ADEFAC (ATIBT) project mission in Kinshasa

## JUNE

- **1-30 June 2021:** International Tropical Forest Symposium in Berlin
- **18 June 2021:** First RIFFEAC Board of Directors and General Assembly meetings
- **18 June 2021:** Webinar entitled "Forest certification in the Congo Basin, focus on the PAFC Congo Basin", co-organised by both ATIBT and PEFC
- **21 June 2021:** 8th PPECF Decision and Orientation Committee (DOC) meeting
- **22-24 June 2021:** Forest Legality Week - WRI - online session
- **24 June 2021:** SIM - Webinar entitled "Tropical timber trade trends and FLEGT"
- **23-24 June 2021:** FAO-IUTTRO-ITTO international conference on "Forestry Education" - virtual session
- **28 June 2021:** FSC webinar: "Introduction to the Forest Focus"
- **29-30 June 2021:** Preferred by Nature webinars "Legal timber imports from China" and "Secure your supply chains and empower your clients with Timber Chain"
- **29 June - 1 July 2021:** WoodEx for Africa trade expo
- **29 June - 6 July 2021:** "Made in Cameroon" furniture fair at the Yaoundé Palais des Congrès (Cameroon)

## JULY

- **5 July 2021:** "Zero imported deforestation" symposium
- **5 July 2021: FSC webinar:** "Assessing the impacts of managing and protecting intact forest landscapes: update of Motion 34"
- **7 July 2021:** Kinomé - African and Latin American cocoa context in the framework of the South-South knowledge exchange programme entitled Sustainable Cocoa Initiatives through Agroforestry



- **12-13 July 2021:** Global Forum on Forest Governance, Chatham House (two-day virtual event)
- **14 July 2021:** New European deforestation regulation: what do cocoa-producers in Côte d'Ivoire think?
- **15-17 July 2021:** 10th International Forum on Timber Construction (FBC) at the temporary Grand Palais Éphémère exhibition hall (Paris)
- **16 July 2021:** CBFP (Congo Basin Forest Partnership) Council meeting, conducted by videoconference
- **12 Juillet - 13 Juillet 2021 :** Global Forum on Forest Governance, Chatham House (événement virtuel sur deux jours)
- **14 Juillet 2021 :** Nouveau règlement européen sur la déforestation : que pensent les pays producteurs de cacao en Côte d'Ivoire ?
- **15 Juillet - 17 Juillet 2021 :** 10<sup>ème</sup> Forum International Bois Construction (FBC) au Grand Palais Éphémère (Paris)
- **16 Juillet 2021 :** Réunion du Conseil PFBC par visio-conférence

## AUGUST

- **16-19 August 2021:** Commonwealth Forestry Conference in Vancouver (Canada)
- **23-26 Aug 2021:** 4th World Teak Conference: Global Teak Market: Challenges and opportunities for emerging markets and developing economies, held in Accra (Ghana)
- **23-25 August 2021:** WoodEX for Africa trade expo
- **23 August - 15 September 2021:** ADEFAC: Accompaniment and structuring mission for small and medium-sized artisanal timber companies located in the DRC
- **26 August 2021:** Kinomé: Regional meeting in Africa and Latin America of the South-South knowledge exchange programme entitled Sustainable Cocoa Initiatives through Agroforestry

## SEPTEMBER

- **4 September 2021:** WWF-FR event - IUCN Congress in Marseille: The company that saved the forests - PES (Payment for Environmental Services) workshop
- **6 September 2021:** IUCN - Creation of a business forum for the implementation of sustainable value chains in Africa - Marseille, French Pavilion (at 17:00)
- **8-9 September 2021:** IUCN - Alliance for the Conservation of Rainforests event, at the French Pavilion (at 18:30)
- **9 September 2021:** IUCN - presentation by ATIBT at the Elyx Foundation event - Marseille, IUCN Nature Generations Space
- **10 September 2021:** P3FAC project consortium meeting in Nogent-sur-Marne (France)
- **17 September 2021:** Conference on the protection of African tropical forests in Berlin
- **17 September 2021:** ATIBT Marketing Commissions
- **29 September 2021:** ATIBT meeting at the Gabonese Embassy in Paris on the promotion of tropical timber
- **29 September 2021:** Themis workshop

## OCTOBER

- **4-8 October 2021:** "Tropical Timber" diplomatic mission in Paris
- **6 October 2021:** Paris City Hall conference for the preservation of Central African forests in Paris.
- **7 October 2021:** LCB's Tropical Timber Commission - Nogent-sur-Marne (France)
- **11 October - 5 November 2021:** ADEFAC: Support and structuring mission for small and medium-sized timber industry companies located in Cameroon
- **11 October 2021:** ATIBT speech at the Open Diplomacy Institute with Audencia, dedicated to the topic of "Managing and regenerating" within the "Nature, muse of the economy?" theme
- **11-15 October 2021:** COP 15 Biodiversity meeting in Kunming, (China) - held online
- **18 October 2021:** Meeting between ATIBT and the Malaysian Timber Council in order to establish joint communication to promote certified tropical timber in Europe
- **20-21 October 2021:** ADEFAC: Training in the provisional management of staff, jobs and skills (GPEEC - *Gestion prévisionnelle des effectifs, emplois et compétences*) for logging and industrial companies located in both Gabon and Cameroon
- **25-29 October 2021:** FSC's General Assembly, held virtually
- **25-29 October 2021:** ATIBT/CEMAC meeting

## NOVEMBER

- **1 November 2021:** China Global Sustainable Hardwood Conference
- **1-12 November 2021:** 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Glasgow (COP26)
- **8-18 November 2021:** ADEFAC: Training of trainers in DRC
- **8-26 November 2021:** Benoît Jobbé-Duval's mission in Cameroon, Gabon and Congo
- **15-17 November 2021:** ATIBT's 4th Think Tank
- **17 November 2021:** Webinar: How to use the OTP for due diligence? Organised by WRI, in partnership with ATIBT
- **17 November 2021:** PEFC General Assembly, held virtually
- **18 November 2021:** STTC (Sustainable Tropical Timber Coalition) conference in Utrecht.
- **22 November - 2 December 2021:** ADEFAC: Training of trainers in Cameroon
- **23 November - 3 December 2021:** ITTO market discussion, held virtually
- **24-25 November 2021:** First Forum for sustainable value chains in Africa, held in Nice

## DECEMBER

- **9 December:** The PAFC Congo Basin scheme has been acknowledged by the PEFC Council.
- **10 December 2021:** ATIBT's Board of Directors meeting
- **6-12 December 2021:** ADEFAC: Training in the provisional management of staff, jobs and skills (GPEEC) for logging and industrial companies located in both Congo and DRC



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# ATIBT'S SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL AND COMMISSIONS, THE TECHNICAL BODIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

# THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

Established in 2017, the Scientific Council is chaired by Professor Jean-Louis Doucet. It brings together scientific partners specialised in issues related to the sustainable management of tropical forests.

The Council can be consulted by ATIBT or it can call upon the Association to provide an opinion on a scientific problem in a well-defined subject deemed a priority

by ATIBT. The composition of the Council ensures both a neutral and independent diagnosis.

In 2021, the Scientific Council was asked to provide its opinion on the summary note entitled "to the attention of decision-makers" produced at the conclusion of the DynAfFor and P3FAC projects.

# THE COMMISSIONS

## MARKETING COMMISSION



We need to mention the two Marketing Commissions that were held, on 21 April and 21 September 2021. As a reminder, the marketing commission is closely linked to the running of ATIBT's Fair&Precious marketing programme. Although the prolonged length of the pandemic caused certain organisational obstacles during 2021, the Fair&Precious programme continued to develop and the related indicators are improving. This committee consisted of approximately 20 member companies or organisations that were active as of the end of 2021. A specific report on the marketing programme has been produced. It is available to ATIBT members on request



## CERTIFICATION COMMISSION

Following Sophie Dirou's (WCS) new role, the chairmanship of the certification commission is now held by Nicolas Perthuisot, and its secretariat is ensured by Caroline Duhesme. The commission now includes 25 members, and it met twice in plenary sessions that were held on 10 March and 24 June 2021. The commission is also quite active via two thematic sub-groups linked to current events: IFLs and imported deforestation.

The IFL sub-group met around 15 times in 2021 and engages in regular discussions. It mainly brings together the forest managers of certified forestry members and other members of the certification commission. Its aim is to prepare for the FSC General Assembly and to find a solution in terms of Motion 65 on intact forest landscapes (IFL). This action is funded by the PPECF, and will intensify in 2022 in view of the FSC's General Assembly in October - see the chapter on "Actions in favour of certification" further below.

The imported deforestation sub-group was formed in 2021 to monitor initiatives such as the SNDI in France and the publication in November 2021 of a draft EU regulation to combat imported deforestation, and to define a shared position and propose advocacy actions - see the chapter on "Advocacy actions" further below.

The certification commission's secretariat also monitors data on legality certification and sustainable forest management in the Congo Basin (current and future certificates), in order to have reliable and current data at all times.

Other issues continue to be monitored by the committee, such as the development of the PAFC Congo Basin, as well as opportunities for payments for environmental and social services.

**This commission consisted of approximately 16 member companies or organisations that were active as of the end of 2021.**



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## TRAINING COMMISSION

Atelier de menuiserie -  
Faco construction - Libreville - WALE



Due to its role as a technical reference for the entire "tropical timber" sector, and as it is aware of developments in the sector, ATIBT is a strategic player in terms of raising awareness, training and informing the various stakeholders of the forestry sector. ATIBT has therefore made training a key component of its strategy, which contributes to the sector's profitability, its flexibility and the development of skills.

Training is now and more than ever necessary to accompany the implementation of today's major priorities in the Congo Basin in terms of the sector's industrialisation and the development of local added value. ATIBT has therefore adopted a training strategy - backed by the Association's Training Commission, chaired by Mr. Patrick Charpentier - which focuses on two strategic priorities:

- Training develops professionalism and maintains a high level of employability,
- Training anticipates changes in skills requirements.

The Training Commission is thus the network within ATIBT that facilitates discussions regarding training issues, particularly in terms of supply and demand. In 2021, the Commission's work relaunched. Two meetings were held, in May and December, attended by representatives of all ATIBT stakeholders: train-

ing institutions, companies, professional organisations, equipment suppliers, independent experts, etc.

During these meetings, the members of the Training Commission discussed various issues, challenges and strategies. The end of 2021 saw the emergence of lines of thought and necessary future work in 4 major areas that all revolve around the need to accompany the CEMAC countries' decisions regarding the halt on log exports, particularly in terms of skills development and enhancement. These 4 areas are as follows:

- Improving the visibility and attractiveness of the sector's professions, with an emphasis on processing professions, and identifying the right communication channels and tools.
- Better identifying companies and professionals' needs in order to develop appropriate training courses.
- Promoting the training offer of ATIBT members.
- Addressing the sector's technical and recurrent needs, in particular by (re) launching ATIBT's flagship training courses.

ATIBT's Training Commission meetings are also regular opportunities to present the progress of the ADEFAC project to ATIBT's members. To find out more about this project, you can consult the "Vocational training" chapter of this activity report. 2022 will be the year in which the activities of the Training Commission will be structured, with the formation of small thematic groups or sub-commissions to pursue thinking and to propose more concrete actions.

This commission consisted of approximately 10 member companies or organisations that were active as of the end of 2021.

## TIMBER & STANDARDISATION COMMISSION



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We would like to highlight the organisation of two Materials and Standardisation Commission meetings (April 2021, January 2022) by videoconference. More information on its work is presented in the "Knowledge of tropical timber" chapter.

In terms of tropical timber nomenclature, ATIBT is internationally recognised as the

guarantor of tropical timber nomenclature, notably by the World Customs Organisation and the FAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation).

**This commission consisted of approximately 12 member companies or organisations that were active as of the end of 2021.**

## FOREST & INDUSTRY COMMISSION

The Forest-Industry Commission is chaired by Nicolas Bayol (FRMi) and its secretariat is overseen by Jacqueline Lardit (ATIBT). In 2021, it had 12 members representing large forestry and industrial companies (4), research firms working in the field of forest management and the timber industry (3) and professional associations that are members of ATIBT (5).

The forest-industry commission strengthens the ties between Central and West African companies and the ATIBT team via the following objectives:

- Strengthening the unity of the various players in the producer countries, in order to ponder how they can actively contribute to international debates on the tropical forest-timber sector, by responding in a joint and pragmatic manner to the requirements advocated on the international scene in terms of the sustainable management of the forests and market developments;

- Increasing communication regarding the measures implemented at the producer country level, which will contribute to improved visibility of the sector.

The Commission also issues opinions when it is called on to do so by ATIBT or its members.

Most of the exchanges take place via an email discussion thread, but the commission also met twice by videoconference. Due to the pandemic, the lack of face-to-face conferences and forums - and therefore of participants which whom to discuss the issues chosen for 2021 - has slowed down the preparatory work for these discussions within the commission.

**The following are the topics:**

- Diversification of the species that are harvested, and
- The activities that are necessary for the development of management plans for a 2<sup>nd</sup> rotation.



These topics, which are important for the development of the companies' industrial plans, have been postponed until 2022.

**The commission worked on the following subjects:**

- CEMAC's announced ban on log exports starting in 2022;
- a review of the DYNAFOR project's final report, and in particular its recommendations for the development of concessions;
- ATIBT's reaction to Plinio Sist's "Cut less, let it rest more" article;
- CBFP's statement, which was presented at the COP meeting in Glasgow.

In 2022, given the national and international forums that will be organised, and given the various measures that are being taken by the region's governments to stimulate the development of the industrial sector (Gabon: log export ban and installation of SEZs through a public-private partnership; Congo: log production sharing scheme and installation of SEZs; Cameroon: exemption from customs duties for the import of secondary and tertiary processing equipment and installation of SEZs), the forest-industry commission will highlight the themes pertaining to the diversification of harvested species and the renewal of management plans.



Arboretum Raponda Walker, - Ecowood -Cap Estérias – WALE

## AGROFORESTRY AND PLANTATION COMMISSION



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The recent agroforestry and plantation commission held its first meeting on 1 June 2021. The actions prioritised by the members include the following:

- Setting up a monitoring and communication system in order to share any technical information, publication or meetings that may be of interest to members. This also includes articles for the newsletter.
- The "cocoa and lumber" association, which has attracted quite a bit of interest; the committee will soon be interested in other areas, such as associations based on rubber or coffee.
- The promotion of agroforestry products through labels, certifications or simply voluntary approaches.

Three other meetings were held to confirm organisational arrangements and to provide technical information and gather feedback from members. The commission is chaired by Eric Penot of the CIRAD, assisted by Yohann Fare (Kinomé) who acts as secretary. This commission consisted of 18 member companies or organisations that were active as of the end of 2021.

## A NEW ATIBT COMMISSION, THE CARBON AND BIODIVERSITY COMMISSION



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### **A new ATIBT commission, the carbon and biodiversity commission**

With the approval of the Board of Directors, a new commission was created for ATIBT: the carbon commission. Its objective is to act as a link between logging companies and carbon market players, and to both inform and understand the opportunities linked to payments for ecosystem services (mainly carbon).

This commission will be launched in early 2022 and will complement ATIBT's five other commissions on a subject that - due to its complexity - requires a specific work group.

The participants will have highly varied profiles: producers, donors, professional associations, certification bodies and various experts, which clearly illustrates the complex nature of this issue.

Several key challenges have led to this decision, often converging towards the lack of access logging companies have to information, to carbon funding and to dialogue with carbon market players. While loggers would like to see sustainable management of tropical forests rewarded

at its fair value, it's clear that the potential for carbon storage through SFM (sustainable forest management) isn't enough to be profitable in today's carbon markets. A general objective is being considered: acting as an intermediary between logging companies and carbon market players.

### **More detailed objectives will be worked on during 2022:**

- 1. Monitoring and understanding key carbon issues; sharing this information**
- 2. Helping ATIBT members take ownership of these issues**
- 3. Helping ATIBT members take advantage of carbon mechanisms: funding, technical considerations, commercial aspects**
- 4. Thinking about the link between climate policies at the national level (NDC, national carbon markets) and the ambitions of logging companies**
- 5. Contributing to thinking that can be carried out within the other commissions (certification, marketing, forest-industry)**
- 6. Identifying and monitoring initiatives and processes that may be complementary or relevant to forest carbon**



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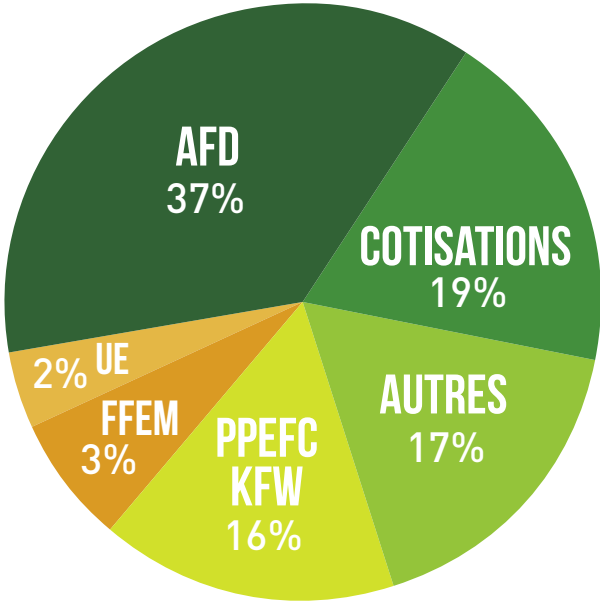
# KEY FIGURES REGARDING ATIBT AND THE SECTOR

# ORIGIN OF ATIBT'S RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR 2021

ATIBT's budget for 2021 was 1.064 M€ after being over approximately 1.709 M€ in 2020. This reduction is explained by the fact that 2021 will have been a year of renewal for the project portfolio (following the completion of various projects at the end of 2020).

The share of membership fees in the overall budget shows an increase that needs to be weighted. As it's a proportion, it is directly tied to the overall budget's level.

The share of the various donors is displayed in the below diagram.



**The new projects initiated in 2021 allow for a budget of around 1.723 M€ for 2022.**



*Rencontres des parties prenantes de projets avec les bailleurs, en 2018 et 2019*

# ATIBT'S FINANCIAL SITUATION AT THE END OF 2021

Operating income consists of two components: membership fees, which remained stable in 2021, and grants received for projects and spent in 2021.

The sharp decrease in grants in 2021 is directly linked to the renewal of the project portfolio in 2021, which will have been a pivotal year from this point of view.

Purchases and external charges remain stable.

We note a decrease in salaries and national insurance contributions due to staff changes in 2021.

Extraordinary income and expenses reflect the settlement of old outstanding accounts, most of which date from before 2018.

**A summary of the financial situation is presented below:**

Resources in K€	2021	2020	Variation	Variation %
Membership fees and partnerships	199	203	(4)	-2%
Grants	865	1 481	(616)	-42%
Miscellaneous and exceptional	13	25	(12)	-48%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 077</b>	<b>1 709</b>	<b>(632)</b>	

Use of funds in K€	2021	2020	Variation	Variation %
Project implementation and consultancy	665	989	(324)	-33%
Missions for the implementation of projects	50	60	(10)	-17%
Salary resources	253	456		
Operating expenses/miscellaneous	127	201	(74)	-37%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 095</b>	<b>1 707</b>	<b>(409)</b>	

<b>Net result</b>	<b>(18)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>(20)</b>	
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The negative result of -17,877 € is mainly explained by non-recurring expenses that occurred in 2021 including an organizational audit and a time lag in the recognition of the cost and the product on two projects.

# A FEW FIGURES ON THE SECTOR WITHIN THE CONGO BASIN

**ATIBT summary table about the main data of the forest-wood sector in the Congo Basin**

Update with the contribution of OFAC and COMIFAC

Points of comparison	Cameroon	Gabon	Congo	DRC	CAR
<b>Forest and exploitation</b>					
<b>Surface of dense rainforest</b>	20,3 millions ha <sup>1</sup> 22 millions ha (OFAC 2019)	23,5 millions ha <sup>1</sup> 23,6 millions ha (OFAC 2020)	21,9 millions ha <sup>1</sup> 24 millions ha (OFAC 2020)	126,1 millions ha <sup>1</sup> 150 millions ha (OFAC 2018)	22,3 millions ha <sup>1</sup> 26,9 millions ha (OFAC 2019)
<b>Area allocated to industrial exploitation, excluding communal forests</b>	6,7 millions ha <sup>2</sup> 7,5 millions ha (OFAC 2020)	16,0 millions ha <sup>2</sup> 10 millions ha (OFAC 2020)	14,8 millions ha (OFAC 2020)	15,4 millions ha <sup>2</sup> 11,4 millions ha (OFAC 2018)	3,7 millions ha (OFAC 2020)
<b>Total certified areas<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>3,596 millions ha</b>	<b>2,728 millions ha</b>	<b>4,952 millions ha</b>	<b>0,750 million ha</b>	<b>0 ha</b>
SFM (FSC, PEFC/PAFC) <sup>4</sup>	0,341 million ha	2,061 millions ha	2,989 millions ha	0 ha	0 ha
Legality (OLB, LS, TLV+FSC CW) <sup>4</sup>	Une soixantaine	Une quarantaine	Une trentaine	Une dizaine	Une dizaine
<b>Formal log production (m<sup>3</sup>)<sup>5</sup></b>	2,5 millions (2018)	3,1 millions (2020) 2,9 millions (OFAC, 2020)	1,7 millions (2020)	0,3 million (2020)	0,6 million (2020)
Including FSC (m <sup>3</sup> )	176 000 (7%)	707 000 (23%)	517 000 (30%)	0	0
Share of the first 4 producers on the log production <sup>6</sup>	29% (part d'exportation 2018)	40% (2018)	58% (2018)	82% (2019)	70% (2019)
<b>Estimated informal artisanal production (in rwe)<sup>7</sup></b>	2,4 millions	0,3 Million	0,3 Million	3,4 Million	0,1 Million
<b>Main species used by the industry</b>	Tali, Okan, Béli, Azobé, Naga, Dabéma, Bilinga, Nieuuk, Ayous,	Okoumé (Env. 60%), Azobé, Béli, Okan, Padouk,	Sapelli, Okoumé, Okan, Tali, Kosipo, Padouk, Wenge, Iroko	Wenge, Afrormosia, Tali, Sapelli, Acajou	Sapelli, Mukulungu, Ayous, Iroko, Doussié, Tali
Share of the first 3 species on the production <sup>10</sup>	19% (2018)	72% (2020)	57% (2018)	36% (2018)	68% (2019)
<b>Artisanally used species<sup>7</sup></b>	Ayous, Movingui, Iroko, Sapelli, Bilinga, Moabi	Okoumé, Bilinga, Izombé	Okoumé, Limba (Sud) Sapelli, Sipo (Nord)	Afrormosia, Wenge, Sapelli	

1. FAO, Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020.

2. Cameroon: WRI 2020; Gabon: MEFMEPCPAT 2020; DRC: BD FRMi

3. Areas with double certification (e.g., legality+ and sustainable management) are counted once

4. Areas with double certification (FSC FM and PAFC/PEFC or TLV and FSC CW) are counted once

5. Congo: MEF 2018; Cameroon: MINFOP 2018; Gabon: MEFMEPCPAT 2020; DRC: MEFDD; CAR: CDF

6. AfDB/FRMi Report Strategic Vision and Industrialization of the Timber Sector in Central Africa, 2018, except Cameroon and CAR: OFAC 2018

7. Various CIFOR reports

10. OFAC data

## ATIBT summary table about the main data of the forest-wood sector in the Congo Basin

Update with the contribution of OFAC and COMIFAC

Points of comparison	Cameroon	Gabon	Congo	DRC	CAR
<b>Log export<sup>8</sup> (m<sup>3</sup>)</b>	588 587 (2020)	0	707 270 (2019)	139 754 (2019)	238 625 (2021)
<b>Log export to China<sup>9</sup> m<sup>3</sup></b>	583 600 333 765 (OFAC 2020)	0	462 200	ND	ND
<b>Contribution of the sector to GDP<sup>10</sup></b>	5,2% (2020)	3,5% (2019)	4,9% (2014)	0,15% (2016)	ND
<b>Wood processing</b>					
<b>Number of industrial processing plants (1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> transformation)<sup>11</sup></b>	182 (2020)	166 (2020)	29 (2018)	5 (2018)	5 (2018)
<b>Export (m<sup>3</sup>)<sup>12</sup></b>	(2020)	(2019)	(2019)	(2020)	(2021)
- sawnwood	737 312	515 215	254 838	18 424	26 514
- plywood	7 864	32 484	ND	0	0
- veneer	67 385	393 660	25 893	312	0
<b>Sawnwood export to China<sup>13</sup> (m<sup>3</sup>)</b>	134 300 115 380 (OFAC, 2020)	524 700	38 600	ND	ND
Artisanal processing (sawnwood) <sup>14</sup>	715 000 m <sup>3</sup> (2010)	50 000 m <sup>3</sup> (2010)	Env. 100 000 m <sup>3</sup> (2011)	Env. 1 million m <sup>3</sup> (2014)	ND
<b>Other information</b>	Existence of an internal wood market that is slow to develop	SEZ of Nkok 40 companies 900,000 m <sup>3</sup> processed/year	Reflection about the creation of a SEZ and the planned implementation of a production sharing mechanism	Resources still largely undervalued	
Public markets	Decree signed on 15/12/2020: obligation to use wood of legal origin in public procurement	ND	Reflection in progress	ND	

8. OFAC except CAR: FDC

9. CTWPDA 2018 data. Note that log exports from Equatorial Guinea to China were 1,114,700 m<sup>3</sup> in 2018.

10. OFAC data

11. OFAC data, for some countries, only for primary processing companies

12. OFAC data - CAR: CDF

13. CTWPDA 2018 data

14. Various CIFOR reports



## ATIBT summary table about the main data of the forest-wood sector in the Congo Basin

Update with the contribution of OFAC and COMIFAC

Points of comparison	Cameroon	Gabon	Congo	DRC	CAR
Socio-economic data					
<b>Number of jobs in the industrial forestry sector</b>	About 15,000 <sup>15</sup> (9,000 in operations and 6,000 in the processing industry)	13,182 jobs in the wood industries <sup>16</sup>	7,500 (4,250 in logging and 3,250 in the processing industry)	4 523 <sup>17</sup>	ND
<b>Number of jobs in artisanal sawmilling</b>	40 000	1000 <sup>18</sup>	2 000	9,000 to 15,000 <sup>18</sup> but probably much more (50,000 jobs according to Lescuyer in 2014)	ND
<b>Indirect jobs</b>	150 000 <sup>16</sup>	Between 2,000 and 5,000 <sup>16</sup>	5 000 <sup>16</sup>	ND	ND
<b>Unions and potential partners<sup>20</sup></b>	GFBC (12 companies), FECAPROBOIS (200 companies and more than 1000 employees), ANCOVA (450 members in Yaoundé)  Intersyndicale encountering implementation difficulties.	UFIGA (15 companies), SIAG (6 companies), UFIAG (11 companies), FGBSP (about 70 companies), UAMEES (25 companies). UFIGA is the permanent secretariat of the Intersyndicale.	UNICONGO (6 companies), UNIBOIS (15 SME, including 6 active), ACM (about 100 companies, including 15 active), AMC (500 companies, including 300 in Pointe Noire), FBET (17 companies)	FIB (5 companies) ACEFA (1,400 companies)  Many SMEs and VSEs are not registered in unions.  Huge role and potential for FIB.	
<b>Commitment to FLEGT</b>	VPA signed in 2010 Slow implementation  Preparatory phase for national deployment of SIGIF II and improvement of the regulatory framework by the Cameroonian side in progress	VPA signed on November 28, 2011  Slow implementation since 2012	VPA signed in 2010  In preparation to implementation  SIVL deployment in progress	VPA not signed  Negotiations slowed down since September 2011	VPA signed on November 28, 2011  Slow implementation since 2012

15. AfDB 2018

16. Tableau de bord de l'Economie 2019, Ministry of Economy and Recovery

17. Source: FIB

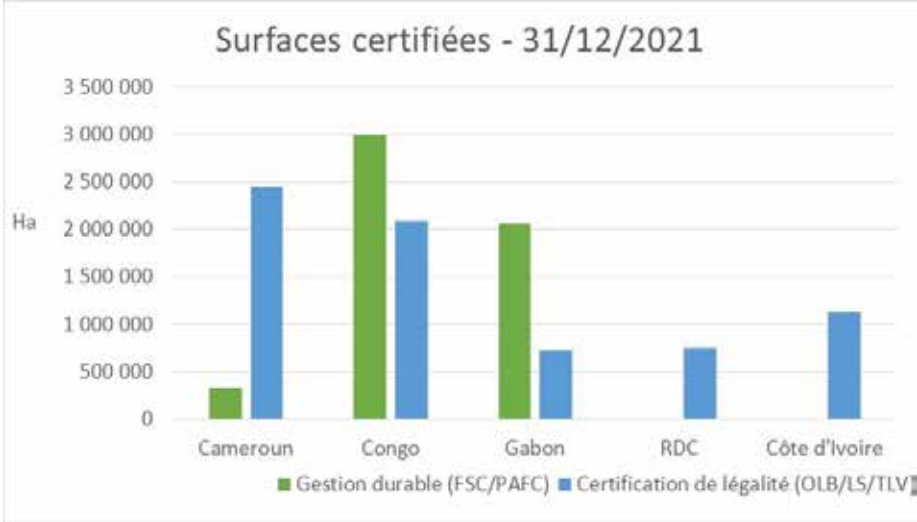
18. CIFOR, 2011

19. Nguinguiri et al, 2006

20. GFBC, UFIGA, UNICONGO and FIB are the 4 major unions of industrial timber exporting companies in the region. Almost all of the certified areas in the Congo Basin are owned by members of these unions.

**SITUATION AND PROSPECTS OF THE FSC AND PEFC/PAFC CERTIFICATIONS**

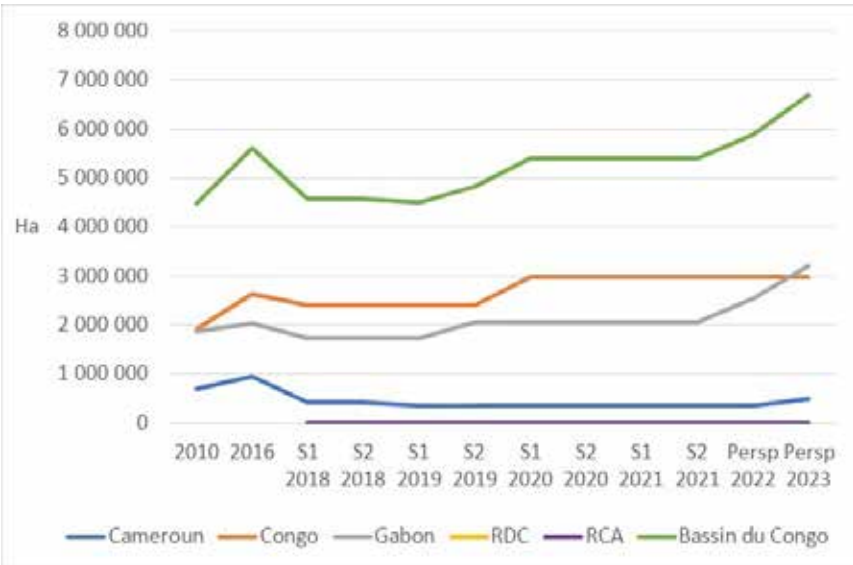
At the end of 2021, the Congo Basin had 5,392,066 ha of FSC and PAFC certified forests (representing 10% of harvestable forests), with one concession of approximately 600,000 ha being doubly certified.



*Figure 1: Status of legally and sustainably certified areas in the Congo Basin as of 31/12/21*

The evolution of surface areas has remained fairly stable, with a rather low evolution over the last decade. However, the outlook is rather encouraging, particularly due to the incentives implemented by some countries (notably in Gabon, which has declared that certification will be mandatory by 2025), thanks also to a certification support programme, ATIBT's Fair&Precious programme and, lastly, the effective launch of the PAFC Congo Basin scheme.

These initiatives were funded by the PPECF – KFW programme (German cooperation).

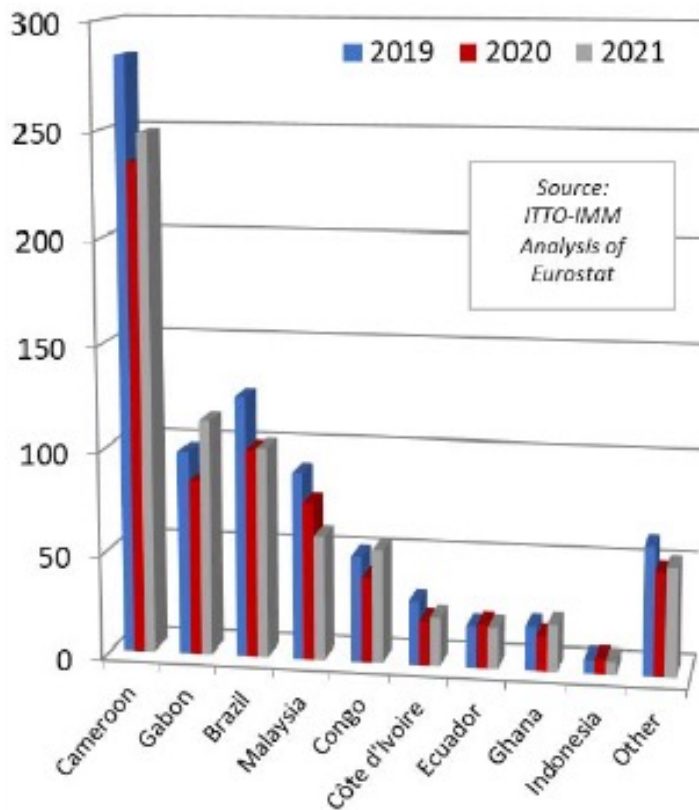


*Figure 2: Evolution of FSC/PEFC sustainable management certification in 2010–2021 and 2022–2023 outlook*  
 Note: These prospects are based on PPECF surveys and information provided by companies, and assume that existing certificates remain valid.

## THE TROPICAL TIMBER MARKET IN EUROPE IN 2021

Companies benefited from strong growth in demand in all markets, which has resulted in improved profit margins, although they were significantly penalised by logistical problems.

### Recovery of European (EU27) imports of sawn tropical timber in 2021



**Chart:** European (EU 27) tropical sawn timber imports from Jan-Oct 2019-2021 in 1000 m<sup>3</sup> (source IT-TO-IMM)

According to the ITTO's Tropical Timber Market Report, in the first 10 months of 2021, the value of EU27 imports of tropical sawn timber amounted to \$602 million (USD), up by 10% compared to 2020 but down by 7% compared to 2019. In terms of quantities, imports of 700,300 m<sup>3</sup> in the first 10 months were 8% higher than in the same period in 2020, but 7% lower than in 2019. Imports of 248,600 m<sup>3</sup> from Cameroon in the first 10 months of 2021 were 6% higher than in the same period in 2020 but still down 13% from 2019. Imports of 101,300 m<sup>3</sup> from Brazil were up 1% compared with 2020 but down 19% from 2019.

While European imports are up compared with 2020, they have not returned to pre-pandemic levels, as supply chains remain severely disrupted. However, it should be noted that sawnwood imports from Gabon and Congo have performed better in the first 10 months of 2021. Imports from Gabon, at 113,300 m<sup>3</sup>, increased by 34% compared with 2020 and by 15% compared with 2019. For Congo, imports were 54,600 m<sup>3</sup> in the 10-month period, up 34% from 2020 and 7% from 2019.



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4

# MAIN ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN IN 2021

# ADVOCACY ACTIONS

## ACTIONS FOR THE CLIMATE: ATIBT'S PARTICIPATION IN THE COP 26 MEETING

In November 2021, Olman Serrano, President of ATIBT, and Françoise Van de Ven, member of the Executive Board, went to Glasgow for the COP 26 meeting. During side-events, they interacted with the Interholco company, and with the CIDT organisation.

In Glasgow, ATIBT took a stand on the EU's draft regulation to combat deforestation and the associated carbon emissions contained in European imports of products posing a risk to the forests.

Given the stakes that are involved in the fight against climate change, the European

Union published on 17 November a draft regulation that aims to ban the import of raw materials that contribute to deforestation. The proposal includes all commodities that could contribute to deforestation, including palm oil, soy, coffee, cocoa, beef and timber.

This proposed regulation is an opportunity for ATIBT to reiterate the experience that the tropical forest and timber sector has gained over several decades in ensuring the legality and sustainability of its activities and of timber products, while avoiding deforestation.

## ACTIONS TO COMBAT ILLEGAL TIMBER AND PRESERVE THE FORESTS: ATIBT'S PARTICIPATION IN THE IUCN MEETINGS, THE BERLIN SYMPOSIUM.



© Oréade Brèche

In September 2021, within the framework of the IUCN, ATIBT was invited to participate in a business forum (co-initiated by both Gabon and France) for the implementation of sustainable value chains in Africa. This Forum was organised by France and Gabon, which have been involved in the Alliance for the Preservation of Tropical Rainforests since the very beginning. The

Charter of the Alliance states that "*rapidly halting the destruction of nature is key to achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be adopted at COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Sustainable Development Goals. Public awareness is growing, and this is reflected in the commitments of companies and the objectives of public policies.*"

In the future operation of the Forum, in addition to delegates from the Alliance member countries, representatives from the private sector, French economic players selected from the GNFT (*Groupe National des Forêts Tropicales* - National Tropical Forest Group), French foreign trade advisors, as well as interested members of the Africa Business Forum of the Choiseul Institute will also participate.

The transformation of the forestry sector, particularly in Central Africa, must take into account environmental, social and economic requirements to ensure of sustainable harvesting and a fair contribution to local development.

The main objective of this meeting was to lay the groundwork for the implementation of the Tropical Rainforest Alliance as

an instrument for the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

More specifically, this meeting allowed for the creation of a business forum for the establishment of sustainable value chains in Africa. The first meeting took place in the autumn, and ATIBT's President participated.



© Elyx

In addition, and in the framework of the Fair&Precious programme, ATIBT has ongoing discussions on the SNDI, in connection with AFD's forest CST, as well as with other initiatives already underway within the EU. This discussion intensified in 2021 due to the ongoing thinking on FLEGT, the EUTR and the EU's fight

against imported deforestation with the publication of the draft EU regulation. We would like to highlight the publication of the zero-deforestation public procurement guide by the MTES in February 2021, which recommends FSC and PEFC certification for the purchase of both timber and timber products.

## INFORMATION ACTIONS ON LEGALITY: TIMBER TRADE PORTAL

The [www.timbertradeportal.com](http://www.timbertradeportal.com) web portal is an answer to the many questions that timber merchants have in terms of legal trade, due diligence, national requirements and exports.

In the "Supporting due diligence" chapter, we will elaborate on what has been done via the updating of this portal in 2021, thanks to a project funded by the ITTO.



## ADVOCACY ACTIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EUROPEAN REGULATION PROJECT ON IMPORTED DEFORESTATION

On 23 July 2019, the European Commission adopted an EU publication entitled "Stepping up EU action to protect and restore the world's forests". As a follow-up to this publication, an open public consultation on "Deforestation and forest degradation - reducing the impact of products sold in the EU market" was launched in late 2020. These initiatives led to a reflection on a **proposal for new EU legislation to ban the import of raw materials that contribute to deforestation or damage forests**, including commodities such as palm oil, soy, coffee, cocoa, beef and lumber.

In 2021, ATIBT's certification commission took up the issue by creating an **"Imported deforestation" working group** to analyse the opportunities and risks of these potential guidelines on the tropical timber sector and to ensure that certification is taken into account within these new regulations (including monitoring the implementation of the French strategy to combat imported deforestation - SNDI (National Strategy against Imported Deforestation)).

In September 2021, the group published an ATIBT position paper on the draft EU regulations, in the context of the COP26 meetings. This position paper **reiterates the experience that the tropical**

**forest-timber sector** has gained over several decades in ensuring of the legality and sustainability of its activities and timber products while excluding deforestation. Legal and sustainable logging provides additional economic value to the forest, while preserving the goods and services it produces, and limiting conversions to other land uses.

In November 2021, an ATIBT letter was sent to the various departments of the European Commission in charge of the elaboration of the draft EU regulation against deforestation prior to its publication in order to comment on the planned provisions and to share the 30 years of experience that the tropical foresttimber sector has obtained in terms of forest certification and the FLEGT process. Some provisions that ATIBT considered to be of concern were removed from the version that was eventually published.

On 17 November 2021, the **European Commission published its draft regulation** to combat imported deforestation (its implementation schedule is presented below), which ATIBT immediately analysed and commented on by publishing a news item in the form of a FAQ to highlight the issues and concerns related to the planned provisions.



Through its interventions, ATIBT has largely highlighted the benefits of forest certification in terms of meeting the challenges of traceability and sustainability of forest management, and **it pleads for the unequivocal recognition of this process as a reliable tool for analysis and risk reduction** in the future EU regulation.

ATIBT's certification committee will continue to express its position and make

proposals for amendments to the text to ensure that the objective of the future regulation is met: **"reducing the consumption of products from supply chains that are linked to deforestation or damage to the forests, and increasing the demand for and trade in legal and "deforestation-free" products in the EU**, while reiterating its overall support for the Commission's proposal and its objectives.

## ACTIONS THAT AIM TO IMPROVE BOTH THE IMAGE AND THE MARKETS FOR CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLY MANAGED TROPICAL TIMBER



© Stratémak

The highly sensitive topic of the exclusion of tropical timber from the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris has challenged the stakeholders of the "sustainable managed" certified timber sector throughout 2021. Within the framework of the Fair&Precious programme, the logging companies have been able to rally together and make their arguments known to the SOLIDEO, which should agree to take them into account by revising its specifications.

This specific market doesn't offer considerable opportunities in itself, but it is highly symbolic and will enable the sector to position itself more favourably in the technical clauses of public contracts. In order to significantly improve our sector's chances, a diplomatic mission was undertaken in Paris from 4 to 8 Octo-

ber 2021, accompanied by the forestry ministers of both Cameroon and Congo and COMIFAC's Executive Secretary. The mission visited Paris' Town Hall, on the occasion of the conference on the preservation of Central African forests, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

We believe that these lobbying efforts for the lifting of tropical timber's exclusion from the structures built for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, and the solicitation of institutions from the Congo Basin will have had an impact.

Discussions are still currently underway, with an acknowledged shift in SOLIDEO's position and the prospect of reinstating timber certified as being from sustainably managed forests in their specifications.





# FAIR & PRECIOUS

BY atibt



In parallel, much work was done with the media, with the support of the Open2Europe press agency. We observed a strong increase in media coverage - 112 stories, 21 interviews, 62 million people reached - which demonstrates the benefit of opinion leaders in the model of sustainable forest management, the fight against illegal timber and the threat of deforestation. Exchanges with journalists suggest a less caricatured treatment of the subject than in the past; this makes it easier to raise public awareness of the obvious fact that buying certified tropical timber means contributing to the preservation of the rainforest and of all those who live in it or who live off of it.

Generally speaking, under the guidance of the marketing commission and with active monitoring by the PPECF's coordinator, ATIBT's project team, the assistant to the project manager, and the service providers specialised in press relations, social networks, the internet, graphic design, etc., have been able to find their footing in order to considerably develop their actions and, consequently, the visibility of the Fair&Precious programme.

The positioning in favour of the development of sustainably managed areas in the Congo Basin and the promotion of FSC and PEFC-PAFC certified products on the European markets is increasingly acknowledged by all those involved. Everyone can now understand the real threats to tropical forests: illegal logging,

demographic pressure and conversions to either farmlands or plantations.

However, the battle is far from won, because although attacks are becoming increasingly rare, the rallying of public and private buyers through responsible procurement is still insufficient. Even though the sector has largely benefited from a historic recovery in demand in 2021 and the virtues of timber are becoming increasingly apparent, it is vital to remain vigilant, in order to convince people of the remarkable specificities of tropical timber and the need to develop this forest resource in order to preserve it.

Furthermore, the subject of monetising best practices, whether through payments for environmental services or carbon credits, doesn't offer sufficiently concrete prospects in the short or medium term for the majority of players to switch to a sustainable management model.

Faced with these challenges, it is important that we maintain the marketing programme's course of action.

**Fair&Precious is now and more than ever the collective of this virtuous model, and it must continue its efforts to persuade all of its targets.**

**The certified operators that are F&P members are the following : Pallisco, CEB-Precious Woods, Rougier Gabon, IFO-Interhloco and CIB OLAM**

## THE FAIR&PRECIOUS BRAND AT THE CORE OF OUR COMMUNICATION ON SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

**The key points of the actions carried out in 2021 within the framework of the brand were as follows:**

- F&P Ambassadors: Edwige Eyang Effa, a research associate at the IRET (*Institut de Recherche en Écologie Tropicale* - Tropical Ecology Research Institute) in Gabon and Norbert Gami from the Re-public of Congo, who holds a doctorate in food anthropology, were chosen;
- Press relations: Press relations generated 112 stories in the media in 2021, compared to 80 in 2020, an average of 9 per month. All of these mediums represent 62 million people who were reached (7 million in 2020 and 2 million in 2019). The "ad purchase" equivalent was €191,934 in 2021 (€56,254 in 2020);
- Continued operational partnerships with FSC and PEFC-PAFC (co-funding increases in 2022 with an amount of €25,000);
- Planned production of 4 Fair&Precious films by Imagéo: "Sustainability of the operation", "Riverside communities", "Ecosystem services" and "Sector-based approach - Consumption in Europe". Production of photo reports (hypothesis of 1,000 shots) during filming;
- Technical documentation: continued production of technical sheets and species sheets. A range of 60 species of tropical timber is now presented on the Fair&Precious website;
- F&P partners: the pursued commitment of ATIBT members as official partners.

### THE 10 FAIR&PRECIOUS COMMITMENTS

**As a reminder, the Fair&Precious brand's 10 commitments are as follows:**

1. Managing and protecting forests to combat global warming
2. Preserving forest resources by harvesting less than natural growth
3. Developing knowledge on biodiversity in order to facilitate the replenishment of species
4. Maintaining the living space of wildlife
5. Implementing anti-poaching programmes
6. Contributing to the well-being of populations by facilitating their access to education, health care and housing
7. Stimulating the economies of producer countries by enhancing the value of the forest and promoting the local processing of timber
8. Establishing training courses for forestry and timber professions
9. Providing technical knowledge on the diversity of tropical species and their uses
10. Promoting responsible purchasing of an exceptional material

The 10 Fair&Precious commitments were drafted in 2017 by ATIBT's marketing commission, with the support of the programme's marketing and communication council. In 2020, ATIBT asked its partner Probos to validate the relevance of these 10 commitments via scientific literature. **In 2021, additional work was carried out by Simon Lhoest of the University of Liège Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech to demonstrate, through over 200 publications, the benefits of sustainable forest management.**

# FAIR & PRECIOUS' 10 COMMITMENTS



01

MANAGING AND PROTECTING FORESTS TO COMBAT GLOBAL WARMING



02

PRESERVING FOREST RESOURCES BY HARVESTING LESS THAN IS NATURALLY GROWN



03

DEVELOPING KNOWLEDGE ON BIODIVERSITY TO FACILITATE THE RENEWAL OF THE SPECIES



04

ENSURING THE PRESERVATION OF THE LIVING SPACE OF WILDLIFE



05

IMPLEMENTING PROGRAMMES THAT COMBAT POACHING



06

CONTRIBUTING TO THE WELL-BEING OF POPULATIONS BY FACILITATING ACCESS TO EDUCATION, MEDICAL CARE AND HOUSING



07

STIMULATING THE ECONOMIES OF PRODUCER COUNTRIES BY ENHANCING THE VALUE OF THE FOREST AND FAVOURING THE LOCAL PROCESSING OF TIMBER



08

SETTING UP TRAINING COURSES FOR THE FOREST AND TIMBER TRADES



09

PROVIDING TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE ON THE DIVERSITY OF TROPICAL TIMBER SPECIES AND THEIR USES



10

PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE PURCHASES OF THIS EXCEPTIONAL MATERIAL



## SUPPORT FOR FOREST CERTIFICATION

In addition to its actions for both the visibility and promotion of certified timber on the markets, outlined in the above advocacy actions, ATIBT's support to forest certification is also present via other concrete actions carried out in consultation with companies, with the FSC and PEFC certification schemes, as well as with other partner organisations, particularly PreferredByNature.

### SUPPORTING THE CERTIFICATION SCHEMES – THE CONGO BASIN PAFC



The project to develop a regional certification scheme adapted to the Congo Basin context reached a new milestone at the end of the year: on 9 December 2021, the PAFC Congo Basin scheme was acknowledged by the [PEFC Council](#).

Three years have passed since the launch of the project, which was funded by the PPECF, IDH and PEFC International. The work carried out by the project team now paves the way for the implementation of a new certification system for sustainable forest management and for chain of custody in the Congo Basin countries. But the project doesn't end there: the idea is now to

work on the implementation of the Congo Basin PAFC, in particular by accompanying companies in their certification process.

During the first half of 2022, auditor training sessions will be scheduled, as well as training for companies and an open day to reach the broadest possible audience. In addition, national interpretation guides and a carbon stocks and greenhouse gas emissions guide will be produced in the coming months to help companies better understand the requirements of the new scheme and how it works.

"We would like to thank ATIBT for enabling us to set up a regional forest certification system. Thanks also to the PEFC alliance for the recognition of this regional system, which will allow for greater visibility of PEFC in Africa", said Rose Ondo, president of PAFC Gabon.

**"PAFC Cameroon would like to thank Germain Yéné (project coordinator) for his work. Thanks to the excellent management of the project, all of the various stakeholders are satisfied with the results. We would also like to thank all the stakeholders who participated in the working group that created our regional system"**, said Reine Edwige Anjembe.

## PREPARATORY WORK AHEAD OF FSC'S 2022 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FSC's General Assembly was originally scheduled to take place in 2020 in Bali. It was postponed due to the Covid19 pandemic, and a virtual General Assembly was held in October 2021 as the "first part". However, some complex issues could only be resolved through a face-to-face General Assembly, and so a new session will be held in October 2022 in Bali.

The preparatory work for FSC's General Assembly is carried out as part of ATIBT certification commission, as well as within a special sub-group created to address the IFL issue, which resulted from Motion 65, which was passed during the FSC General Assembly in Seville in 2014.

For the record, ATIBT participated in the 2017 general assembly in Vancouver, where Motion 34 was voted. This motion allowed for an impact study of Motion 65 to be conducted, and stipulated the creation of preservation areas in FSC-certified concessions where IFLs (Intact Forest Landscapes) exist.

The conclusions of this study, conducted by Form International, proposed a recommended preservation level of 20% in the implementation of Motion 65 (passed in Seville). However, this study was unfortunately insufficient to enable a decision to be taken by the FSC, and to resolve the complex issue of Intact Forest Landscapes. A new debate will be necessary in preparation for the Bali general assembly.

In order to foster dialogue between the various FSC chambers, and to propose a solution that can satisfy all parties, FSC launched the Focus Forest project, in which ATIBT is strongly involved thanks to a project funded by the PPECF that enables the secretary of the certification commission to get involved in this project and to work on the motions proposed by ATIBT to find a solution to motion 65.



## SUPPORTING CERTIFICATION THROUGH TAX INCENTIVES

In the context of the current health and economic crisis, African states need – now and more than ever - to mobilise their potential tax revenues, but without increasing the tax burden on legitimate companies that are in compliance with their various legal obligations. Innovative solutions can be considered to provide incentives for economic players to comply with legal, social and environmental obligations and certified sustainable forest management.

“Bonus-penalty” mechanisms consist of gradually increasing the tax rate for

companies that don't comply with legal and sustainability requirements. This makes it possible to symmetrically lower the taxes of “virtuous” companies, without affecting the state's budget.

These solutions have proven successful in several environmental policies. Development partners could, if necessary, contribute to the funding of such a mechanism so that the state budget is a net beneficiary. ATIBT supports this type of mechanism.

## CERTIFICATION AND DUE DILIGENCE: TRAINING WEBINARS

ATIBT and [Preferred by Nature](#) co-organised a free training course in the form of webinars on the European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR), and more specifically on the role and benefit of forest certification (legal or sustainable) within a due diligence system. This training was organised with the support of the European timber importer federations [TTF](#) in the UK, [LCB](#) in France, [Fedustria](#) in Belgium, [VVNH](#) in the Netherlands, [Fedecomlegno](#) in Italy, [AEIM](#) in Spain), and technical partners ([Probos](#), [Obbois](#) and [Conlegno](#)).

This training followed a first series of training sessions offered by Preferred by Nature and its partners on the application of the EUTR in general (videos and presentations available [en ligne](#) online in 6 languages), in the framework of their [LIFE Legal Wood](#) project.

The training courses were aimed at importing companies that market timber on the European market, members of the Member States' competent authorities (in charge of inspections), as well as companies exporting timber to the EU. More broadly, they were aimed at all players involved in the timber legality chain. The overall goal was to reinforce the ability of players and key stakeholders to comply with the EUTR.

This additional training on certification communicated **the use of forest certification as an effective tool within a due diligence system** to analyse and reduce the risks of illegality. Participants learned about how a forest certification system works, how an audit is conducted, how to

ensure that a timber product is certified, the EUTR requirements for forest certification and how to use it as part of a due diligence system.

**ATIBT was able to share its observations of forest certification in Central and West Africa.** The webinar concluded with a fictitious case study highlighting the benefits of third-party certification in limiting the risks of illegal timber in a company's supply chains and in facilitating the exercise of due diligence.

This training was funded by the FFEM and was carried out within the framework of ATIBT's [FLEGT-REDD projet](#). One of the areas this project focuses on is the key players involved in the implementation of the EUTR, so that they become aware of the importance of standardising national implementation approaches and of supporting sustainable forest management and its independent certification.

The first sessions (English, French and Spanish) took place in early April, and the last two sessions were held on 20 April (Dutch) and 27 April in (Italian).

In total, nearly 400 people participated in the five webinar sessions and were able to participate in the question and answer sessions at the end of the presentations. ATIBT and Preferred by Nature are available for any questions related to these topics.

In the meantime, you can view the presentations and replays of the sessions on [ATIBT's website](#).

# MONITORING OF THE CERTIFIED TROPICAL TIMBER MARKET



**The Themis portal** (data gathered on timber purchases in Europe)

The Themis project is led by the Dutch [PROBOS](#) institute and funded by the [PPECF](#) ([Programme de Promotion de l'Exploitation Certifiée des Forêts - Programme for the Promotion of Certified Logging](#)) and the ["IDH - The Sustainable Trade Initiative"](#) foundation.

It consists of the development of a tool to gather data on the timber purchases of European federations' member companies. This new tool takes the form of an online portal, which was launched in 2021 and where companies are now invited to submit their data once a year. Each company will eventually be given a score to measure its commitment to certified procurement. Three European "pilot" federations participated in the 2001 project launch: Fedustria (Belgium), Le Commerce du Bois (France), and ATIBT.

The year 2021 was key for the Themis project. In March, as the portal's prototype was nearly complete, members of ATIBT, LCB and Fedustria were able to test the prototype and suggest improvements before it went live. On 8 April 2021, the Themis portal was officially launched in English and French, and ATIBT's importing members were invited to submit data on their 2022 timber purchases (both imports and timber purchased on the domestic market). This initial gathering of Timber Market Survey (TMS) data was completed in mid-July, allowing Probos the end of the summer to analyse the results.

In September, two workshops were organised by ATIBT and LCB with their members to present the results of the first data collection, to discuss together the methodology of the score calculation, and to identify potential items that would improve the portal. As the participation rate for 2021 was too low to obtain representative results (only eight companies responded to the survey), the results were not made public. Over time, the main objective of the implementation of the Themis portal will therefore be to increase companies' participation rates, which should improve as companies become more confident in the portal following several communication actions by ATIBT to its members (webinars, newsletter articles and regular follow-up of members affected by the project).



**Dryades**, the life cycle analysis of certified tropical timber

The Dryades project is piloted by ATIBT, financed by the [Programme de Promotion de l'Exploitation Certifiée des Forêts \(PPECF\)](#) with also co-financing from the private sector (ATIBT, LCB, CEB-Precious Woods, IFO-Interholco, Pallisco, CIB-Olam). The objective of the project is to promote certified tropical woods in the construction sector by providing [Life Cycle Inventories \(LCI\)](#) of pre-products and Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) and Products Environmental Data Sheets (FDES).

**Wood pre-products from the Congo Basin concerned by the LCIs:** These are logs, unseasoned sawn timber with sub-families according to the sections, dried timber, hydraulic timber and sleepers, profiles (deck boards, joists, paneling, mouldings), glued laminated squares, veneers, plywood.

**Sustainability of timber value chains** and regional trade in Cameroon, Gabon and the Republic of Congo.

In 2020, FAO began a collaboration with ATIBT with the aim of identifying actions to be taken to improve the sustainability of timber value chains on national and regional markets in Central Africa. This collaboration is part of a South-South cooperation framework and places particular emphasis on increasing added value,

**Wooden construction products from the Congo Basin concerned by the FDES and EPD:** These are exterior claddings (decking, blade cladding, plywood cladding), interior cladding (solid floors and skirting boards). Hence a number of 6 collective FDES envisaged.

After the kick-off meeting of the project in February, with the companies participating in the collection of LCI data (life cycle inventory of certified Congo Basin wood pre-products up to the African port), several follow-up meetings were carried out for the proper understanding of the LCI (Life Cycle Inventory) data collection form, then the creation of an FAQ, the creation of the LCI calculation tool by ESTEANA, and the end of the LCI data collection in November 2021.

A cooperation agreement on the project is planned between ATIBT and Centrum Hout (Netherlands).

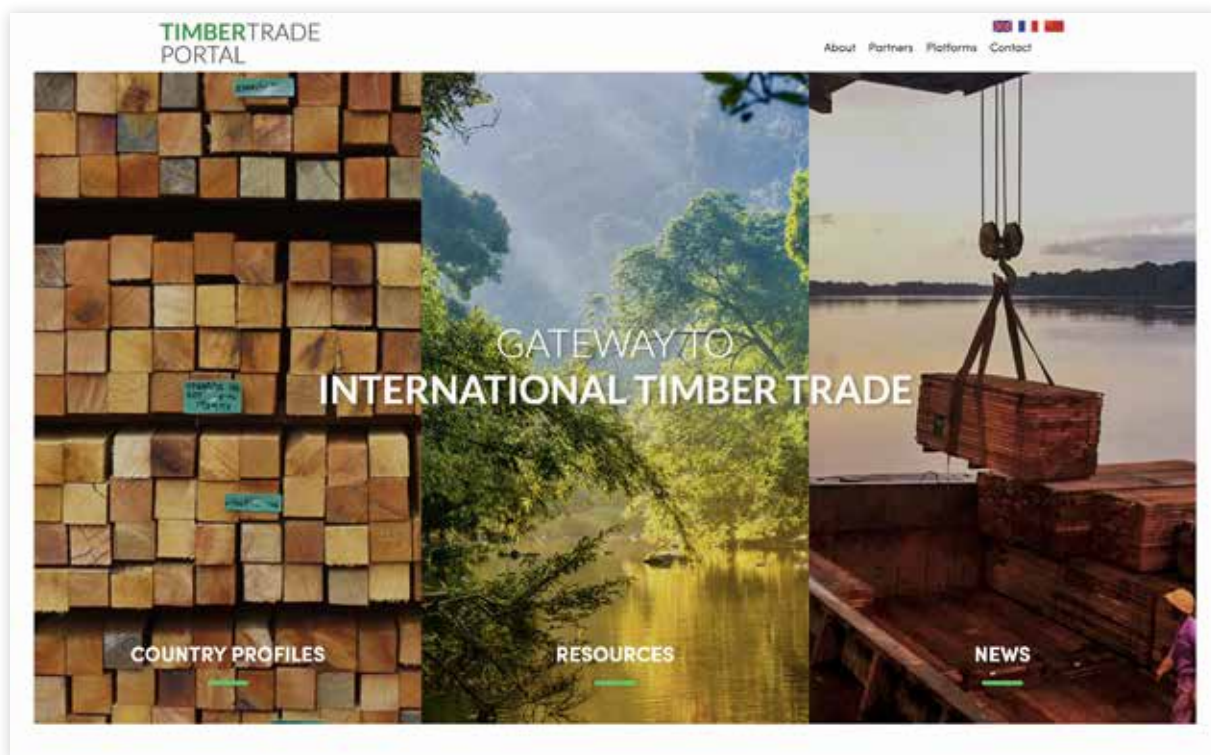
The next steps will be the drafting of the ICV report in early 2022, the launch of the FDES on certified timber products from the Congo Basin with French importing companies, the verification of the ICVs by an independent audit for a presentation of the first results as part of the ATIBT Forum at the Carrefour international du Bois, and the presentation of the prospects for exploiting the results.

including the actors involved in the national sectors (i.e. small operators in the timber industry such as traders in timber depots, SMEs, timber buyers, artisanal sawyers) and regional capacity for the processing and marketing of legal timber.

This action aims to formulate specific recommendations, with particular emphasis on increasing added value and supplying local markets with sustainable wood.



# SUPPORTING DUE DILIGENCE



## Expansion and update of the Timber Trade Portal

The [www.timbertradeportal.com](http://www.timbertradeportal.com) web portal is an answer to the many questions timber merchants have regarding legal trade, due diligence, national requirements and exports.

The 2021 website upgrade project, carried out with the support of Form International and funded by the ITTO, achieved its objectives: a completely revised and improved website, capable of reaching a broader audience, and with more countries included.

The first step was to modernise the website and expand its language coverage

to increase its use and reach, as well as to provide user-friendly and transparent information on timber legality and trade. To achieve this, the project included adding six new country profiles to the content (with a focus on Asian countries), updating two African country profiles, translating the entire website into Chinese, redesigning the site from scratch to improve the visitor experience and the site's appeal, and investing in the site's promotion.

The new countries added to the TTP website are: Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia, Japan, the Solomon Islands and Colombia. In addition, the data on the Republic of Congo and Côte d'Ivoire has been updated.

# DIRECT SUPPORT FOR THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO'S PRIVATE SECTOR

ATIBT's usual vocation is to provide support to timber sector companies, in collaboration with the professional unions that exist in producing countries. The Republic of Congo, however, is a bit special, since the country's main professional unions don't represent the entire industry, or address all of the sector's specific issues.

Although UNICONGO is a large and structured trade association, it is essentially an employers' association that covers a broad range of companies, without being able to address specific forestry issues. UNIBOIS is quite different, and although it is specialised in the sector, it remains regional and only represents forestry companies from southern Congo.

As such, the two professional associations present in Congo's forestry sector, UNIBOIS and UNICONGO, have very different types of organisations, and require personalised support in order to be better structured and organised to meet the needs of their members, defend the interests of the private sector, and better inform and involve companies in their implementation of the FLEGT VPA.

Through its previous activities in the Republic of Congo, ATIBT has already contributed to the sector's momentum by enabling these professional associations to be better represented in the FLEGT process. And through the activities of the ASP-Congo project, it is expected that the trade union structures will be able to raise awareness among companies and fully play their role as a conveyor belt allowing the private sector to demonstrate concrete and informed involvement in the FLEGT process and the evolution of the regulatory framework. Strengthening the trade union structures would also facilitate their

role in representing logging companies when dealing with FLEGT VPA stakeholders (notably the administration in charge of forests) to facilitate the implementation of the VPA. This organisation of national unions should also improve momentum in terms of reaching a consensus among the various categories of companies, which sometimes have objectives that - although not necessarily opposed - seem to diverge, at the very least.

To conclude on this action in the Republic of Congo, ATIBT's intervention within the framework of the ASP-Congo project (funded by Brazzaville's DUE) aims to contribute to the improved involvement of forest-sector companies through their professional representation. The private sector must be able to contribute to the sector's main developments in terms of the implementation of regulatory changes and, more broadly, to the FLEGT process.

To achieve this objective, the above-mentioned trade union representations are backed by ATIBT in terms of the dissemination of appropriate information on the FLEGT process to their members and to Congo's entire private forestry sector. This dynamic will help enhance the legality of companies and their compliance with the various LVS tools.

It should be noted that this project fully justifies the consolidation of ATIBT - Congo, a permanent structure that currently consists of three people, Mr. Alain Tiotsop, Mr. Donatien N'Zala and Mrs. Flora Bienvenue Amboulou. ATIBT's presence in the Republic of Congo is made possible by a headquarters agreement that was signed in 2015 between ATIBT and the Congolese authorities.

# VOCATIONAL TRAINING

As a reminder, the ADEFAC project emerged following discussions at ATIBT's Forum in Dubai. In 2020, the RIFFEAC (*Réseau des Institutions de Formation Forestière et Environnementale d'Afrique Centrale* - Network of Forestry and Environmental Training Institutions of Central Africa), an ATIBT partner and member, signed a funding agreement with the French Development Agency (AFD) for the implementation of the ADEFAC (*Appui au Développement de la Formation continue pour la filière forêt-bois en Afrique Centrale* - Support to the Development of Continuing

Education for Central Africa's Forest and Timber Sector) project, of which ATIBT is the delegated project manager. The activities of the ADEFAC project are aligned with the objectives of the Training Commission. Following the recruitment of the project's technical implementation team, the drafting of management documents, the holding of a first steering committee meeting and some initial basic activities, such as the drafting of trade-skills sheets in 2020, the project entered its operational phase in 2021.



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## The following results were achieved:

- Contract agreement for the Oréade-Brèche and Egis-Forhom consortium to act as the primary operator, which provides all of the training course trainers and experts for the studies. Six trainers and experts were mobilised in 2021;
- Training of 46 HR (human resources) managers and other managers from logging and industrial companies, of which approximately 15% are women, in the Provisional Management of Staff, Jobs and Skills (GPEEC - Gestion prévisionnelle des Effectifs, des Emplois et des Compétences);
- Diagnosis of the production chains of SMEs and craftsmen (carpenters and cabinet makers) and support for their professional organisations in terms of the structuring of training during two 3-week missions in the DRC and Cameroon, respectively;

- Training of 52 trainers in the DRC and Cameroon in continuous training engineering through the sharing of tools and practical sessions on adult training techniques (andragogy) and a process of designing continuous training sessions. These trainers are both teachers and professionals specialised in: sawing; drying; sharpening; external social work; carpentry; finishes; SME management; machine maintenance; artisanal harvesting;
- A diagnosis of the types of RIFFEAC member training institutions, and the development and publication of a RIFFEAC typology strategy document;
- Two field missions to Gabon and Cameroon for the elaboration of a "Guide to the use of tropical timber in Africa";
- Publication of 6 RIFFEAC newsletters to 223 subscribers; publication of 35 articles on the RIFFEAC's website and 12 articles in ATIBT's newsletter.

The participants of the GPEEC and continuous training engineering training sessions were quite satisfied and the evaluations carried out immediately afterwards showed a high level of satisfaction. However, one difficulty encountered remains the availability of professionals as future trainers, particularly from logging and industrial companies. The vast majority of professionals involved in the training of trainers come from SMEs.

With the exception of the DRC, continuing vocational training appears to be very poorly structured and funded. The timber sector is not an attractive training sector anywhere. There is also considerable confusion between technical and vocational education and continuing vocational training, as well as on how they are organised in the project countries.

Technical education	Professional training	Continuing vocational training
Building looks like a school	Building looks like a company	In companies and/or in training centres
Length of training 2-4 years	Length of training < 1 year	Typically short courses
School calendar (starts in September/October)	Annual calendar (training can start at any time)	Variable calendar, depends on whether it's in-company/inter-company training or at a training centre
Possible competitive examination based on marks in general subjects	Possible competitive examination on the basis of skills or basic knowledge	Accessible to professionals who are in a work situation
Ratio of theory to exercises = 80/20	Ratio of theory to exercises = 20/80	Theory and practice based on professional practices and experience
Form of learning: "knowledge"	Form of learning: "know-how"	Skills-based approach
Diplomas awarded based on marks in subjects	Certificates on the basis of acquired skills	Certification

Significant needs for the development of the timber sector - which the ADEFAC project will not be able to address - have emerged as a result of the various missions conducted by experts and trainers. They include:

- The obsolete nature of collective agreements, and the need for support for a (re)classification of professions and the integration of "new" professions (e.g. "landscaper");
- The need to strengthen and structure the professional organisations of timber sector SMEs;
- Difficulties for the local market in terms of accessing legal timber at an affordable price;
- The instability of employment in small/very small/mid-sized companies, and difficulties in terms of staff recruiting and retention.



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In 2022, and in response to the needs of the sector, trainers will be supported in their creation and testing of the first continuous training modules. Support missions for SMEs and their organisations will be deployed in both Gabon and Congo, as will training sessions for trainers. And a second batch of HR managers and industrial company directors will be trained in GPEEC (Provisional Management of Staff, Jobs and Skills).

Two new activities will also be launched: support to promote the attractiveness of forestry and timber sector jobs through the distribution of job-skills sheets and the design of video clips featuring portraits of men and women who are active in the sector; and the setting up of thematic "continuing education" working groups, whose first task will be to define the contours of a quality labelling system for continuing education.

During 2022, ATIBT and RIFFEAC will also publish a book: "Guide to the use of tropical timber in Africa".



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# COMBATING DEFORESTATION



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In order to maintain the forest's potential, both in terms of quantity and quality, it is increasingly essential - especially in those countries with intense demographic pressure - that natural regeneration be combined with silvicultural methods involving the planting of trees, while giving priority to local species with high heritage value.

Agroforestry is making a strong comeback in many forums and projects because of the benefits offered by this model. ATIBT also wanted to take up the subject, and regularly implements (or facilitates the implementation of) studies involving agroforestry activities in the Congo Basin, as well as those involving timber plantations.

Moreover, noting that several structures are working on these issues within the [Cité du Développement Durable](#) (Sustainable Development Society) in Nogent-sur-Marne, **ATIBT brought together**

**members who were eager to participate and some of the Cité's stakeholders** to form an "agroforestry and plantations" commission in 2021, whose first meeting was held on 1 June 2021.

In order to **contribute to the sustainable management of Cameroon's timber production forests**, a project entitled "Reforestation in Cameroon's FMUs" (UFA-Reforest) was signed with the EU's delegation in Yaoundé. It started in October 2021 and will run until October 2026. Forest plantations will be carried out over the next 4 years with 4 Cameroonian logging companies. Both private and public stakeholders will be asked to participate in the reforestation and in future forest management strategies.

As a reminder, you can view ATIBT's numerous studies and guides on this subject in its [media library](#).

# WITH DYNAFAC, SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH INTO THE DYNAMICS OF SUSTAINABLY MANAGED TROPICAL FORESTS



The Dynafac [www.dynafac.org](http://www.dynafac.org) collective includes various scientific institutions and logging companies who are ATIBT members, and who help maintain the research initiatives that focus on sustainable management.

The collective, which is based in Cameroon, Gabon, Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo, aims to develop activities that will ultimately improve management plans and enhance the management of Central African production forests.

**More specifically, Dynafac has been carrying out two projects, which will end in 2022:**

- [DynAfFor](#), which aims to gather more scientific and technical knowledge on forest dynamics, to improve decision-making tools for forest management, and to rally stakeholders to improve management practices,
- [P3FAC](#), which is a continuation of DynAfFor in that it aims to: assess the impacts of logging activities on forest areas (and their plant and animal populations), assess the impact of human activities on the ecological and biological processes affecting the dynamics of species providing timber and NTFPs, propose silviculture rules and management actions that suit the various types of forests, and ensure that the results are used by political decision-makers and national administrations.

Dynafac is associated with seven other projects, which are presented on their [website](#).



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Based on the lessons learned from the two above-mentioned projects, the collective's technical recommendations, which are primarily aimed at policy makers and forest administrations, fall into 5 main areas:

1. Adapting forest planning to the 10 major forest types present in Central Africa, thus taking into account the diversity of the Congo Basin's forest types.
2. Standardising the duration of rotations to 30 years in order to promote the reconstitution of the harvested tree species, which currently vary between 20 and 30 years in Central Africa.
3. Re-establishing a 100% stock level for the timber group consisting of commercial species and at least a 50% stock level for each of these species, when taking into account harvests.
4. Revising and standardising harvestable diameter minimums at the regional level, based on biological considerations, in order to maintain a representative number of seed trees.
5. Installing forest dynamic monitoring systems in all the major concessions, in order to locally grasp the parameters to be used in the management plans.

In addition, the DYNAFAC collective recommends the implementation of initiatives and tools that promote the replenishment of harvested species and better preserve wildlife: in fact, 70% to 90% of plant species need animals to disperse their seeds and therefore to ensure their natural regeneration.

[A summary note can be downloaded here](#)

**DYNAFAC**  
AMÉLIORER LA GESTION FORESTIÈRE EN AFRIQUE CENTRALE  
www.dynafac.org

**POUR UNE AMÉLIORATION DE LA DURABILITÉ DES PLANS D'AMÉNAGEMENT FORESTIERS EN AFRIQUE CENTRALE**

Recommandations pour les décideurs politiques

La gestion forestière doit aujourd'hui, plus que jamais, répondre à différentes exigences : préserver la biodiversité, répondre aux besoins des populations humaines, rencontrer les objectifs fixés par les États et assurer la rentabilité des acteurs de la filière. Le plan d'aménagement est l'outil permettant de trouver le meilleur équilibre entre ces objectifs. Aujourd'hui, en Afrique centrale, la plupart des plans d'aménagement entre en phase de révision, ce qui offre l'occasion de repenser et de renforcer la durabilité de l'aménagement forestier.

**1 VERS UNE ÉVOLUTION NÉCESSAIRE DES PLANS D'AMÉNAGEMENT**

L'exploitation forestière dans les pays de la COMIFAC<sup>1</sup> est encadrée par un système législatif, au cœur duquel se situe le plan d'aménagement. Si l'intention d'assurer la durabilité de l'exploitation est réelle, les limites de ce système sont devenues évidentes au fur et à mesure de l'accumulation des résultats de la recherche forestière.

Atin d'améliorer la durabilité de l'aménagement, la mutualisation des résultats des recherches menées sur les forêts de la région peut fournir une aide précieuse à la décision. Ce constat est à l'origine du collectif DYNAFAC<sup>2</sup>. Récemment, ce collectif a synthétisé dans un rapport technique des recommandations fortes en vue de pérenniser les ressources ligneuses exploitées dans les forêts de production d'Afrique centrale. Celles-ci sont issues de quarante années de collecte et d'analyse de données scientifiques sur la dynamique forestière.

**La présente note synthétise ces recommandations. Elle est prioritairement, mais pas exclusivement, destinée aux décideurs politiques et aux administrations forestières.**

**DYNAFAC**

**II RECOMMANDATIONS TECHNIQUES**

**1. Adapter l'aménagement aux 10 grands types forestiers présents en Afrique centrale**

Autant que possible, les paramètres d'aménagement et les règles d'exploitation appliquées aux espèces commerciales doivent tenir compte de l'hétérogénéité des types forestiers. Dix grands types de forêts ont été identifiés en Afrique centrale. Aujourd'hui, des données fiables de dynamique forestière sont disponibles et utilisables pour environ la moitié de ces types forestiers. Les décideurs politiques, relayés par les administrations forestières nationales et régionales, devraient ouvrir afin d'étendre le réseau de dispositifs de recherche à l'ensemble de ces types forestiers.

**2. Uniformiser les durées de rotation à 30 ans**

Une forêt exploitée nécessite un temps de repos, nommé « rotation ». Cette rotation doit permettre la reconstitution des effectifs exploités, avant que ne survienne une autre phase d'exploitation. Actuellement, en Afrique centrale, la rotation varie entre 20 et 30 ans. Les simulations effectuées montrent toutefois qu'une rotation de 30 ans constitue un délai minimum et le meilleur compromis entre reconstitution des stocks prélevés et viabilité économique de l'entreprise. Dans certaines forêts particulières, une rotation de 20 à 25 ans est tolérable du fait d'une dynamique plus rapide ; c'est notamment le cas des jeunes forêts à Okoumé.

**DYNAFAC**



# KNOWLEDGE ON TROPICAL TIMBER

## THE CIRAD CONVENTION

In 2021, CIRAD's Tropical Timber team participated in 5 of the 6 cooperative actions defined in the partnership agreement signed with ATIBT at the end of 2020.



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### ***Joint participation in ongoing or future projects, and training sessions.***

In this area, two actions were carried out:

- Based on information and test results provided by the COPADE Foundation<sup>1</sup> and at the request of this Foundation, the **creation of two technical sheets** in Tropix format (French and English) for two South American LKTS: Pucte (*Terminalia buceras*) and Manchiche (*Loncho-carpus castilloi*).
- **Finalisation of the service contract between ATIBT and CIRAD** (PAFFB project<sup>2</sup>) for the Design and implementation of training for agents of the MFEPC (Ministère des Forêts et de l'Environnement chargé du Plan Climat - Ministry of Forests and the Environment in charge of the Climate Plan) and the DGD (Direction Générale des Douanes - General Directorate of Customs) of Gabon so that these agents can identify the forest species of processed products (sawn timber, veneers, etc.), and can both measurement and classify sawn timber. This contract will be implemented between the second half of 2022 and the first quarter of 2023.

### ***Direct support to ATIBT members in order to answer any specific technical questions that arise in all areas of knowledge, regarding the use and installation of tropical timber***

Answers to a wide range of questions on issues related to tropical timber: aspects of raw or processed products in terms of standards, the allergenic nature of tropical timber dust, timber-metal compatibility, deterioration due to biological agents, explanations on the sources of drying defects, how to get the most out of LKTS, etc.

1. Comercio Para el Desarrollo, <https://copade.es/>

2. *Projet Appui à la Filière Forêt-Bois (Project to Support the Forest-Timber Sector) of the AEAFB (Agence d'Exécution des Activités de la filière forêt bois - Agency for the Execution of Activities in the Forest and Timber Sector)*

### **Participation in the AFNOR standardisation commissions' work on tropical timber**

The proofreading, drafting of opinions and validation of standards established by the following AFNOR commissions: Roundwood, Sawn timber and Cladding / Sustainability and Environment for Timber / Panelling and Cladding / Boards for outdoor wooden decking / Sustainable forest management, chains of custody.

### **Contribution to the steering of ATIBT's Materials and Standardisation Commission, and occasional interaction with the other commissions, mainly the Marketing Commission, the Forest-Industry Commission and the Training Commission**

Two actions were carried out in this area:

- **Organisation of two Materials and Standardisation Commission meetings** (April 2021, January 2022) by videoconference. With the Chairman of the Commission, preparation and drafting of the following technical documents: [Timber for hydraulic works](#), Developments in the classification of commercial African species of the Afzelia genus (Doussié) and of the Pterocarpus genus (Padouk) in the General Nomenclature of Tropical Timber (in the process of being uploaded to the ATIBT website), Timber under rails and related uses (in the process of being finalised), Specifications for the definition of both Guidelines and recommendations for contracts and for uses of tropical timber in international trade.
- Participation in the 2021 videoconference meetings held by the Marketing Commission and the Training Commission, and in the Think Tank meeting (November 2021)



### **Publication of technical articles and documents in ATIBT's newsletter, and a summarised contribution to ATIBT's annual report**

- \* 10 articles and "News stories" published in ATIBT's Newsletter
- \* Presents a summary contribution to ATIBT's 2021 annual report

The *Participation in the LKTS working group currently managed by FSC* was the only working group that did not lead to any intervention, as the LKTS working group did not meet in 2021. However, it should be noted that regarding LKTS: F&P companies are progressing individually in this area, each according to the specific features of their forests and markets.

# THE MAJOR MEETINGS OF THE ATIBT AND THE SECTOR

The year 2021 has been, as everyone knows, a difficult year for meetings within the tropical wood sector, as in many other sectors!

Of course, videoconference meetings took over, and these last ones have really multiplied. So, we will only mention here the meetings that seem to us to have been the most essential, without wishing to discard some that could have been very productive.

Meetings such as the IUCN, the Paris Conference on Central African Forests, or the Berlin Symposium on Tropical Forests have been the subject of separate chapters, due to their importance.

The COP 26 was of course the strongest moment of the year 2021 at a global level, on environmental issues, we also wrote a specific paragraph about it.

Meetings allowing for consultation with donors, such as the PPECF Decision and Orientation Committee (CDO) or the AFD Scientific and Technical Committee (CST), also took place, as did the National Tropical Forest Group (GNFT), which allows for interaction with French institutions and the Alliance for Tropical Forests.

In terms of meetings where the ATIBT has been a driving force, we can cite the following:

## Webinars on Certification in the EUTR

As mentioned above, ATIBT and Preferred by Nature co-organized a free webinar training on the European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR), and more specifically on the role and interest of forest certi-

fication (legal or sustainable) in a due diligence system. This training was organized with the help of European federations of timber importers (TTF in the UK, LCB in France, Fedustria in Belgium, VVNH in the Netherlands, Fedecomlegno in Italy, AEIM in Spain), and technical partners (Probos, Obbois and Conlegno).



## 4<sup>th</sup> ATIBT Think Tank

The 4th Think Tank of the ATIBT took place on November 15 and 16, 2021, by videoconference. This event brought together almost 80 people.

This fourth meeting provided an opportunity to review the state of the tropical wood sector, addressing the developments and key issues of the market and environmental issues. Moderated by Claude Garcia, the discussions of these two days allowed for rich exchanges and covered many topics.

As always, the Think Tank was organized around different sessions recurring from one meeting to another, although this year, the session on relations with Chinese organizations could not take place, and

was replaced by a specific session on participation in COP 26 and the organization of the ATIBT Forum 2022.

The sessions were the following, and they are available on the ATIBT website <https://www.atibt.org/fr/news/13104/think-tank-n4-un-think-tank-axe-sur-les-marches-et-les-services-environnementaux>

#### **The four sessions of the think tank were :**

- **Session 1:** Improving the image of certified tropical timber in Europe
- **Session 2:** Returning value to forests, valuing ecosystem services (ES) and certification
- **Session 3:** Exploring new markets for tropical timber
- **Session 4:** Update on COP26 and presentation of the ATIBT 2022 Forum

#### **The STTC-Fair&Precious Conference**

The European Sustainable Tropical Timber Coalition (STTC) and Fair&Precious, the ATIBT's initiative for sustainable forest management in the Congo Basin, co-hosted a [conférence](#) on "*Sustainably Managed Forests as Part of the Climate Change Solution: Recognizing the value of certified forests and ecosystem services*."

This 8th annual meeting of STTC - Fair&Precious was held by videoconfe-

rence on November 18th. For this meeting, a part of the ATIBT team traveled to the Netherlands, in order to animate jointly the debates with the STTC team.

Funded by [IDH – The Sustainable Trade Initiative](#), this event brought together about 100 stakeholders in sustainable tropical forest management. Representatives of professional federations, NGOs, certification systems, as well as foresters and companies intervened during the conference.

#### **The conference was structured around two main themes:**

- **The role of certified forests in climate change mitigation**
- **Deforestation and the landscape approach: ecosystem services**

A session was granted for each of these two major themes and included presentations and question and answer time. Between these two sessions, the participants were divided around different round tables organized on several themes (notably the COP26 which took place a few days later, or the tax incentives for certification) to exchange in a more informal and interactive way.

# INFORMATION SHARING

## THE WEBSITES

The ATIBT is committed to sharing information with both the industry and the general public. It thus runs 3 websites.



- <https://www.atibt.org/fr> : the ATIBT website gathers essential information about the tropical timber industry. It presents the Association, its history, its missions and its projects, and also concentrates a documentation center accessible to all. Through its "media library", visitors can consult technical and institutional publications, past activity reports, videos and replays of webinars and workshops.

**The site recorded 86,100 sessions in 2021, up 64% from the previous year.**



- <https://www.fair-and-precious.org/fr> : in 2021, an important work to enrich the Fair&Precious website, dedicated to the collective created in 2016. This site centralizes information on the promotion of sustainable management certification in the Congo Basin, and the consumption of certified tropical wood in Europe. It lists the operators and partners of the collective, as well as ATIBT publications related to marketing issues. The online "xylotheque" has been updated throughout the year, to the point of presenting some sixty African wood species. This xylotheque presents the appearance, uses and characteristics of the different woods, in order to allow users to learn about the right woods for the right uses. This work has significantly increased traffic to the Fair&Precious website.

**The site recorded 88,110 sessions in 2021, up 705% from the previous year.**



- <https://www.timbertradeportal.com/fr> : 2021 also saw the launch of the brand new Timber Trade Portal! This online portal aims to answer questions from the industry about the timber trade, its legality, traceability and due diligence, as well as the specific import/export requirements of each country. New country sheets have been added, and all content is now available in English, French and Chinese.

## NEWSLETTERS

The ATIBT continued to publish its weekly newsletter throughout the year, featuring articles from specialized media, publishing feature articles, and relaying news from Association members. This newsletter has grown over the year to publish more and more original articles. Two categories allow the visitors to find on one side the news of the sector, and on the other side the news of the members of the ATIBT. The newsletter is also an important communication channel to inform members and partners of the Association's key moments and events: the holding of commissions is

systematically the subject of an article, and the agenda attached each week to the newsletter allows the calendar of upcoming events to be kept up-to-date.

**Among the news of the ATIBT, 174 articles have been published on the Fair&Precious website, in French and in English.**

**Let us also underline the publication of 6 joint newsletters with STTC - Fair&Precious in February, April, July and September, November and December 2021**

## LES RÉSEAUX SOCIAUX

**ATIBT initiated its work on LinkedIn and Instagram social networks in 2019.**

**The LinkedIn account "Fair&Precious" is dissociated from the ATIBT LinkedIn account, which is managed internally by the ATIBT team.**

Key figures of the Fair&Precious account :

- 752 subscribers as of December 31, 2021, i.e. +35% compared to 2020 (555) / 197 subscribers gained
- 3,909 clicks in 2021, that is +153% compared to 2020 (1,548)
- 43,800 impressions (audience) in 2021, +46% compared to 2020 (29,900)
- 1,266 reactions in 2021, +23% compared to 2020 (1027)
- 0.4% engagement rate in 2021, +18% compared to 2020 (8.8%)

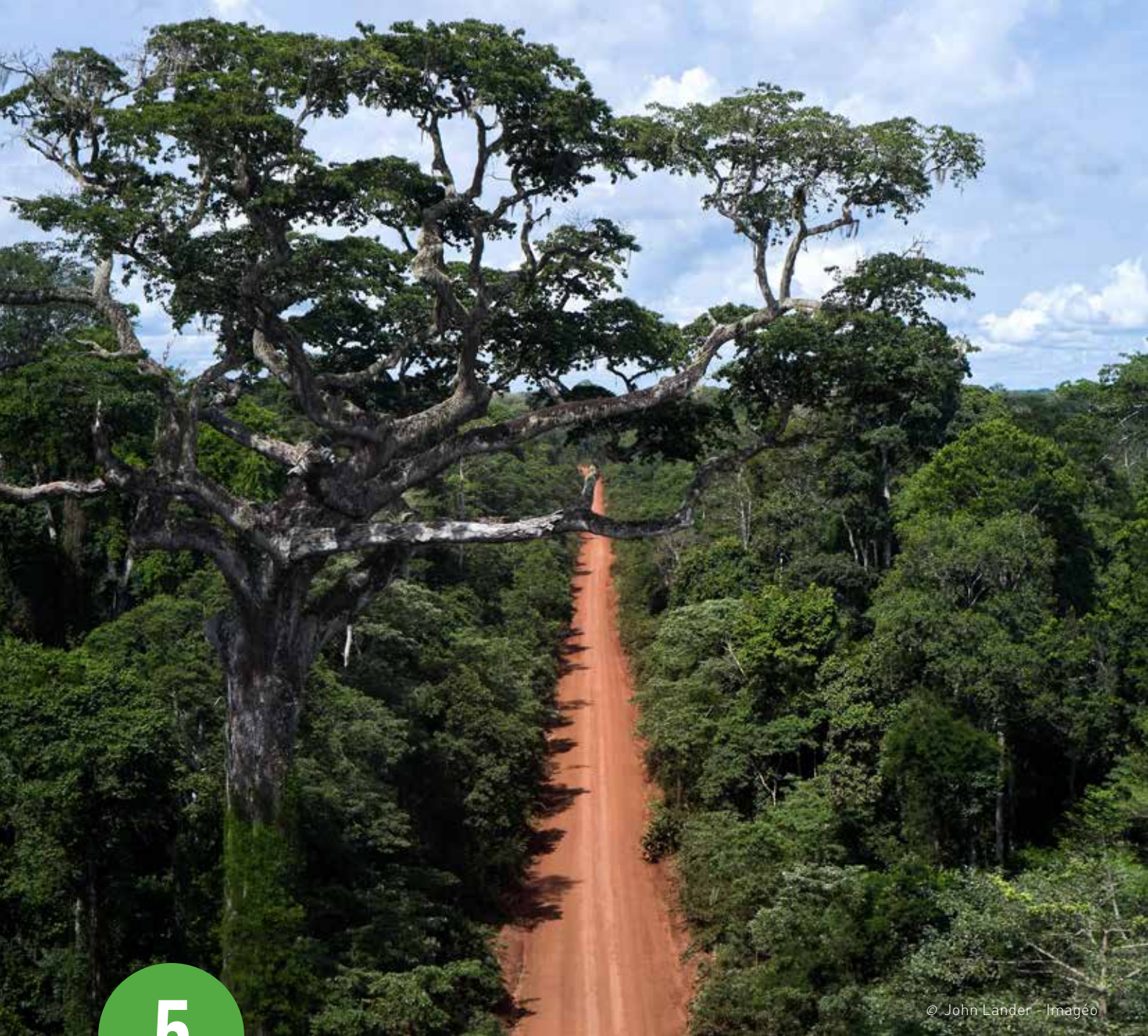
**Subscribers and audience continued to grow in 2021**

**The LinkedIn account "ATIBT" had about 850 subscribers for 2021, increasing.**

Concerning the Instagram account, the key figures are

- 4,476 subscribers as of December 31, 2021, that is + 69% compared to 2020 (2,644) / 1,832 subscribers gained
- 2.5 million impressions (audience) in 2021, or - 64% compared to 2020 (7 million) due to an evolution of the publications more oriented on wood than on wildlife and forest
- 1,266 Reactions in 2021, +23% compared to 2020 (1027)
- 8.2% engagement rate in 2021, down 74% from 2020 (32%)

**The number of subscribers continued to grow in 2021**



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5

# A TURNING POINT FOR THE INDUSTRY, WITH SPECIFIC CHALLENGES

# THE PRODUCTION SHARING PROJECT IN THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO



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Law 33\_2020 of July 8, 2020 on the Forestry Code enshrines a major reform, namely: the principle of production sharing of timber, provided for in Articles 104, 106, 107, 108 and 109. It also recommends that the implementation of the principle of production sharing be preceded by a study, which should define the modalities. This study was entrusted to the firm Forêts Ressources Management Ingénierie (FRMi), on the basis of a service contract and terms of reference (TOR) drawn up by the Ministry of Forest Economy (MEF).

In February 2021, EFI, under funding from the FCDO, carried out a consultation with stakeholders as part of the preparatory

legal study for the revision and participatory development of the implementing texts of the new forestry law in the Republic of Congo. A participatory workshop was also organized during this month and resulted in the definition and validation of a roadmap for the development of the application texts of Law 33-2020 produced by the preparatory legal study.

The Ministry of Forest Economy (MEF) will organize several workshops during 2022 to present the conclusions of the study on production sharing modalities to all stakeholders, including: Parliamentarians, technical and financial partners, civil society and the private sector.



# CEMAC DECISION TO BAN LOG EXPORTS POSTPONED TO EARLY 2023



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The application of the decision to ban log exports, announced in 2020, will not be effective on January 1st, 2022, as initially planned, for the six CEMAC countries (Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Chad, CAR and Equatorial Guinea).

A one-year postponement was decided at a meeting held on July 28, 2021, of the ministers in charge of forestry, industry, the environment, the economy, planning, finance and the budget of the CEMAC member states and the DR Congo.

The CEMAC countries have thus established a transitional period from January to December 2022 to carry out preliminary studies for the maturation of wood processing investment projects, selected within the framework of the first phase of the log export ban process. In the first phase of the ban, two special economic zones were identified in each country. First, second and third processing industries and two

forestry plantations will be set up there.

In addition to the maturation of investment projects, this postponement will allow logging companies to better prepare for the entry into force of the log export ban, with the support of the CEMAC Commission.

*"To avoid the paradigm shift being abrupt and putting companies in the sector in difficulty," the CEMAC Commission has taken it upon itself to accompany the States to facilitate the said change. CEMAC intends to "finance, with the support of the ADB, the preparation of feasibility studies on the 28 projects identified, in order to assess their maturity. A harmonized regional forestry tax system is planned, as well as the evaluation of business support measures".*

**Very few consultation meetings were held during 2021 on the implementation of this ban.**

# THE FUTURE GENERATION OF DEVELOPMENT PLANS

## THE BASIS OF CURRENT CONCESSION MANAGEMENT



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The objective of management plans is to rationalize forest exploitation by defining the broad outlines of the use of space and resources within forest concessions:

- A zoning of the exploitable perimeter allowing the respect of the populations' needs, and to protect the zones rich in biodiversity and the sensitive zones;
- Rules for sustainable and economically viable exploitation (choice of rotation, definition of the group of species that can be exploited and minimum harvesting diameters per species, division of the production area to have a stable volume throughout the rotation...);
- Pre- and post-harvest monitoring of forest dynamics
- Management measures to take into account the well-being of local populations and to guarantee the protection of natural resources.

The preparation of management plans is based on a qualitative and quantitative assessment of the timber resource and biodiversity (through management inventories), according to a methodology established in the 1990s. The preparation of management plans is also based on the collection of socio-economic and cultural information, all of which allows the division of concessions into production zones, conservation and/or protection zones, and agricultural zones. At the time, there was little scientific data on the cubing rates, growth, mortality, regeneration and recruitment of the various tropical species in Africa, making it difficult and uncertain to estimate the recovery of commercial volume after logging.

The choice of target species was based on market demand, company experience and business objectives, and the presence and distribution of these species in the production areas of the concession. Analysis of the management inventory data and estimates (for the majority of species) of the different variables (mentioned above) were then used to decide on the minimum harvest diameter (management diameter) and to calculate the harvest potential and recovery rate of the objective species group, depending on the choice of rotation length (between 20-30 years). Decisions were made by looking for the best compromise between resource recovery and economic viability of the companies' activity.

Since the early 2000s, the process of developing management plans has become widespread, being integrated into the forestry codes of most Central African countries. The ATIBT has played an important role in promoting the development of management plans through the publication of technical manuals and the holding of training sessions for forest managers in Central African forestry schools. Technical and financial partners (notably the

AFD) have also supported companies and governments to finance the development of management plans and to strengthen the modalities of their development, implementation and control.

More than 20 years after the implementation of the first management plans, and as the second generation of forest management plans approaches, a review of what has been done seems necessary.

## TOWARDS THE NEXT STEP: DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR THE SECOND ROTATION

Currently, more than 60% of forest concessions in Central Africa have a management plan. While the latest management plans have just been validated (DRC, with the support of the AGEDUFOR project), the first ones are already nearing completion (Gabon, CEB/Precious Woods and Rougier Gabon). These companies have accumulated over 20 years of experience in implementing their management plans. Over the years, they have collected precise information on the wood resource (through logging inventories), forest dynamics (monitoring devices, consisting of permanent plots and/or trails), the environment (identification of sensitive areas, wetlands, fauna inventories, etc.) and the socio-economic context (thanks to the social unit and exchanges with local populations). The commitment of some of these companies to a certification process has strengthened the quality of the monitoring systems set up in the framework of the management plans.

An initial survey of companies that have been under management for more than 10 years revealed that the approach used to estimate the production potential of species harvested in large volumes was

good. On the other hand, companies have not always been able to harvest all of the volumes estimated in the management plans, firstly because the deployment of local industrial units to develop secondary species, second choice wood and logging waste has been slow to be put in place, and on the other hand because the markets essential to the development of the resource have not been found or developed for part of the group of species that were initially part of the objective.

At the same time, several scientific research projects have been monitored, sometimes for more than 30 years, and their data analyzed, notably through the DYNAFOR and P3FAC projects, with researchers from CIRAD and the University of Gembloux. The results show that some species, even in the absence of exploitation, naturally lose part of their potentially exploitable stock, and that the dynamics of loss is strongly dependent on the type of forest. These systems have led to a questioning of the approach to calculating the rate of recovery by species group, particularly if the group includes species with low recovery due to the type of forest concerned.

It is therefore necessary to define a new approach for the next generation of management plans, for which several questions arise:

- Should we renew the management inventories? Should we continue with the methodology implemented in the 1990s? How to take into account the evolution of technologies during the 20 to 30 years separating the two rotations (GPS, drones, satellite images...) in order to optimize the resource inventories?
- How can forest types be taken into account in management plans, while keeping management plans pragmatic for implementation? What influence will this have on the division of the production area?
- How can the data collected by the companies (harvesting inventories, harvesting maps, growth monitoring in plots or monitoring trails) be used in the development of the management plan for the second rotation? And how can we take into account the differences between companies in terms of the quality of collection procedures and therefore of the data collected?
- How can the socio-economic monitoring and communication information be valorized?

- How can research results be integrated into decisions on which species to harvest and the length of rotation?
- How can markets be created for species that are not yet well known, but whose harvesting will help to open up the canopy and thus stimulate the regeneration of several currently exploited species?

Independent scientific evaluation of the effectiveness of management plan development methods based on monitoring data of their implementation is essential for continuous improvement of timber production forest management, and for possible adaptation of these methods.

Two pioneering companies, CEB/Precious Woods and Rougier Gabon, are collaborating with scientists and the Gabonese government to conduct preliminary assessments and identify innovative methods to develop sustainable forest management plans more efficiently than under the original plans. Both companies are members of the ATIBT forest industry commission and their experiences will feed into discussions on the subject at international conferences, such as the ATIBT Forum in Nantes and the CBF Meeting of the Parties in Libreville.



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*Stylo -CJ-Kanda-Sapelli - © Interholco*

# WHITIN THE CERTIFIED FOREST CONCESSIONS



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