



THE LEADING AUTHORITY ON TROPICAL TIMBER

ACTIVITY REPORT

2022



www.atibt.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1

ATIBT, THE ASSOCIATION DEDICATED TO TIMBER AND TO SUSTAINABLE TROPICAL FOREST MANAGEMENT 5

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Editorials | 6 |
| Editorial by Françoise Van de Ven – ATIBT President..... | 6 |
| Editorial by Benoît Jobbé-Duval – Managing Director | 8 |
| ATIBT's governance | 10 |
| A reminder of the ATIBT goals that were redefined in 2021 | 11 |
| ATIBT - A key platform for the future of tropical forests | 12 |
| ATIBT's members in 2022 | 14 |
| ATIBT's representation in the tropical timber sector | 16 |
| A team dedicated to the sector | 17 |
| Celebrating ATIBT's 70th anniversary and the Nantes Forum | 23 |
| A PAFC certification scheme that is now operational and accepted | 25 |
| An FSC Assembly that is crucial for the future of tropical forest certification | 26 |
| ATIBT Congo, consolidated action | 29 |
| ATIBT's visibility and the sharing of information | 31 |
| ATIBT's websites | 31 |
| Social network presence..... | 31 |
| ATIBT's newsletters..... | 32 |
| 2022 publications | 32 |
| The year 2022 at a glance | 33 |

2

ATIBT'S SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL AND COMMISSIONS, THE TECHNICAL BODIES OF THE ASSOCIATION 35

| | |
|---|-----------|
| The scientific council | 36 |
| The commissions | 36 |
| The Marketing Commission and Fair&Precious program..... | 36 |
| The Certification Commission and its working groups | 37 |
| The Training Commission..... | 38 |
| The Timber & Standardisation Commission..... | 39 |
| The Forest & Industry Commission | 39 |
| The Agroforestry & Plantations Commission..... | 40 |
| The Carbon & Biodiversity Commission | 41 |

3

KEY FIGURES REGARDING ATIBT AND THE SECTOR 44

| | |
|---|----|
| The origin of ATIBT's resources for the year 2022 | 45 |
| What are your membership fees used for ? | 46 |
| ATIBT's financial situation at the end of 2022 | 47 |
| A few figures on the sector within the Congo Basin | 48 |
| Monitoring of certification data in the Congo Basin | 50 |
| The tropical timber market in 2022 | 52 |
| Forest conservation, rehabilitation and expansion strategy in Côte d'Ivoire | 53 |

4

MAIN ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN IN 2022 54

| | |
|--|----|
| Advocacy actions | 55 |
| Analysis and discussion regarding the new "Zero Deforestation" EU regulation | 55 |
| Actions to combat illegal timber | 59 |
| Actions that aim to improve the acceptance of tropical timber | 61 |
| Support for forest certification | 66 |
| Incentives to encourage sustainable forest management and certification | 66 |
| Support for certification schemes - The PAFC Congo Basin | 69 |
| Preparatory work ahead of the FSC General Assembly in 2022 | 71 |
| Supporting the market for certified tropical timber | 72 |
| Life cycle analyses and results | 72 |
| The Themis portal | 74 |
| Spokespeople for Fair&Precious | 75 |
| The photo library and the first Fair&Precious films | 76 |
| The 10 Fair&Precious commitments | 77 |
| Advancing technical knowledge of tropical timber | 78 |
| The agreement with the CIRAD | 78 |
| ATIBT's major meetings | 79 |
| ATIBT Think Tank #5 | 79 |
| Professional training | 80 |
| Implementation of the ADEFAC project | 80 |
| Maintaining the balance of forest species within FMUs | 82 |
| Actions related to reforestation and agroforestry | 82 |
| The FMU-REFOREST project | 83 |
| Support for research | 85 |
| Actions undertaken by the DYNAFAC collective | 85 |
| Research activities on the vulnerability status of species | 86 |

5

2023, MORE GENUINE CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE 88

| | |
|---|----|
| The halt of log exports in the Republic of Congo | 89 |
| Production sharing in the Republic of Congo | 90 |
| The challenge Central African countries face in terms of their domestic timber market | 91 |
| Second generation forest management plans | 92 |
| Developing innovative funding for sustainable management | 94 |

ACRONYMS

AEIM: Asociacion Española de Importadores de Madera (Spanish Association of Timber Import-ers)
AIMEX: Brasil association of timber exporters
AFD: Agence Française de Développement (French Development Agency)
ANAFOR: Agence Nationale d'Appui au Développement Forestier (National Agency for Forest Development Support)
ATIBT: Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux (International Tropical Timber Technical Association)
CBFP-PFBC: Congo Basin Forest Partnership – Partenariat pour les Forêts du Bassin du Congo
CDO: Comité de Décision et d'Orientation (Decision and Orientation Committee - PPECF)
CEI bois: The European Confederation of Woodworking Industries
CEMAC: Communauté Économique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale (Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa)
CEPF: Confédération Européenne des Propriétaires Forestiers Privés (European Confederation of Private Forest Owners)
CEPI: Confédération des Industries du Papier d'Europe (Confederation of European Paper Industries)
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-AFD: Comité Scientifique et technique (Scientific and Technical Committee - AFD)
CTWPDA: China Timber & Wood Production Distribution Association
DEVCO: Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (UE)
DGENV: Directorate-General for the Environment (EU)
DUE: Délégation de l'Union Européenne (Delegation of the European Union)
EFI: European Forest Institute
EFIC: European Furniture Industries Confederation
EOS: European Organisation for Sawmill Industry
ETIC: European Timber Industry Confederation
ETTF: European Timber Trade Federation
Eustafor: European State Forest Association
EUTR - RBUE: European Union Timber Regulation - Règlement Bois de l'Union Européenne
FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FEDUSTRIA: Belgian federation of textile, wood and furniture industry
FEDECOMEGNO : Italian association of timber importers
FEP - EPF: Fédération Européenne du Parquet - European Panel Federation
FFEM: Fonds Français pour L'environnement Mondial (French Facility for Global Environment)
FIB: Fédération des Industries du Bois (Federation of Woodworking Industries - DRC)
FLEGT: Forests Law Enforcement Governance and Trade
FSC: Forest Stewardship Council
GDHolz: German Timber trade association
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: Sustainable Trade Initiative
IFL: Intact Forest Landscape
ITTO - OIBT: International Tropical Timber Organization - Organisation Internationale des Bois Tropicaux
IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature
KFW: Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau
LCB: Le Commerce du Bois (The Timber Trade)
LKTS: Lesser Known Timber Species
MEF: Ministère de L'Economie Forestière (Ministry of Forest Economy - Republic of Congo)
MINEF: Ministère des Eaux et Forêts (Ministry of Water and Forests - Gabon)
MINFOF: Ministère des Forêts et de la Faune (Ministry of Forests and Wildlife - Cameroon)
MO: Maitrise d'ouvrage (Project Ownership)
MOD: Maitrise d'ouvrage déléguée (Delegated Project Management)
ONFI: Office National Des Forêts International (National Office for International Forests)
ONG: Organisation Non Gouvernementale (NGO: Non-Governmental Organisation)
PAFC: Panafrican Forest Certification
PEFC: Programme for the Endorsment 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 (FAO)
TTF: Timber Trade Federation
TPE: Très Petites Entreprises (Very Small Enterprises - craftsmen)
SPIB: Union of wood industry (Ivory Coast)
SVL: Legality verification system
UE: Union Européenne (European Union)
ULG: Université de Liège (Liège University)
UNICONGO: Union des Industriels et Commerçants du Congo (Union of Industrialists and Traders of Congo)
UFIGA: Union des Forestiers et Industriels du bois du Gabon (Union of Foresters and Timber Industries of Gabon)
VVNH: Vereniging Van Nederlandse Houtondernemingen (Dutch Timber Federation)
WRI: World Resources Institute

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

1



© John Lander - Imagéo - Gabon - Concession Fair&Precious



EDITORIALS

FRANÇOISE VAN DE VEN - ATIBT PRESIDENT

“ *the results of the CITES COP in November in Panama brought about strong reactions from producing and importing countries* ”

After this extended period of activity, often reduced to remote online meetings, we were finally able to meet face to face and take part in a greater number of increasingly important meetings as the months went by. Fortunately, and to begin with, an **ATIBT team seminar** was organised at the beginning of February, which allowed us to better define our mission, our role and our objectives.

From March onwards, preparatory meetings were held for the organisation of our **ATIBT FORUM** at the beginning of June in Nantes, at the *Carrefour International du Bois* trade fair, a strategic venue for the first reunion with the players of the forest/timber sector. We're happy to report that this Forum was a great success: highly appreciated presentations, very lively debates and meetings with new members, some of which are from Latin America, which will allow us to expand our field of action.

Our Forest & Industry and Certification Commissions also had busy agendas with a steady flow of meetings to work on the draft EU deforestation regulation (EUDR), the new PEFC/PAFC Congo Basin standard, the FSC standard's IFL motion, the CITES COP decisions on the species listed in Appendix II, as well as other topics. Their work led to the **validation of the PAFC Congo Basin standard** at the PEFC General Assembly, as well as the approval of the **IFL motion presented by ATIBT**, which

was passed with over 95% of the votes at the FSC General Assembly in Bali.

The results of the COP CITES meetings held in Panama in November, however, elicited strong reactions from both producing and importing countries, which saw several species placed in **CITES Appendix II**, namely padauk, khaya and doussie in terms of the African species, as well as cumaru and ipe in terms of the Latin American species.

Although CITES Appendix II doesn't prohibit trade of the listed species, it is regulated via the preparation of reports for the issuance of Non-Detrimental Finding Notices by producer countries and by export and import (and even re-export) permits. The process of obtaining authorisations (referred to as "permits") is often complicated and above all time-consuming, which greatly impacts trade of these species. ATIBT plans to recruit a project manager from 2023 onwards to better monitor and work on this issue, both from a scientific and administrative standpoint.

The Marketing Commission continued its work on the **FAIR & PRECIOUS brand** with the production of documentary films that can be used by ATIBT and certified members for various occasions (forum, conferences, presentations to stakeholders of our sector) to promote sustainable management certification.



© John Lander - Imago - Congo - Concession Fair & Precious

In terms of the **Timber Materials & Standardisation Commission**, work on the species classification sheets is in progress and a study will be launched in 2023: the aim of this study will be to draw up one or more guidance documents and recommendations on contracts and uses for the international tropical timber trade.

A new commission was also created in 2022, namely the **Carbon & Biodiversity Commission**. This commission aims to help ATIBT and its members to better understand the stakes and opportunities to benefit from the recognition of forestry companies' sustainable management efforts.

The financial support of our projects by our main partners (the AFD, the KfW, the FFEM, the EU, the FAO and the ITTO) as well as the numerous invitations to international events, confirm ATIBT's key role for our sector. The year 2022 was a rich one in terms of experiences and achievements. It was a pleasure for me to be able to represent ATIBT on a number of occasions. The year 2023 will certainly raise new challenges, but ATIBT will continue to fulfil its role as a technical referent and a major partner in the implementation of sustainable forest management practices and the promotion of certified timber.



ÉDITORIAL

BENOÎT JOBBÉ-DUVAL - DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

“ We should rise from around six million hectares to almost ten millions hectares certified sustainable management area ”

The 27th Climate COP was held in Egypt from 6 to 20 November 2022. This Climate COP is generally one of the most important events in the fight against climate change. Some of our members and partners attended the always useful discussions on the sustainable management of tropical forests, but this meeting was a disappointment for us. We're therefore looking forward to a COP 28 meeting in 2023 that delivers more results for our sector, and generates more political support and recognition for activities related to sustainable tropical forest management.

The 19th Conference of the Parties "CITES" meeting was held in Panama from 14 to 25 November. As mentioned by our President in her editorial, this CITES COP meeting resulted in five CITES Appendix II listings: two South American species, Ipe and Cumaru, and three African genera, *Azela* (Doussie), *Pterocarpus* (Padouk) and *Khaya* (Mahogany). These entries have far-reaching consequences for our industry, but they are the result of a consultative process in which it will be important, in the future, to become more involved in so as to ensure that our knowledge is known to the bodies and countries that vote on the resolutions, and to obtain a stronger endorsement. To this end, a large-scale initiative, led by ATIBT, will be launched in early 2023.

Lastly, the third important COP meeting, the 15th Conference of the Parties on "Biodiversity" was held in Montreal from 7 to 19 December 2022. The parties approved

a number of decisions on CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) and biodiversity. These decisions called for increased collaboration between stakeholders (including companies), so that they integrate biodiversity into their business practices and encourage companies to take action to minimise negative impacts on biodiversity. The world's leading corporations will now play a key role, supporting the work of committed managers, as it is clear that much of the biodiversity in the tropics is found in certified concessions.

With this in mind, our association is working to better promote the sustainable management of tropical forests in relation to these major challenges. Sustainable forest management, especially in Central Africa and the Amazons, is a complex issue that requires an integrated and participatory approach. Although we work with private sector companies, we also work with governments and civil society organisations to promote sustainable forestry practices. Thanks to an agreement signed in 2022 between ATIBT and the Rainforest Alliance, we are also trying to make sure that the work of local communities is taken into account.

We also encourage the implementation of public policies and preservation programmes that ensure the responsible use of natural resources. In this respect, we encourage organisations such as the COMIFAC to pursue their concerted efforts between the countries of Central Africa.

In recent years, we have seen some progress in the sustainable management of tropical forests, with a slight increase in certified areas. Above all, we see encouraging prospects for 2025 in the Congo Basin, since we could rise from around six million hectares today to almost ten million in 2025. Europe has made commitments to reduce imported deforestation and promote reforestation efforts, while companies must step up responsible practices to prevent the illegal use of natural resources. We welcome these initiatives, but we know that much more remains to be done. Furthermore, efforts to combat illegality must continue unabated, and we are looking for ways to be better equipped to support concrete actions.



© John Lander - Imagéo - Congo - Concession Fair & Precious

We realise that the sustainable management of tropical forests is a difficult task, but we are determined to pursue our efforts. We believe that the participation of all stakeholders is key to achieve this goal. We encourage governments to develop more ambitious public policies to protect tropical forests, and we also encourage companies that import tropical timber (or that don't) to integrate sustainable forest management into their supply chains. In this respect, we have high expectations in terms of the commitments that will be made at the upcoming COP meetings.

We haven't forgotten the work that must also be done in other instances, such as the CBFP, which met in July 2022 in Libreville, and which will be under Franco-Gabonese leadership in the coming months.

We are also convinced that education and awareness-raising among the general public are essential to promote sustainable forest management, and that progress must be made in producer countries towards responsible timber consumption within the domestic market. An effort has been undertaken in Cameroon in this sense, and it could also take place in the Republic of Congo.

We are proud to be working one more year for such an important cause, one that is key to meet current and future environmental challenges. We will continue to strive to protect these unique ecosystems, in collaboration with governments, businesses, NGOs and local communities. Within our association, we are determined to contribute to this shared goal, complementing our actions in the field of preservation.

ATIBT'S GOVERNANCE

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

Board of Directors | *members of the Executive Board | **members representing countries

| NAME | ORGANISATION | EMAIL ADDRESS | WEB SITE |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|
| VAN DE VEN Françoise * | Individual | francoise.vandeven@atibt.org | |
| ROUGERON Michel * | PALLISCO | m.rougeron@pallisco-cifm.com | http://www.pallisco-cifm.com/ |
| RIVAIN Stéphane * | OREADE BRECHE | s.rivain@oreade-breche.fr | http://www.oreade-breche.fr/ |
| GRAUERT Ulrich * | INTERHOLCO | ulrich.grauert@interholco.com | https://www.interholco.com/fr/ |
| MOHR Dominik * | CID | dominikmohr@cid-bois.fr | https://www.cid-bois.fr/accueil/ |
| TATY Pierre ** | REPUBLIC OF CONGO | pierretaty2@yahoo.com pierretaty2020@gmail.com | http://www.mefdd.cg/ |
| YALIBANDA Yves ** | CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC | yvesyalibanda@yahoo.fr | https://www.dailymotion.com/video/xv6cvd |
| AUGUIN Luc | ROUGIER | auguin@rougier.fr | http://www.rougier.fr |
| AKWAH George | FSC | g.akwah@fsc.org | https://www.fsc.org/en |
| BRACCIANO Paolo | REGALIS | pb@regalisinternational.com | https://www.regaliswood.com/contact |
| CASSAGNE Bernard | FRM | bcassagne@frm-france.com | https://frm-ingenierie.com |
| CORA Stefano | CORA DOMENICO & FIGLI | Stefano.Cora@coralegnami.it | https://www.coralegnami.it/en/cora-wood-gabon/ |
| DE BOER André | ETTF | aideboer50@gmail.com | https://www.ettf.info/ettf_news |
| DE HAAN John | SOMIVAB-RAIL EUROPE-DUURZAAM | dh@duurzaam-hout.com | https://www.rail-europe-solutions.com/groupe http://somivab.com/ |
| DEMARQUEZ Benoit | TEREA | b.demarquez@terea.net | http://terea.net/fr/ |
| DOUCET Jean Louis | UNIV. GEMBLoux | jldoucet@uliege.be | https://www.terra.uliege.be/cms/c_4082846/en/terra-forest-is-life |
| GROUDEL Emmanuel | WALE | emmanuel.groudel@gmail.com | https://www.woodexpert.fr |
| HUNINK Jan Willem | CIB-OLAM | janwillem.hunink@olamagri.com | https://www.olamgroup.com/locations/west-and-central-africa/republic-of-congo.html |
| HUNINK Robert | CEB – Precious Woods | robert.hunink@bluewin.ch | https://www.preciouswoods.com |
| JULVE Cecilia | NATURE+ | direction@natureplus.be | www.natureplus.be |
| KARSENTY Alain | CIRAD | alain.karsenty@cirad.fr | www.cirad.fr |
| LATHAM Peter | LATHAM / PEFC | peter.latham@zoho.com | https://pefc.org/ |
| NTOUTOUME Jean-Marie | UFIGA | jm.ntoutoume@ufiga.org | www.ufiga.org |
| WALTER Sven (Obs) | FAO | Sven.Walter@fao.org | www.fao.org |

A REMINDER OF THE ATIBT GOALS THAT WERE REDEFINED IN 2021

Until now, the Association's areas of intervention have been representation, marketing, technical considerations and forestry. ATIBT's objectives have now been reformulated to better communicate what we do. As a reminder, in 2021, the areas of intervention have been redefined

in favour of four main themes: representing the sector, improving knowledge and its transmission, federating public and private players (especially the unions in producer and consumer countries), and innovating (by helping to identify future solutions for the sector).



Representing

an international level: advocacy, lobbying, market, marketing



Knowledge and formation

technical referent, wood and forest expertise, market, support for marketing



Federate

inter-union work: better communication with trade unions, north/south and south/south interactions



Innovation

carry on a foresight work and innovation work, for example with think tank, projects, ect.

**THESE FOUR MAIN AREAS
HAVE THEREFORE STEERED
THE ACTIVITIES OF 2022.**

© John Lander - Imago

ATIBT – A KEY PLATFORM FOR THE FUTURE OF TROPICAL FORESTS

ATIBT now plays a crucial role in the future of tropical forests. With its concern for environmental issues, ATIBT acts at all levels, from the forest to responsible timber consumption.

The Association is a platform that aims to serve every committed stakeholder: loggers and industrial players, suppliers of tropical timber products, and all other stakeholders committed to the [responsible management of tropical forests](#). Through its actions, ATIBT intends to contribute to the protection and preservation of tropical forests for future generations by accompanying forest concessions towards certification and sustainable management and by ensuring the maintenance of protected areas. **As such, it promotes tropical**

timber harvested according to the strict criteria covered by sustainable management certification (PEFC/PAFC and FSC). Thus, **the role played by legally or sustainably [certified forestry companies](#) must be supported** in terms of their actions at the local or territorial level.

The advocacy work developed by ATIBT through "[Fair&Precious](#)", the collective promotion of the sustainable management of tropical forests, **is now a priority to contribute to the protection of tropical forest ecosystems. In addition, Fair&Precious is working to integrate new international requirements, especially in areas pertaining to zero-deforestation, payments for ecosystem services (PES) and carbon.**



FAIR&PRECIOUS' MAIN ORIENTATIONS ARE:

© John Lander - Imagéo - Cameroun - Concession Fair&Precious

1



Reinforcing the impact of certification:

Ensuring that forestry is respectful of both ecosystems and local populations.



MOBILIZE ECONOMIC
ACTORS AND
CIVIL SOCIETY

© John Lander - Imagéo - Gabon - Concession Fair&Precious

2



Supporting training and education:

Contributing to the development of education and vocational training.



SUPPORT LOCAL
AND INNOVATIVE
PROJECTS

© John Lander - Imagéo - Congo - Concession Fair&Precious

3



Preserving wildlife:

Participating in projects that preserve wildlife and protect its natural habitat.



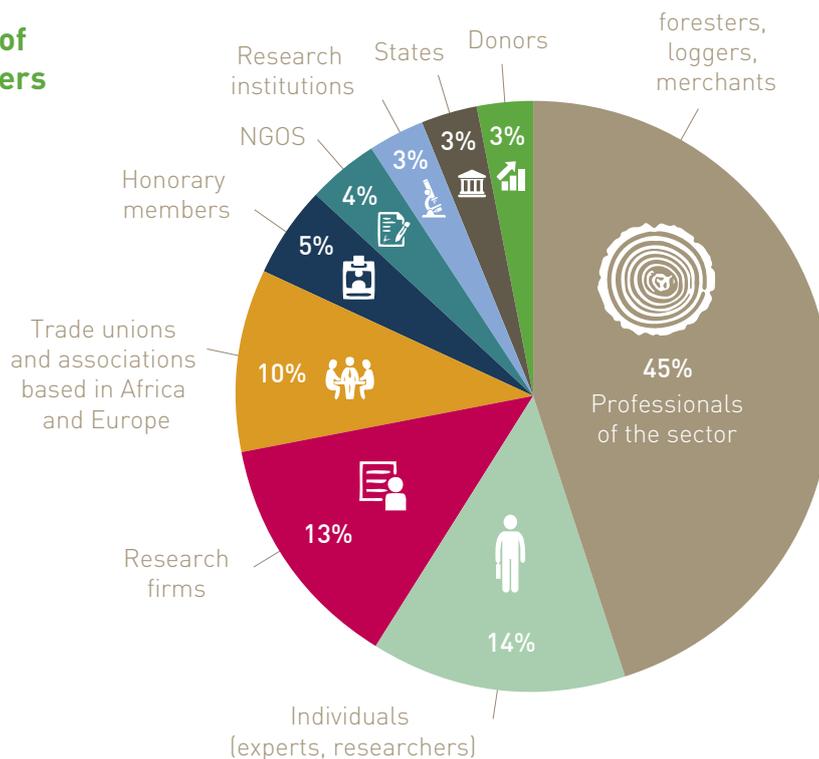
RAISE AWARENESS
AND ALERT ON
SUSTAINABLE FOREST
MANAGEMENT

ATIBT'S MEMBERS | IN 2022

In 2022, three members left ATIBT, and nine new members joined the Association. To date, the number of registered members therefore stands at 148. In addition to these paid members, there are also honorary members, some of whom continue to play an important role.



Types of members



A directory of our members is available on our website:
New arriving members are always welcomed
in our newsletter.



The following companies joined us in 2022:



ATIBT'S REPRESENTATION IN THE TROPICAL TIMBER SECTOR



© John Lander - Imagéo - Congo - Concession Fair&Precious

With nearly 150 members, a number that is growing every year, ATIBT is strongly representative of those who are active in sustainable tropical forest management, most of whom are private players. More specifically, the Association brings together a large number of forestry companies that are certified (sustainable management or legality), which represent a total of around 12 million ha of tropical forests (of which over six million are FSC and PAFC certified). Some of them are based in Latin America (Brazil, Peru) but the majority are based in the Congo Basin and West Africa (Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Gabon, Republic of Congo and Democratic Republic of Congo).

Downstream, many industrial and commercial members are based in around

15 other countries, although a growing number of them are based in the producing countries.

The involvement of ATIBT's members is also a sign of representativeness, as many of them express their vision and their needs. Institutional recognition should be considered to illustrate this representativeness. The various member countries (Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire), donors, professional bodies (14 associations of timber producers and importers) as well as training and research centres (six institutions) reinforce its credibility and legitimacy. ATIBT is thus regularly called on to examine public policies concerning the sustainable management of tropical forests.

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 and carry out actions that are part of a lasting relationship. A few other experts, recognised for their knowledge, are mandated by ATIBT for specific studies.

Our team, which currently consists of 14 individuals, is spread between France, Congo, Gabon and Cameroon. Whether they are employees or experts under contract, the entire team shares the same values of commitment and cooperation,

and acts above all in the interest of the Association's members and its partners.

A CLOSE-UP OF OUR TEAM IN CONGO

As a reminder, in 2015 ATIBT signed a headquarters agreement with the Republic of Congo. Our Congo team was thus established in 2018. Headed by Alain Tiot-sop, its mission is to implement the signed headquarters agreement and to ensure the smooth running of ATIBT's activities in the Republic of Congo, a member country of our Association that also sits on the Board of Directors.



BENOÎT JOBBÉ-DUVAL

Managing Director

Benoît Jobbé-Duval has 15 years of experience in tropical research and development, in Cambodia, Guatemala, Mexico and especially in Africa, with eight years spent between Gabon and Côte d'Ivoire. During all these years, he worked with the CIRAD's Perennial Crops Unit.

Prior to joining ATIBT, Benoît worked for 13 years within Spain's timber industry.



JACQUELINE LARDIT-VAN DE POL

*ADEFAC Project Coordinator
Forest-Timber Sector Expert*

Jacqueline Lardit-Van de Pol joined ATIBT in early 2016 to take over the FLEGT-IP project. With over 20 years of experience in the sub-region, notably in Cameroon and in Gabon, and thanks to her successive positions as coordinator of an independent observer pilot project for an NGO, as head of legality certification for private companies, and as a consultant in the evaluation of the FLEGT-VPA process for donors, she understands the interests, difficulties and capabilities of the various stakeholders. Jacqueline has been coordinating the ADEFAC project since 2020 and is secretary of ATIBT's Forest-Industry Commission.



CAROLINE DUHESME

Director of innovation and strategy - certification

Caroline Duhesme is an ESB timber engineer with over 20 years of experience in the tropical forest-timber industry, mainly in the Congo Basin. As an independent consultant for the past 10 years and a certification specialist, she has broadened her areas of expertise to include forest governance (FLEGT action plan), assessment and financing mechanisms for environmental and social services, etc. Since 2017, Caroline Duhesme has joined ATIBT to support the implementation of a FLEGT-REDD certification project. She is now in charge of coordinating ATIBT's strategic actions, and she is also the secretary of ATIBT's certification commission.



MARION VAQUIN

Administrative and Financial Manager

After obtaining her Master's degree in Finance from the Sorbonne Business School (IAE Paris), Marion worked for five years in an accounting and auditing firm. She then spent 10 years in various positions within the AFD's finance department, where she headed the "Regulatory, consolidation and accounting" department and was a member of the ethics committee, prior to joining ATIBT.



HORTENSE ELLA-MENYE BATINDEK

*Communications and Monitoring/Evaluation
Manager of the ADEFAC project*

Hortense is a sociologist who has been working since 2010 as a consultant in project engineering, training engineering and gender issues for various organisations in the Congo Basin countries. She has been a Technical Assistant at ATIBT since April 2020 within the framework of the ADEFAC project, and as of June 2022 she has been Vice-President of the Cameroon Development Evaluation Association (CaDEA). Her scientific research fields are: education and training, socialisation and gender dynamics in the workplace.



ALAIN TIOTSOP

*ATIBT Congo Representative/ Project Coordinator/
Forestry planner and auditor*

Alain Tiotsop is a forestry engineer based in Brazzaville. He is in charge of ATIBT's Congo office, and as such manages and co-coordinates the various projects implemented in Congo (ASP Congo - Private Sector Support, ADEFAC and the Open Timber Portal in 2022). Alain is an FM/COC auditor for Bureau Veritas and has solid experience in various fields: forest mapping, forest inventories, forest inventory data processing, forest legislation, the drafting and implementation of forest management plans, among others. Alain has a solid background in the private sector.



GERMAIN YÉNÉ

PAFC Congo Basin Project Manager

Germain is a water and forestry engineer. He has been working on forestry and agro-industrial management issues in Central and West Africa for the past 20 years, during which time he worked mainly with the private sector. From 2019 to 2023, Germain coordinated the PAFC Project for the Congo Basin. In 2023, Germain will take over management of the ASP PACTE VERT project (ASP GREEN PACT - support to the private forestry sector and the timber industry for the Green Pact) in Cameroon as part of the PAMFOR programme to improve governance in the forestry sector.



YANICK NKOULOU

UFA-reforest Project Manager

Yanick Serge Nkoulou holds a professional Master's degree in Forestry Sciences (with an Agroforestry option) from the University of Yaoundé I, which he obtained in 2011. His career started at Absl Nature Plus in the framework of community forestry in Cameroon, followed by a position at the PALLISCO forestry company until January 2022, where he was in charge of reforestation aspects and the monitoring of scientific devices installed in the Forest Management Units. He developed extensive expertise in nursery management, in forest species silviculture and in their ecologies. As of February 2022, he is the new UFA-REFOREST project manager.



DONATIEN NZALA

*Forest governance expert
for the ASP Congo project*

Professor Donatien Nzala is a forestry engineer by training. Along with his 35-year career as a teacher-researcher at the Marien Ngouabi University (Brazzaville - Congo), he was also Managing Director of the Forest Economy (2008-2014), and then Inspector General of the Republic of Congo's Forestry Economy Services (2014-2017). In 2022, he worked on the OTP project, as well as on the ASP Congo project as a technical assistant.



ÉLISE MAZEYRAC

*Headquarters ADEFAC project coordinator
training project management specialist*

Elise Mazeyrac has a Master's degree in professional education sciences and a Master's degree in political science, as well as a CAS (Certificate of Advanced Studies) in adult education. She is specialised in training project management and training engineering. Elise joined ATIBT as its ADEFAC project manager at the association's headquarters in France, after over 10 years of experience in regional training projects and in different central African countries.



JOSÉPHA COACHE

Communications and project coordination support – CSR officer

Josépha Coache holds a master's degree in "Agricultural Development and Economic Policies" from the Sorbonne Institute of Development Studies. She is currently the assistant of ATIBT's Fair&Precious marketing programme, as well as of the Themis project, as of February 2020.



ALESSANDRA NEGRI

Coordinator of timber promotion actions

The holder of a degree in political science and from Agro-ParisTech, Alessandra has solid knowledge of environmental issues at both the political and technical levels. She has become a specialist in environmental strategy and negotiation. Within the framework of a partnership between LCB and ATIBT, Alessandra's mission will be to promote all timber materials and she'll be involved in ATIBT's marketing project, in particular the "Dryades" project (creation of environmental data sheets for tropical timber materials), as well as monitoring new European regulations against deforestation.



FLORA AMBOULOU

Administrative assistant in accounting and logistics (Brazzaville)

With a Master's degree in finance management obtained from the ESGAE (*Ecole Supérieure de Gestion et d'Administration des Entreprises*), where she pursued all of her higher education, Flora Amboulou, in addition to her position as Administrative, Accounting and Logistics Assistant for ATIBT Congo, supports the team in all of its organisational and material management activities. *Flora was replaced by Ruth Prudence Koussingounina in early 2023.*



HAYAT HOUMA
Accounting assistant

Hayat holds a DUT (University Diploma in Technology) in law from the University of Paris XIII, and an accounting assistant degree from that same university. Hayat joined ATIBT in May 2020 as the association's administrative and accounting assistant. Hayat was replaced by Jessica Delekian in early 2023.



© John Lander - Imagéo - Congo - Concession Fair&Precious

CELEBRATING ATIBT'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY AND THE NANTES FORUM

ATIBT'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY EVENING KICKS OFF THE FORUM



© ATIBT

On the afternoon of Tuesday 31 May, ATIBT's General Assembly was held, the first face-to-face meeting in three years. Among those attending the meeting was the Republic of Congo's Minister of Forest Economy, H.E. Rosalie Matondo, the Director of ITTO, Mrs. Sheam Satkuru,

the Secretary General of COMIFAC, Mr. Hervé Maïdou, as well as the head of the FAO Forest Governance Team, Mrs. Thaïs Linhares-Juvenal. On this occasion, the ATIBT team had prepared an informal but lively Assembly, in order to present to the members the actions currently in progress and to provide an overview of administrative aspects, as is normally done.

Following the Assembly, the gala evening was held in honour of the Association's 70th anniversary. By all accounts, it was a true success! The ATIBT team was pleased to hear the largely positive feedback and to see that the participants spend a wonderful evening, delighted by the Ile de Nantes' machines - especially its amazing mechanical elephant.



© ATIBT



© ATIBT

A DENSE FORUM AT THE CARREFOUR INTERNATIONAL DU BOIS



© ATIBT

The following day, 1 June, the Forum began, organised in several stages. From Wednesday to Friday, round tables were held continuously on the ATIBT stand. This stand was a real eye-catcher: organised as an "agora", it attracted many listeners throughout the CIB (always on Friday afternoon) and was the stage for many discussions and debates. Many of the ATIBT's partners and key players in the field of sustainable tropical forest management - such as FSC, PEFC/PAFC, WRI, Probos, Rainforest Alliance, etc. - had the opportunity to participate in this agora.

ATIBT was also present on two other stands: across from the ATIBT stand was an institutional Congo Basin stand dedicated to COMIFAC, and next to the ATIBT stand was the Fair&Precious stand, which was run by the forest operators who are members of the collective.

Another key moment of the Forum was the conference day held on 1 June, which was held in a dedicated room and marked by a press conference in the middle of the day. This series of conferences addressed a variety of topics centred on the development of markets for certified tropical

timber. Side-events were also organised in the same room on Thursday 2 June.

The Forum ended on Friday afternoon with a cocktail party on the ATIBT stand, preceded by a speech by Her Excellency Rosalie Matondo, who was present in Nantes throughout the Forum.

All of the sessions presented on the ATIBT stand were filmed and [are available online](#), as is the [report of this event](#).

The entire ATIBT team would like to thank all of the participants who came out to Nantes to make this event a highlight for the Association and for the industry. We are sincerely very happy to have been able to meet again with our members, our partners and others from our network during this Forum. We would like to thank the donors and companies that helped fund its organisation, namely: PPECF-COMIFAC, AFD, FFEM, FAO, ITTO, FSC Denmark, PEFC International, and the Pallisco, Precious Woods, Rougier, Interholco and CIB Olam companies. We also want to thank the other companies that helped provide the materials used for our stand.



© ATIBT

A PAFC CERTIFICATION SCHEME THAT IS NOW OPERATIONAL AND ACCEPTED

The PAFC Congo Basin regional certification system [was recognised in 2021](#), and was to be confirmed following the response to open non-conformities.

An evaluation mission was conducted in November 2022 by [Form International](#) to assess the corrective actions undertaken by ATIBT and by the members of the Pan African Forest Certification for the Congo Basin. Based on the findings of this assessment, PEFC International informed ATIBT that all of the non-conformities identified in the assessment report had been successfully addressed. The final report of the assessment, which included the results of the country visits, confirms the initial findings of the report.

This validation allows PEFC to confirm that Pan African Forest Certification for the Congo Basin is now fully compliant with PEFC requirements and that it has been granted **full certification status**.

This decision was praised during the PEFC General Assembly - which was held virtually on 16 November (during PEFC Week) - via the awarding of a certificate to the national PAFCs of Cameroon, Gabon and Congo.

In parallel, the PAFC Congo Basin scheme continued its implementation phase. With regard to the auditors, Bureau Veritas was accredited by TUNAC (Tunisian AB), and Control Union is also in the process of being accredited by TUNAC. In total, over 10 experienced auditors have been trained by Bureau Veritas Cameroon and by Control Union Italy. On the market side,

80 company representatives were trained on sustainable forest management standards, and there is a strong demand for CoC training.

Open days were also organised in Cameroon, Gabon and Congo in October 2022 by the national PAFCs to exchange with stakeholders involved in the forest management of their countries. The aim of these meetings was to present the PAFC Congo Basin certification scheme, to enable stakeholders to better understand the system, and to discuss issues related to the implementation of PAFC certification, how it works, as well as market opportunities.

In addition, practical sheets were developed with the support of ATIBT and PEFC International to present the PAFC Congo Basin certification, the sustainable forest management standard and how to get certified. These sheets provide a general overview of the importance of sustainable forest management certification and the solutions that PAFC Congo Basin provides.

It should be noted that a new company was certified under PAFC Gabon in 2022, bringing the total PAFC-certified surface area to almost 900,000 ha, which will be transitioned to PAFC Congo Basin in 2023. Further audits are planned for 2023.

"Greenhouse gas" and "carbon" tools have been developed to help companies comply with the requirements of the PAFC Congo Basin standard (see the chapter on "Support for certification schemes - The PAFC Congo Basin").

AN FSC ASSEMBLY THAT IS CRUCIAL FOR THE FUTURE OF TROPICAL FOREST CERTIFICATION



© FSC

In October 2022, the 9th FSC General Assembly (GA) was held, which is usually held every three years. Due to Covid, the 2020 edition had been postponed to 2021/2022 across two sessions:

- A virtual session in October 2021
- A hybrid session from 9 to 14 October 2022 in Bali (Indonesia)

ATIBT and its members have worked for over two years on the preparation of this FSC General Assembly in order to find a **favourable outcome for the protection of IFLs (intact forest landscapes)** and to have an impact on the FSC system. The action was financed by PPECF COMIFAC (KfW founding). Work was carried out through the Certification Commission's IFL sub-group, of which its participating members were particularly committed.

As a reminder, Motion 65 on Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL) was approved at the FSC General Assembly of 2014 to "ensure the implementation of principle 9 and the

protection of intact forest landscapes". **The motion required the full protection of 80% of the IFL area within FSC-certified forest management units (FMUs)** until more specific rules have been defined for the FSC national standards.

However, studies carried out in the context of motion 34/2017 (proposed by ATIBT) on the social, environmental and economic impacts of the implementation of motion 65 show that, in the tropical and boreal regions studied, **only 0.6-7% of the existing IFLs are affected by the FSC approach** focusing on certified FMUs; and even for this rather small portion, managers of the affected FMUs have largely expressed that they could not maintain their commitment to FSC if these requirements were maintained.

In the Congo Basin, the National Standards Development Groups **proposed indicators for the protection of IFLs on the basis of a robust, participatory and consensus-based process**, building on the work

of a regional High Conservation Value (HCV) Working Group. Among the regional indicators defined was the proposal for a protective threshold of 20% of the core area of the IFLs in the forest concession, which was rejected by FSC as not contributing to the protection of the "vast majority" of IFLs (based on a 2019 FSC guidance note). The experience in the Amazon Basin has led to the same situation.

The FSC requirements for IFL protection thus directly **undermined the economic viability** of FSC-certified forest management (and, indirectly, the **associated social benefits and environmental suitability**), especially in tropical areas.

In order to find a solution, ATIBT and its members proposed **several constructive motions**, including **Motion 23**, which calls for the identification of the IFL area and its management measures through a "landscape and sub-canopy approach", along with strong stakeholder commitment at the national level (through the SDGs (Standard Development Groups)), and for the temporary implementation of national guidelines that were initially developed by the national SDGs.

In parallel, the **Brazilian members presented another motion**, supported by CEB Precious Woods, proposing another solution: motion 18 called for IFLs to be better included in the existing HCV2 management and preservation approach, and for a temporary suspension of the current rules.

Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL) at the core of the FSC General Assembly discussions

ATIBT and some of its members attended the FSC GA from 9-14 October 2022 in Bali, primarily to defend their Motion 23 on Intact Forest Landscapes, as well as the addition of French as a third official FSC language through Motion 1. Over 750 FSC members and leaders of indigenous

peoples' organisations, trade unions, environmental groups, businesses and individuals got together at this event.

In the run-up to the vote on motion 23, ATIBT organised a side-event at the beginning of the GA to explain the issues at stake for the industry with regard to this motion and the IFLs. On this occasion, Professor Lee White, Gabon's Minister of Water and Forests, made a presentation by video, explaining Gabon's efforts in recent years to support sustainable forest management.

Wednesday 12 October was a highlight of the GA, with the vote on motion 23 (submitted by ATIBT), which was broadly supported by the three chambers (economic, environmental and social), along with the support of Latin America, which withdrew its motion in favour of ATIBT's.

ATIBT is proud that this collective work with several certified companies, organisations and partners was successful. The validation of motion 23 will now allow for the implementation of measures adapted to local contexts for the management of the IFLs.

Through these motions, ATIBT and its members have demonstrated that **they fully support the preservation of High Conservation Values 2 (HCV2), including Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL)**, and that they are ready to contribute to the best of their ability. Through this motion, they want to address their concerns regarding the approach to the preservation of HCV2/IFLs.

The now passed motion 23 will aim to lead a robust and inclusive process to revise the IFL rules for all forests, both in the tropics and in temperate and boreal zones. FSC will lead this process with the support of the standards development groups in order to take into account both global issues and local realities.

ATIBT was pleased to see the adoption of this motion, which proposes a comprehensive approach that integrates all the values we associate with forests and landscapes, whether they are existential (biodiversity for its own sake), utilitarian (forest management and ecosystem services), or cultural (consideration of both local communities and indigenous peoples). We thank the companies that accompanied us to the Bali General Assembly, the organisations and other partners from Brazil, Peru, Guatemala, Cameroon, Gabon and Congo, as well as those from certified tropical timber importing countries, who helped to develop and promote this motion.

The implementation of motion 23: the stakes for 2023-2024

In December 2022, a first step for the implementation of motion 23 was taken,

as FSC published the note of advice regarding the interim measure to maintain the management of IFLs in Latin America (including the Amazons) and Central Africa, which was requested in motion 23. The revised note (ADVICE-20-007-18 V2-0) came into effect on 1 January 2023.

The second phase is a review and revision process regarding the FSC rules for the protection and management of IFLs, reflecting the requirements of the approved motion. It will be supported by a broader commitment and consultation and will take into account the lessons learned from the Focus Forest project.

ATIBT and its IFL sub-group are continuing this work, in particular to monitor and commit to this implementation of motion 23.



© ATIBT

ATIBT CONGO, CONSOLIDATED ACTION



© John Lander - Imagéo - Congo - Concession Fair&Precious

The implementation of the FLEGT VPA is gaining momentum in Congo and is therefore receiving attention from both technical and financial partners. Numerous actions, initiatives and projects are underway or planned, particularly in the context of the implementation of the Computerised Legality Verification System (SIVL) and the implementation of the new forestry code (law 33-2020), which will have major consequences on the tools used to implement the FLEGT VPA.

ATIBT Congo's actions are in line with the various projects that were carried out in the country over the past five years, which have sought to involve the Congolese private sector. It is therefore on the basis of the experience and the results that were obtained in recent years that the 2022 actions have been carried out, for the benefit of the various Congolese private sector players.

Several projects were carried out by ATIBT Congo during 2022:

- The Private Sector Support (*ASP - Appui Secteur Privé*) Congo project, funded by the EU, which aims to strengthen Professional Associations in the Congolese forestry sector so that they contribute to improving forest governance in favour of a sustainable, inclusive and more transparent management of forest resources;
- The Open Timber Portal (OTP), funded by WRI, which aims to train and support forestry companies so that they share their legal documents on the Open Timber Portal (OTP);
- The Support for the Development of Continuing Education in the Forestry and Timber Sector in Central Africa (*ADEFAC - Appui au Développement de la Formation continue en Afrique Centrale*) project, funded by the AFD, which aims to develop a continuing education offer for the forest-timber

sector (upstream and downstream) in Central African countries, co-constructed by the sector's professional circles and training institutions, in order to improve the employability and qualifications of local workers, and to enhance the value of the economic sector;

- The Programme for the Promotion of Certified Logging (*PPECF - Programme de Promotion de l'Exploitation Certifiée des Forêts*), funded by the KFW, which aims to increase the surface areas of certified forests.

These various projects are complementary and have developed synergies between themselves. Indeed, technical support, training, awareness-raising, skill-building and company coaching have been carried out in the framework of these projects. Logging companies are the main target and the final beneficiaries of these projects. Synergies are also foreseen with the "Technical Assistance Mission for the Implementation of the LVS and Forest Management" project (AT-SVLA - Assistance Technique du SVL et l'Aménagement).

ATIBT Congo played the role of facilitator and federator for the Congolese private sector and the Professional Associations. It has ensured this function thanks to its neutrality in the Congolese forest-timber sector (it doesn't play the role of a trade union at the national level) and through its experience (at the national, sub-regional and international levels) which it shares with the national Professional Associations. An operating framework has been defined with UNICONGO through a partnership agreement, which will adapt to the development of activities. Actions to support the structuring and functioning of Professional Associations have been defined and validated through roadmaps. A "change support" programme for the UNIBOIS union was initiated with the assistance of a consultant specialising in SME support. This action will continue in 2023.

The ATIBT Congo team has remained in frequent contact with private sector companies, local authorities and other stakeholders in the FLEGT process, particularly in the context of communication activities, legal and regulatory monitoring, and during advocacy efforts as well as "legality" and "traceability" training plans. The communication strategy implemented in 2022 will continue in 2023, as will the implementation of training/skill-building plans for forestry company staff on legality and traceability, upstream of the "SIVL" (Computerised Legality Verification System), and the training of trainers for the various timber trades.

Through these projects and their related activities, ATIBT has been able to provide the private sector with genuine support in 2022 in the framework of the FLEGT VPA process:

- A contact partner for various issues (VPA-FLEGT, forest certification, CITES, carbon credits, etc.);
- An information source, with the regular sharing of information on the VPA-FLEGT process, the evolution of the regulatory framework and private certification (third party);
- A relay point in Brazzaville that raises private sector concerns up at meetings of the Joint Working Group (GTC - Groupe de Travail Conjoint) and the Joint Implementation Committee (CCM - Comité Conjoint de Mise en œuvre);
- Settings for discussions between the private sector (during consultations) in order to confront multiple views so as to find common ground and help the private sector speak with a single voice;
- Facilitation and awareness-raising regarding important regulatory texts, with the re-cruitment of experts who can accompany the private sector.

All of these elements provide a solid basis for the actions planned in 2023.

ATIBT'S VISIBILITY AND THE SHARING OF INFORMATION

| ATIBT'S WEBSITES

The ATIBT websites [Fair&Precious](#) and [My Tropical Timber](#) pursued and expanded their progress in 2022.

Work was carried out in terms of classification and access to information in view of the growing importance of the documented contents and the news published on websites of the digital ecosystem.

A photo gallery was developed to showcase the photo reports produced in the forest concessions of Fair&Precious loggers, in parallel with the shooting of documentary films.

Detailed statistics are available in the 2022 marketing activity report.

| SOCIAL NETWORK PRESENCE

THE INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT

The Fair&Precious programme has an Instagram page.

Key figures

- 4,695 followers as of 31 December 2022, +5% compared with 2021 (4,476) / 219 new followers
- 3,341,000 impressions (audience) in 2022, +34% compared with 2021 (2.5 million)
- 37,250 reactions in 2022, +195% compared with 2021 (12,600)
- A 7.8% engagement rate in 2022, -5% compared with 2021 (8.2%)

The number of followers continued to grow in 2022, as did the audience, thanks to the diversification of publications and sponsorships.

THE LINKEDIN PAGES

ATIBT's LinkedIn page was managed throughout 2022 by Maylis Borelli Manach. The Fair&Precious page was managed by Open2Digital until 30 September 2022 and then taken over by Maylis Borelli Manach as of 1 October.

The number of followers and the audience continued to grow in 2022 on both of these pages.

Key figures:

- 1,375 followers as of 31 December 2022, +83% compared with 2021 (752) / 623 new followers
- 68,163 impressions (audience) in 2022, +56% compared with 2021 (43,800)
- 2,011 reactions in 2022, +59% compared with 2020 (1,266)
- An 8.4% engagement rate in 2022, -19% compared with 2021 (10.4%)

ATIBT'S NEWSLETTERS

In 2022, ATIBT pursued its work of monitoring the sector and providing information by publishing a newsletter every Friday. This newsletter, received by nearly 4,000 people in 2022, is the fruit of the entire team's contributions, but also that of members and partners who participate by writing articles, either at our request or by proposing current and in-depth topics.

2022 PUBLICATIONS

In addition to the 250 articles mentioned above, ATIBT published several technical documents in 2022.

Two technical sheets were drafted and shared via ATIBT's newsletter and networks: technical sheet no. 15 "*Evolution of the classification of commercial African species of the Afzelia (Doussié) genus and of the Pterocarpus (Padouk) genus in the Tropical Timber nomenclature*", and technical sheet no. 16 "*Railroad sleepers and related uses*". The Timber & Standardisation Commission is in charge of preparing these sheets.

In addition, 12 sheets on the results of life cycle assessments (LCA) of certified timber products from the Congo Basin were also published as part of the Dryades project.

As discussed in greater detail in a dedicated section of this report, three films were shot in the forest concessions of Fair&Precious operators in Gabon, Cameroon and the Republic of Congo. The result was three documentaries of approximately eight minutes each and a two-minute video clip, as well as an update of the Fair&Precious photo library.

The newsletter has three main sections: a "Member news" section, which provides information on our members' latest news, a section on industry news (which also regularly features in-depth articles) and a calendar of events involving the Association's activities as well as those of its members and partners. Around 250 articles were either published or relayed via this weekly newsletter in 2022.

All of these documents and videos are available in the online media library, which also underwent changes in 2022: the ATIBT website added a new media library, named "Resources". Over 1,500 documents are freely accessible.



2022

AT A GLANCE

JANUARY

- **7 January 2022:** Recognition of the PAFC Congo Basin by the PEFC Council
- **14 January 2022:** Launch of the UFA-Reforest project in Cameroon
- **17 January 2022:** ATIBT Timber & Standardisation Commission
- **20 January 2022:** Launch of ATIBT's Carbon & Biodiversity Commission
- **20 January 2022:** 5th ATIBT Certification Commission meeting
- **27 January 2022:** ATIBT Marketing Commission

FEBRUARY

- **11 February 2022:** ATIBT becomes a member of the CNDB (National Centre for the Development of Timber)
- **15 February 2022:** Launch of the Themis data collection survey on the timber product supplies of member companies in 2021
- **23 February 2022:** Initial contact with Carbone 4 on the Net Zero Initiative

MARCH

- **7 to 11 March 2022:** 74th meeting of the CITES standing committee in Lyon
- **28 March 2022:** Workshop for the launch of the UFA-Reforest project in Cameroon
- **31 March 2022:** ATIBT's 2nd Carbon & Biodiversity Commission meeting

APRIL

- **28 April 2022:** ATIBT Forestry & Industry Commission
- **28 April 2022:** ATIBT Training Commission

MAY

- **2 to 6 May 2022:** 15th World Forestry Congress in Seoul
- **31 May:** General Assembly and ATIBT's 70th anniversary ceremony in Nantes

JUNE

- **1 to 3 June 2022:** Carrefour International du Bois (CIB) and ATIBT Forum in Nantes
- **16 June 2022:** Tali timber that has sustainable management certification is selected for the Olympic construction site (2024 Olympic Games in Paris)

JULY

- **5 July 2022:** ATIBT Agroforestry & Plantations Commission
- **5 to 9 July 2022:** 19th meeting of the parties of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (PFBC)
- **17 to 20 July:** World Agroforestry Congress in Quebec

OCTOBER

- **9 to 14 October 2022:** FSC General Assembly in Bali and adoption of motion 23 on Intact Forest Landscapes
- **27 and 28 October 2022:** International Hardwood Conference in Lyon
- **14 October 2022:** MoU signature with Rainforest Alliance

NOVEMBER

- **8 November 2022:** Marketing Commission
- **6 to 8 November 2022:** COP 27 Climate meeting
- **14 to 25 November 2022:** 19th CITES Conference of the Parties session
- **16 November 2022:** Full recognition of the PAFC Congo Basin
- **25 November 2022:** 6th Certification Commission meeting

DECEMBER

- **6 December 2022:** Provisional agreement on the proposed EU Zero Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)
- **7 and 8 December 2022:** ATIBT's 5th Think Tank
- **7 to 19 December 2022:** COP 15 Biodiversity meeting in Montreal
- **16 December 2022:** ATIBT becomes a member of the Organisation for Biodiversity Certificates (OBC)

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

2



THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

In 2022, ATIBT's scientific council intervened in two main matters. The first one involved the validation of the final report of the Dynafor and P3FAC projects. Presented by the Dynafac collective, which brings together training and research institutions from both the North and the South, this report compiles the work carried out on forest dynamics over several years. The recommendations were summarised in a note to decision-makers. They aim to improve the sustainability of management plans. The main points addressed relate to the harmonisation of minimum harvestable diameters, the duration of rotations and reconstitution rates. The practicalities of implementing pragmatic systems to monitor the growth of commercial species, wildlife management and silviculture are also addressed. These recommendations were presented

during the PFBC (Partnership for Forests of the Congo Basin) meeting held in Libreville in July 2022.

The second matter involved the assessment of the vulnerability statuses of commercial species. Thanks to a multi-disciplinary approach involving many partners, a model of the evolution of commercial species populations was developed. This made it possible to assign a robust status to approximately 20 species during a validation workshop that was also held in Libreville. The finalised information sheets will be submitted to the IUCN for publication. The results were also presented in Panama at the CITES COP meeting in order to demonstrate that the inclusion of the *Azelia* and *Pterocarpus* genera in Appendix II was not scientifically justified.

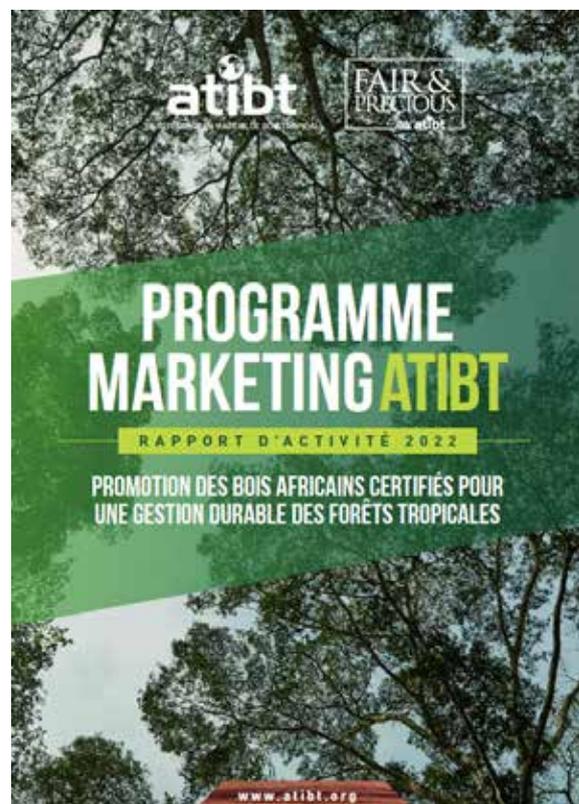
THE COMMISSIONS

THE MARKETING COMMISSION AND THE FAIR&PRECIOUS PROGRAM

The Marketing Commission is one of the essential steering instruments of the Fair&Precious program.

This Commission benefits from the support of Stratemark (Bertrand Faucon's expertise) and Probos. It met twice in 2022, to address issues of image, market, and program follow-up.

As a reminder, Fair&Precious is a very wide-ranging transversal program allowing for image marketing, influence marketing and product marketing.



A specific annual report is disseminated on the Fair&Precious marketing program. The joint activities between Fair&Precious and Probos have materialized in 2022, with the support of PPECF, in the following ways:

- Contributions to updates of the Fair&Precious website;
- Publication of a joint newsletter (three F&P STTC newsletters in 2022);

- ATIBT's participation in the Sustainable Tropical Timber Coalition (STTC) technical committee;
- Probos' participation in the Think Tank and in the ATIBT Marketing Commission's meetings;
- Probos' participation in the ATIBT Forum / Fair&Precious in Nantes in May 2022;
- Support to the ATIBT / Fair&Precious social media agencies: Open2Europe and Open2Digital.

| THE CERTIFICATION COMMISSION AND ITS WORKING GROUPS



© John Lander - Imagéo - Cameroun - Concession Fair&Precious

The Certification Commission is chaired by Nicolas Perthuisot (Sylvexpert) and the secretariat is handled by Caroline Duhesme (ATIBT). It met twice in 2022 in plenary sessions, on 20 January and 21 November, to review certification developments and to identify the next areas requiring work. The Certification Commission has 22 participants, of which around 75% are highly active, particularly through the

two "IFL" and "Imported deforestation" sub-groups. These two working groups operate regularly, with about 15 meetings for the "IFL" group, and a few meetings and an email loop for the "Imported deforestation" group.

The year was marked by the follow-up of three major processes:

- The acceptance and implementation of the PAFC Congo Basin scheme and the development of tools to measure forest carbon and greenhouse gases (see the chapter "Support for certification schemes - The PAFC Congo Basin");
- Preparation and follow-up of the FSC General Assembly on the IFL issue, via the proposal of motions (see the chapter on "Preparatory work ahead of the FSC General Assembly");
- The follow-up of the European Union's proposed regulation on deforestation and advocacy actions so that the role of third-party certification is fully accepted (see the chapter "Analysis and discussion regarding the new "Zero Deforestation" EU regulation").

| THE TRAINING COMMISSION

In continuation of the Commission's work in 2021, the Training Commission held two meetings in 2022, which included the participation of around ten members each time. The first meeting, in April, provided an opportunity to discuss the organisation of ATIBT's Forum in Nantes, and to examine a number of needs and issues encountered by companies. The second meeting, in October, was an opportunity to clarify how the Commission operates and to prepare the 2023 action plan.

In 2022, Arnaud Besserer, Director of International Relations at the ENSTIB, succeeded Patrick Charpentier as Chairman of the Training Commission.

The training commission's activities are based on the four strategic areas that were defined at the end of 2021:

1. Ensuring that the sector's professions are both visible and attractive;
2. Better identifying the needs of both companies and professionals so that appropriate training is developed;
3. Promote the training offer of ATIBT members;
4. Meeting the sector's technical and recurrent training needs.



© ATIBT

The 2023 action plan includes the following:

- The creation and distribution of a directory/catalogue of the training courses offered by ATIBT members;
- The creation of a map of stakeholders and the networks which ATIBT members belong to, or with whom they collaborate, in order to identify possible links, funding windows and collaborations;
- A "training needs" sub-committee will also be created to work on identifying and reporting on the needs of professionals;
- The organisation of internship placements in companies;
- An assessment of training courses and quality assurance;
- Technical training to meet companies' needs for highly qualified personnel (workers and technicians);
- The soft skills and interpersonal qualities required for the integration of new recruits in companies;
- Intercultural management.

The activities of the ADEFAC project, for which ATIBT is the delegated project manager, also contribute to the promotion of forest-timber industry professions, with, in particular, the production in 2022 of six video portraits of professionals, a map of the professions in the industry and profession-skills sheets. To find out more about ADEFAC, please consult the "Professional training" chapter within this activity report.

2023 will be the year in which the Training Commission's activities will be developed on the basis of the roadmap that was established in October 2022. By the end of 2022, the Commission had around a dozen regular participants: representatives of companies, professional groups and training institutions that are members of the ATIBT.

| THE TIMBER & STANDARDISATION COMMISSION



© John Lander - Imagéo - Gabon - Concession Fair&Precious

We need to mention that two Timber & Standardisation Commission meetings were held by videoconference (January and October 2022). In terms of the **publication of technical documents drafted within the framework of the Technical Commission, they are available online:** the technical sheets "[Evolution of the classification of commercial African species of the Afzelia \(Doussié\) genus and of the Pterocarpus \(Padouk\) genus in the Tropical Timber nomenclature](#)" and "[Railroad sleepers and related uses](#)" have been finalised. More information on the Commission's work can be found in the Tropical Timber Knowledge section.

| THE FOREST & INDUSTRY COMMISSION



© John Lander - Imagéo - Congo - Concession Fair&Precious

The Forest & Industry Commission is chaired by Nicolas Bayol (FRMi) and the secretariat is handled by Jacqueline Lardit (ATIBT). In 2022, it consisted of 15 members who represent large logging and industrial companies, research firms working in the fields of forest management and timber industry, and professional associations who are ATIBT members.

The Forest & Industry Commission strengthens the ties between companies in Central and West Africa and the ATIBT team via the following objectives:

- Enhancing the federation of the various players from producing countries in order to carry out collective thinking that favours active contributions to international debates on the tropical forest-timber sector, by answering with a single, pragmatic voice to the requirements advocated on the international scene regarding the sustainable management of forests and the evolutions of the markets;
- Improving communication on the measures implemented at the producer country level in order to help improve the sector's visibility.

Most exchanges are conducted through a mailing group, but the Commission also met twice by videoconference (in February and April 2022) and several members participated in the PFBC's Meeting of the Parties, which was held in Libreville from 5 to 9 July 2022.

The issues on which the Commission worked were as follows:

- Forest management: an assessment of the implementation of the management plan during the first logging rotation and preparation of management plans for the second rotation;
- Growth of the timber processing industry: the logistical, technical and economic challenges for this development and the implementation of probable regulations that will ban log exports;
- Conditions and prospects for a sustainable timber economy: this was the theme of a two-day workshop that the Gabonese Forest Ministry and ATIBT co-organised for the PFBC's Meeting of the Parties in July.

In 2022, a new theme emerged, with the addition of three botanical genera (*Afzelia*, *Pterocarpus* and *Khaya*) to Appendix II of the CITES during the November 2022 COP 19 meeting, and the tightening of enforcement measures within the EU. In 2023, and in order to follow up on this issue, a CITES working group will be established and will monitor the discussions within the CITES. In addition, the Forest & Industry Commission will continue to participate in discussions on the subjects of second generation management plans and the industrialisation of the sector.

THE AGROFORESTRY & PLANTATIONS COMMISSION



© John Lander - Imagéo - Gabon - Concession Fair&Precious

The Agroforestry & Plantations Commission met once in 2022, on 5 July. This meeting confirmed the following priorities:

- Setting up a monitoring and communication system in order to share all of the technical information, publications and meetings that may be of interest to the members. Following the last Commission meeting at the end of December 2021, a shared media library was created at the beginning of 2022.
- The "cocoa and lumber" association, which unites a number of interests; not to mention other orientations such as rubber or coffee-based associations.
- The promotion of agroforestry products through labels, certification or simply through voluntary approaches.

THE CARBON & BIODIVERSITY COMMISSION



© John Lander - Imago - Congo - Fair&Precious

The Carbon and Biodiversity Commission (CCB) was created in response to a growing demand and interest from many stakeholders in the tropical forest and timber sector - as well as a growing need from foresters to better understand the opportunities offered by the carbon and biodiversity markets - to obtain economic opportunities in exchange for the ecosystem services linked to sustainable forest management. ATIBT therefore launched this Commission in January 2022, initially led by the TERE research firm, which was then joined by Eticwood, which shares the secretariat duties.

This Commission, which originally consisted of around 30 members, now has nearly 70, from all backgrounds: loggers/producers, donors, professional associations, certification bodies and various experts, etc.

The Commission's goal is to bring together ATIBT members interested in the issue of carbon and biodiversity in order to generate a sense of emulation around this rapidly growing subject. The Commission's objectives are threefold:

Objective 1

Foster an understanding of carbon and biodiversity markets by ATIBT members, partners and stakeholders (loggers in particular) through the distribution of information and awareness-raising materials;

Objective 2

Promote financial intermediation between loggers, ATIBT members and carbon stakeholders, so that loggers can take advantage of opportunities related to the carbon markets and develop those involving biodiversity.

Objective 3

Lead global thought on the role of forest management within carbon markets, the role of biodiversity in projects, and the technical considerations associated with carbon projects for loggers.

Within this framework, the Commission's first year of existence was a busy one, marked by the following activities:

- Hosting of two thematic meetings with select members of the Commission
- Participation in the ATIBT Forum in Nantes in June 2022 and hosting of a conference on "Enhancing the value of carbon and biodiversity in sustainable forest management"
- Representation of ATIBT at the ITTO's 58th International Council in Yokohama in November 2022 and presentation on "Issues and Challenges in the Feasibility of Carbon Projects in Central Africa" during the Annual Market Discussion on the topic of "Carbon Trade and Tropical Forest"
- Organisation and hosting of the first day of ATIBT's 5th Think Tank in December 2022 on the topic "Giving value back to the forests: Carbon finance and biodiversity"
- Periodic distribution of a newsletter on carbon and biodiversity news to all

Commission members to keep them informed of important events and information on these topics. In 2022, the Commission issued six newsletters throughout the year.

- Launch of a collaboration with the Carbone 4 agency to conduct a study on the Net Zero Initiative throughout the Congo Basin's forestry sector (pending at this stage)
- Association with the Organisation for Biodiversity Certificates (OBC) consortium. This consortium aims to unite various stakeholders to develop new tools and give methodological consideration in order to generate "biodiversity certificates" so as to remunerate project leaders who make a positive impact on this ecosystem service. ATIBT, via representation by the Carbon & Biodiversity Commission, attended the partnership's launch meeting in Paris in October 2022 and officially joined the OBC at the end of the year. It is now part of the decision-making Board.

| SUPPORT FOR THE ORGANISATION FOR BIODIVERSITY CERTIFICATES (OBC)

Presented during the ATIBT's 5th Think Tank, the Organization for Biodiversity Certificates (OBC) aims to create an operational tool to assess the positive local impacts on biodiversity.

Why the need for this OBC initiative?

Today, various signals indicate that companies are ready to invest in the restoration, preservation and sustainable use of ecosystems. One solution to facilitate the private sector's contribution to this global challenge is to develop a "biodiversity certificate" system that allows for the funding of action in the field on the basis of quantified and certified "biodiversity gains".

This requires, in particular:

1. Developing a **methodology to assess** biodiversity gains
2. Defining a **certification process** for the generation of certificates
3. Designing a **market framework** for trade and for use of certificates.

The OBC's mission is therefore to help companies and public organisations **improve their biodiversity indicators at the global level**. With the growing need to preserve biodiversity, it's important to improve its overall condition by reducing environmental pressures, by restoring the ecosystems and by protecting at least 30% of land and marine areas. As a result, an increasing number of companies and

public organisations want to make a commitment to biodiversity and are initiating nature preservation initiatives.

However, they are often hindered in their development of these approaches by **two difficulties**:

- It's currently hard for them **to assess their share of responsibility** in the deforestation of a territory, the destruction of a mangrove, etc.
- It is **difficult to measure the beneficial results of the actions** that they implement locally due to a lack of tools. Those that do exist, such as the Global Biodiversity Score (GBS), indeed allow them to assess their impact on biodiversity in a global and statistical way - which is key - but they don't measure the local impacts or the improvements brought about via the actions carried out in the field.

These two measures are nevertheless essential to enable companies and public authorities to take effective action. Their benefit is indeed observed in terms of the climate: on the one hand, the SBTi's (Science-Based Targets Initiative) methods measure CO₂ emissions. On the other hand, voluntary nature-based carbon credits measure and certify the results of local actions taken to capture carbon. This dual assessment thus allows companies and public organisations to complement their emission reduction actions by funding initiatives that increase the capture of CO₂.

Based on these findings, the objective of the Organisation for Biodiversity Certificates is:

- To define:
 - **A unit of exchange, the "biodiversity certificate"**, based on a proven measure, which itself is based on a public calculation method that enables certification,
 - **The rules of a market exchange** that will allow project leaders that restore or

develop protected wilderness areas to sell biodiversity certificates.

- To carry out actions that complement these definitions so that companies and other organisations can improve their biodiversity indicators over the long term.

ATIBT's commitment within the OBC

The OBC initiative currently consists of **13 members** (companies, foundations, unions and associations). **ATIBT became a member at the end of November with the support of the PPECF.** During the first General Assembly, held on 5 December 2022, ATIBT proposed itself as a director and member of the board and thus participated in the first board meeting on 9 December. We indeed wish to be involved in the development of this initiative, in particular through the Carbon & Biodiversity Commission.

We believe that the mission of this initiative is promising because, on the one hand, there's an urgent need to support the preservation, restoration and sustainable use of ecosystems, especially tropical ones, and on the other hand, there's a need to improve the economic model of the tropical forest-timber sector. **But this raises many challenges.**

It is indeed important that we answer the following questions: How can we assess biodiversity gains when nature is often considered to be too complex to be measured? Can we develop a universal and robust methodology that's easy to implement in the field? How can we go beyond compensatory logic and design a system that promotes ambitious global action for biodiversity? What role should certificates play in companies' biodiversity strategies?

As was said during the last Think Tank, **it will be important for ATIBT members, especially foresters, to be the driving force behind this action.**

KEY FIGURES REGARDING ATIBT AND THE SECTOR

3

Entrée grume et Rapport

| Date | Entrée grume | Produit fini | Rendement | Produit fini | Rendement |
|---------|--------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| 14 | | 61.996 | 61.996 | | |
| 15 | | 67.893 | 423.829 | | |
| 16 | | | | | |
| 17 | | | | 1 | |
| 18 | | | | 4 | |
| 21 | | | | 5 | |
| 22 | | | | 06 | |
| 23 | | | | 07 | |
| 24 | | | | 08 | |
| 25 | | | | 11 | |
| 28 | | | | 12 | |
| | | | | 13 | |
| BU | | | | | |
| MOYENNA | | | | | |
| MOYENNA | | | | | |

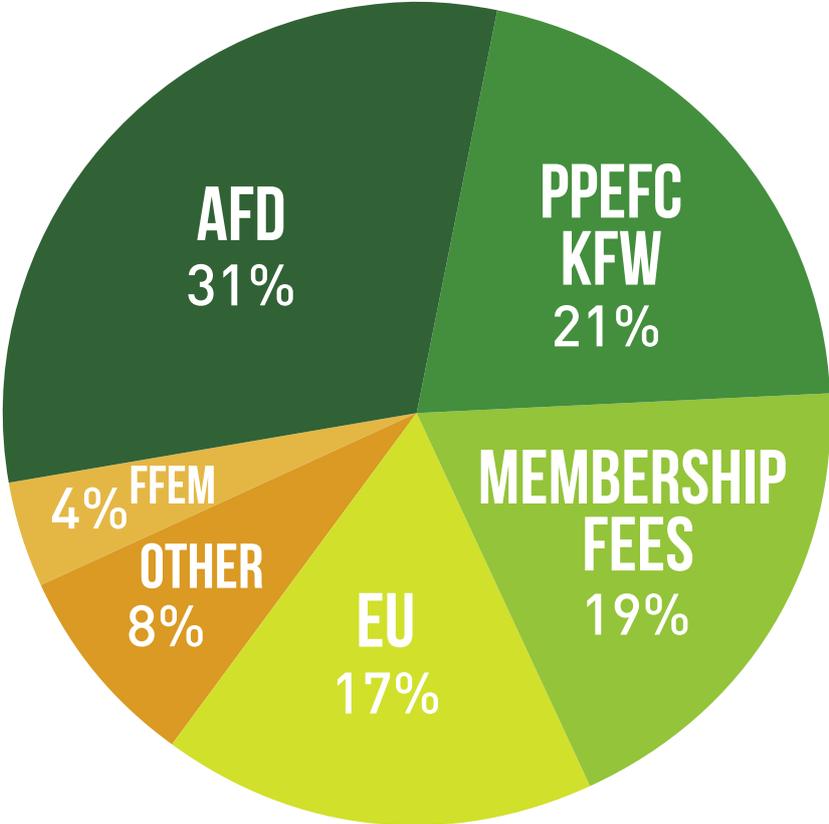
ORIGINE DES RESSOURCES DE L'ATIBT POUR L'ANNÉE 2022

ATIBT's budget for 2022 was €1,545K, a €481K increase compared with 2021. This increase was planned in view of the renewal of the 2021 project portfolio. Thus, in 2022 the resources consisted of new projects and this increase will continue in 2023, driven by two elements: the existence of a full year in terms of the projects that started in 2022 and the signing of a

major programme with the European Union at the end of 2022.

The share of membership fees is stable. Nevertheless, in relation to a larger volume, we note a growth of almost 50% due to the admission of new members and the exceptional contributions called from members for the organisation of the ATIBT Forum.

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



WHAT ARE YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES USED FOR?



© John Lander - Imagoé - Congo - Concession Fair&Precious

Membership fees represent about 18-20% of the Association's budget each year, including specific exceptional contributions from members, in particular the special Fair&Precious fees from certified loggers, as well as other one-off co-funding sources. They are important because our Association has to fund the actions necessary for its proper governance, and to address the needs of its members, which aren't always linked to the projects.

Thus, we need to mention, in particular:

- **Fixed costs** that cannot be funded by donors, notably those that relate to governance, accounting, as well as information for members, through answers to ongoing questions, the newsletter, etc.
 - **The agreement signed with the CIRAD** for its technical support to ATIBT's "technical timber" topics, which is part of ATIBT's historical commitments to its members.
 - **The hosting of ATIBT Commissions**, which are instrumental to uniting all
- of ATIBT's members around important subjects: standardisation, timber knowledge, certification, training, agroforestry and plantations, marketing, the forest industry, carbon and biodiversity, as well as the **ATIBT Scientific Council**.
- **Project development**, which allows subsequent implementation of strong field or institutional actions. If the actions are well-funded by the donors, the entire preparatory phase is at our expense and this period can last for months.
 - **The co-funding** required for actions funded by certain donors, which can be quite substantial, as high as 15-20%.
 - **Certain specific advocacy efforts** that follow political decisions, for example: the sharing of production in Congo, the export of CEMAC logs, European regulations, etc.
 - **Certain recurring topics** which ATIBT oversees: tropical timber nomenclature, project mapping, the monitoring of certified surface areas, etc.

ATIBT'S FINANCIAL SITUATION AT THE END OF 2022

Operating income consists of both membership fees as well as grants received for projects and consumed in 2022, the growth of which is linked to the signing of new projects in 2021 whose implementation began in 2022.

In parallel, project-related expenses also increased, particularly in the "Missions" item. This item includes travel, which in 2022 returned to a level equivalent to that prior to the Covid restrictions and the organisation of numerous project-related workshops.

Regarding the payroll figures, the level in 2022 reflects a year with a full workforce compared to 2021, a year when some positions were vacant for several months.

| Resources en K€ | 2022 | 2021 | Variation | Variation % |
|--|--------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| Contributions and private partnerships | 298 | 199 | 99 | 50% |
| Subvention | 1247 | 865 | 382 | 44% |
| Other exceptionals items | 5 | 13 | (8) | -62% |
| TOTAL | 1 550 | 1 077 | 473 | |

| Employment K€ | 2022 | 2021 | Variation | Variation % |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| projet implementation and consulting | 732 | 665 | 67 | 10% |
| Missions for project implementation | 276 | 50 | 226 | 452% |
| salary ressources | 323 | 253 | 70 | 28% |
| operating expenses/others | 217 | 127 | 90 | 71% |
| TOTAL | 1 548 | 1 095 | 453 | |

| | | | |
|---------------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| Result | 2 | (18) | 20 |
|---------------|----------|-------------|-----------|

The 2022 net result is 2K€, fully balanced in accordance with the budget forecasts.

A FEW FIGURES ON THE SECTOR WITHIN THE CONGO BASIN

ATIBT summary table concerning the main data of the forest-wood sector of the Congo Basin
Update with contribution of OFAC-COMIFAC

| Points of comparison | Cameroon | Gabon | Congo | DRC | CAR | Total régional |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Forest and exploitation | | | | | | |
| Area of dense rainforest | 20,3 millions ha ^[1] 22 millions ha (OFAC 2019) | 23,5 millions ha ^[1] 23,6 millions ha (OFAC 2020) | 21,9 millions ha ^[1] 24 millions ha (OFAC 2020) | 126,1 millions ha ^[1] 150 millions ha (OFAC 2018) | 22,3 millions ha ^[1] 26,9 millions ha (OFAC 2019) | 214,1 millions ha (FAO) 246,5 millions ha (OFAC) |
| Area allocated to industrial exploitation, excluding communal forests^[2] | 7,1 millions ha (OFAC 2021) | 16,4 millions ha ^[2] | 14,8 millions ha (OFAC 2020) | 15,4 millions ha ^[2] 11,4 millions ha (OFAC 2018) | 3,7 millions ha (OFAC 2020) | 53,4-57,4 millions ha |
| total certified areas^[3] | 2,447 millions ha | 4,480 millions ha | 4,505 millions ha | 0,206 million ha | 0 ha | 11,638 millions ha |
| Sustainable management (FSC FM, PAFC/PEFC) ^[4] | 0,342 million ha | 2,536 millions ha | 2,989 millions ha | 0 ha | 0 ha | 5,867 millions ha |
| Legality+ [OLB, LS, TLV+] ^[4] | 2,447 millions ha | 2,239 millions ha | 2,626 millions ha | 0,206 millions ha | 0 ha | 7,518 millions ha |
| Number of companies holding concessions | About sixty | About forty | About thirty | About ten | About ten | About Hundrer and fifty |
| Formal log production (m ³) ^[5] | 2,9 millions (2021) | 3,5 millions (2021) | 1,7 millions (2020) | 0,3 million (2020) | 0,55 million (2021) | 8,75 millions |
| including FSC (m ³) | 176 000 (7%) | 707 000 (23%) | 517 000 (30%) | 0 | 0 | 1,4 millions |
| Share of the top 4 producers in log production ^[6] | 29% (part d'exportation 2018) | 40% (2018) | 58% (2018) | 58% (2020) | 70% (2019) | 43% |
| Estimated informal artisanal production (in log equivalent) ^[7] | 2,4 millions | 0,3 Million | 0,3 Million | 3,4 Million | 0,1 Million | 6,5 millions |
| Main species used by the industry | Tali, Okan, Béti, Azobé, Naga, Dabéma, Bilinga, Nieuk, Ayous, | Okoumé (Env. 60%), Azobé, Béti, 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 ¹⁰ | 19% (2018) | 68% (2020) | 57% (2018) | 37% (2020) | 68% (2019) | 50% |
| Artisanally harvested species⁷ | Ayous, Movingui, Iroko, Sapelli, Bilinga, Moabi | Okoumé, Bilinga, Izombé | Okoumé, Limba (Sud) Sapelli, Sipo (Nord) | Afrormosia, Wenge, Sapelli | Ayous (90%) et Sapelli (10%) | - |
| Log exports in m ³ ^[8] | 588 587 (2020) | 0 | 707 270 (2019) | 131 986 (2021) | 238 625 (2021) | 1,7 millions |
| Log exports to China in m ³ ^[9] | 419 535 (2021) | 0 | 462 200 (2018) | 41% (Office congolais de Contrôle, 2021) | Un peu moins de 40% en 2021 (CIFOR, 2021 ^[10]) | 983 |
| Contribution of the forestry and wood sector to GDP ^[11] | 5,0% (2021) | 3,6% (2020) | 4,9% (2014) | 0,15% (2016) | 2,7% (2020) | - |
| Wood transformation | | | | | | |
| Number of industrials processing plants (1 st to 3 rd transformation) ^[12] | 227 (2021) | 166 (2020) | 29 (2018) | 5 (2018) | 5 (2018) | 432 |
| Productions (m³)^[13] | | [2020] | (MEF, 2020) | ND | [2021] | |
| • sawn timbers | 984 412 (2021) | 763 | 320 | | 51 | 2 |
| • of plywoods | 121 024 (2017) | 46 | 7 | | 0 | 174 |
| • wood veneers | 8 000 (2017) | 362 | 15 | | 0 | 385 |
| Exportations (m³)^[14] | [2021] | [2019] | [2019] | [2021] | [2021] | |
| • sawn timbers | 737 | 515 | 254 | 26 | 26 | 1 |
| • of plywoods | 71 | 32 484 | ND | 0 | 0 | 103 |
| • wood veneers | 9 | 393 660 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 428 |
| Chinese sawnwood exports in m ³ ^[15] | 87 613 (2021) | 524 700 (2018) | 38 600 (2018) | 41% (Office congolais de Contrôle, 2021) | Un peu plus de 20% en 2021 (CIFOR, 2021 ^[16]) | 667 |
| Small-scale processing (sawnwood) ^[17] | 715 000 m ³ (2010) | 50 000 m ³ (2010) | Env. 100 000 m ³ (2011) | Env. 1 million m ³ (2014) | 33 à 34 000 m ³ consommés par an sur Bangui et près de 5 000 m ³ exportés au Tchad (CIFOR, 2014) | Env. 1,8 millions m ³ |

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|-------------|
| Other informations | Existence of an internal timber market which is slow to materialize | ZES de Nkok More than 50 UTB More than 1 million m ³ of log processed/year (2022) ^[18] | Ongoing reflection on the creation of ZES and planned implementation of a production sharing mechanism | Resources still largely undervalued | | - |
| Public market | Order signed on 15/12/2020: obligation to use wood of legal origin in public contract | ND | Reflexion in progress | ND | | - |
| Socio-economic data | | | | | | |
| Number of jobs in the industrial forestry sector | Around 15 000 ^[19] (9 000 in operations and 6 000 in the processing industry) | 13 182 jobs in wood industries ^[20] | 7 500 (4 250 in lumbering and 3 250 in processing industry) | 4 523 ^[21] | 8000 in 2010 (CIFOR, 2014) ^[22] | Near 50 000 |
| Number of jobs in artisanal sawing | 40 000 | 1000 ^[23] | 2 000 | 9000 to 15000 ^[24] but probably much more (50000 jobs according to Lescuyer in 2014) | 1600 regular Jobs around Bangui and 420 in urban markets (CIFOR, 2014) | Near 60 000 |
| Emplois indirects | 150 000 | Entre 2 000 et 5 000 | ND | ND | ND | > 750 000 |
| Professional associations of the forest-wood sector | <p>GFBC (12 forestry and industrials companies)</p> <p>FECAPROBOIS (200 PME and artisans)</p> <p>ANCOVA (450 PME and artisans in Yaoundé) Intersyndicale encountering difficulties in implementation</p> | <p>UFIGA (15 forestry and industrials companies)</p> <p>SIAG (6 forestry and industrials companies)</p> <p>UFIAG (11 forestry and industrials companies)</p> <p>FGBSP (about 70 PME and artisans)</p> <p>UAMEES (25 PME and artisans in Libreville)</p> <p>CAMMA (20 PME and artisans in Franceville)</p> <p>KOUMU (18 artisans in Lastoursville and Koulamoutou)</p> <p>L'UFIGA ensure the permanent secretariat of the intersyndicale</p> | <p>UNICONGO (6 forestry and industrials companies)</p> <p>UNIBOIS (15 PME, with 6 en activity)</p> <p>ACM (about 100 PME and artisans, with 15 in activity)</p> <p>AMC (500 PME and artisans, with 300 in Pointe Noire)</p> <p>FBET (17 PME and artisans)</p> | <p>FIB (5 forestry and industrials companies)</p> <p>ACEFA (1400 PME and artisans)</p> <p>Many SMEs and VSEs are not registered in unions. Huge role and potential for FIB and ACEFA</p> | | |
| Engagement dans le FLEGT | <p>APV signed in 2010</p> <p>Slow implementation</p> <p>Deployment of SIGIF II in progress and improvement of the regulatory framework by the Cameroonian party in progress</p> | <p>APV not signed National traceability system being deployed Gabon has committed to a certification obligation for forestry companies from 2024</p> | <p>APV signed in 2010</p> <p>In preparation for implementation</p> <p>Deployment of the SILV in progress</p> | <p>APV Unsigned</p> <p>Slow trading since september 2011</p> | <p>APV signed the 28 novembre 2011</p> <p>slow implementation since 2012</p> | |

- [1] FAO, Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020.
- [2] Cameroon : MINFOF 2021; Gabon: MEFMEPCPAT Sept 2020; DRC: BD FRMi
- [3] Surfaces with double certification (example: legality + and sustainable development) are only counted once
- [4] Surfaces with double certification (FSC FM and PAFC/PEFC or TLV, OLB and FSC CW) are only counted once
- [5] Congo: MEF; Cameroon: MINFOF; Gabon: Economic Dashboard, 2021; DRC: MEFDD; CAR: CDF
- [6] BAD/FRMi Report: Strategic vision and industrialisation of the timber sector in Central Africa, 2018, except Cameroon, DRC and CAR: OFAC 2023
- [7] Various reports issued by the CIFOR
- [8] OFAC excluding the CAR: CDF and RDC: Congolese Control Office
- [9] Cameroon: MINFOF 2021, Gabon and Congo: 2018 CTWPA data. Note that log exports from Equatorial Guinea to China were 1,114,700 m³ in 2018.
- [10] State of the forestry sector in CAR (2021): <https://flegtvpafacility.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Rapport-Etat-du-secteur-foret-bois-en-Republique-Centrale-2021.pdf>

- [11] OFAC data, excluding CAR: CIFOR et al., 2021 (State of the forest-timber sector in CAR)
- [12] OFAC data (MINFOF, 2021 Stat Directory for Cameroon), for some countries, only for primary processing companies
- [13] OFAC data
- [14] OFAC – CAR data: CDF
- [15] 2018 CTWPA data
- [16] State of the forest-timber sector in CAR (2021)
- [17] Various CIFOR reports
- [18] 2022 Annual activity report Tracer Nkok
- [19] BAD 2018
- [20] Dashboard of the Economy 2019, Ministry of Economy and Revitalisation
- [21] Source: FIB
- [22] The domestic artisanal sawmill market in CAR (CIFOR, 2014)
- [23] CIFOR, 2011
- [24] Nguinguiri et al., 2006

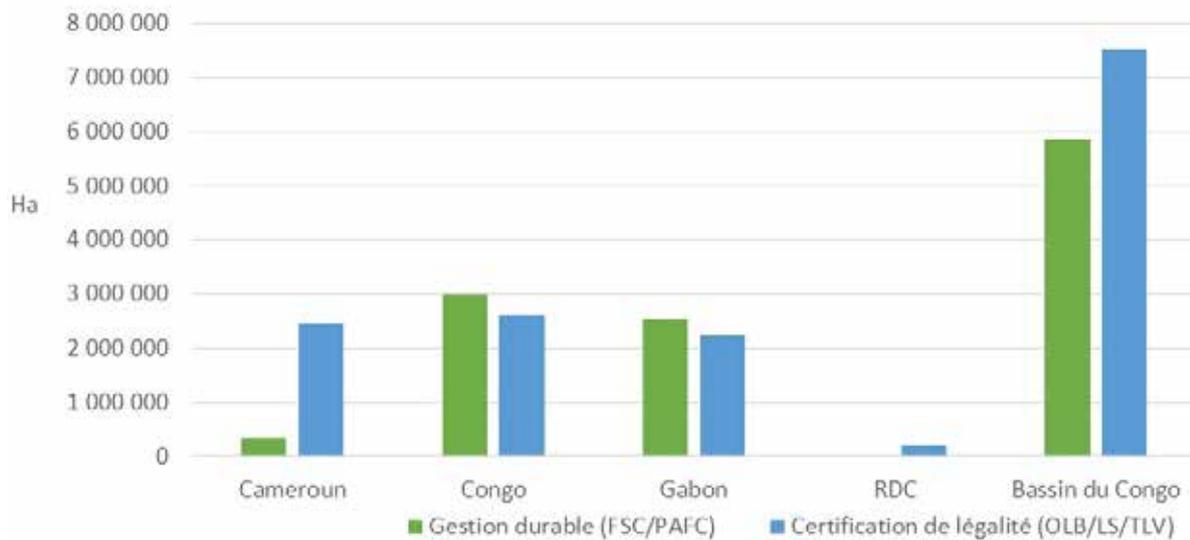
MONITORING OF CERTIFICATION DATA IN THE CONGO BASIN

The threshold of 10 million ha that are certified as sustainably managed should be reached in 2025, according to a data analysis of forest certification in the Congo Basin carried out by ATIBT's Certification Commission.

At the end of 2022, the Congo Basin had **5,866,756 ha of forests certified as sustainably managed** according to FSC and/or PAFC certifications (representing 12% of exploitable forests, estimated at 47.5 million ha by the OFAC). These certifications are present in three countries: Congo (2,989,168 ha), Gabon (2,535,880 ha), and Cameroon (341,708 ha).

Legality certifications (OLB by Bureau Veritas, Legal Source by Preferred by Nature and TLV by Control Union) **represent 6,921,668 ha** across four countries: Cameroon, Gabon and Congo (between 2 and 2.5 million ha per country) and the DRC (205,608 ha).

Area certified in Congo Basin - 12/31/2022

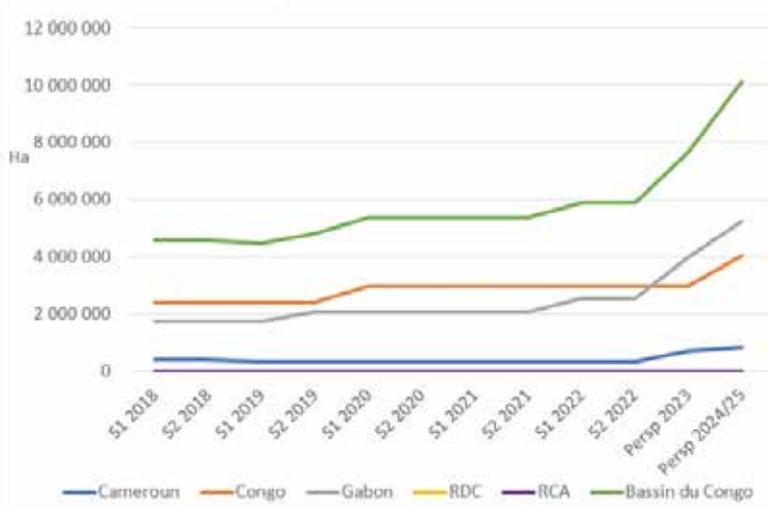


| Certification type | Cameroon | Congo | Gabon | RDC | Bassin du Congo |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|---------------------|
| Sustainable management (FSC/PAFC) | 341 708 ha | 2 989 168 ha | 2 535 880 ha | 0 | 5 866 756 ha |
| Legal certification (OLB/LS/TLV) | 2 447 276 ha | 2 625 772 ha | 2 238 960 ha | 205 608 ha | 7 517 641 ha |

The year 2022 was marked by the issuance of **new sustainable management certificates**, the first ones since the first wave from 2000-2010. The two certificates, one FSC (Gabon Advanced Wood - GAW), the other PAFC Gabon (BSO), were issued in Gabon for a total surface area of 474,690 ha.

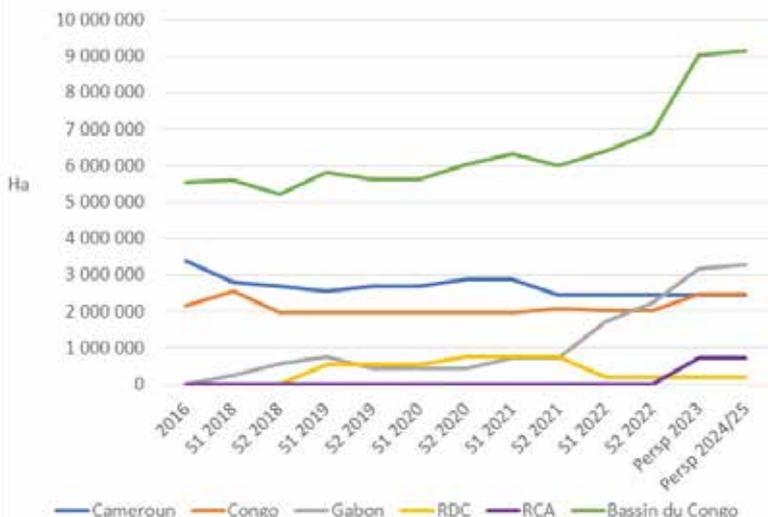
Do these new certificates mark the beginning of a new wave of sustainable management certification? The Congo Basin outlook data collected by the Certification Commission shows that this could be the case, as it is estimated that **an additional 4.2 million ha** (for 13 companies) will be gained by 2025, more than half of which will be in Gabon, with the rest in Cameroon and Congo. This would bring **the total surface area of sustainably managed forests to 10 million ha**, a 73% increase.

Certification evolution of the sustainable management area between 2018 and 2022, with the perspective between 2023-2025



In terms of legality certification, the outlook for 2025 shows an increase of 2.2 million ha, which would bring the total amount of legally certified surface areas to 9,137,970 ha.

Legality certification evolution area between 2018 and 2022, with the perspective between 2023-2025



THE TROPICAL TIMBER MARKET IN 2022

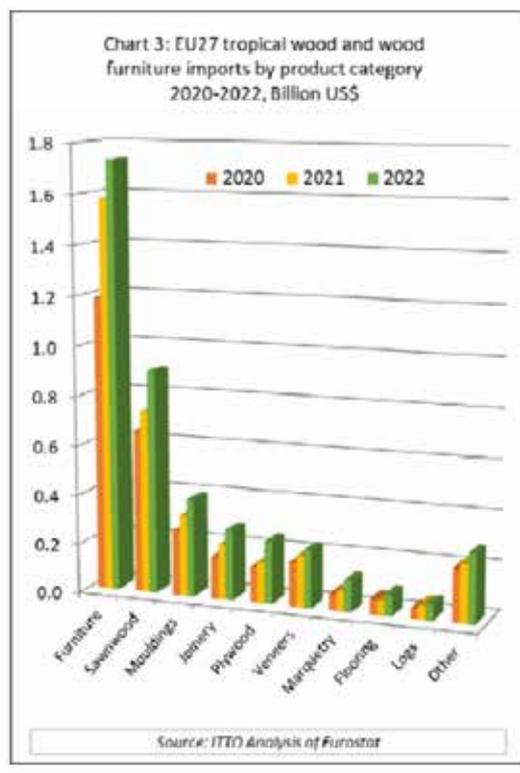
According to the ITTO, European imports experienced in 2022 the largest increase in market share of tropical timber in the EU27 in at least 15 years.

Firstly, tropical timber benefited from the sharp drop in imports of timber products from Russia and Belarus: in March 2022, the two main certification organisations, PEFC and FSC, announced that all timber coming from Russia and Belarus would be considered as "conflict timber" and could not be sold as PEFC or FSC certified. This decision had a major impact on many European companies, which have become very dependent on Russia and Belarus for their certified timber needs.

But this recovery of tropical timber imports to the EU in 2022 is also due to the standardisation of supply chains and a decrease in freight rates. In 2021, the logistical problems of the sector amidst the Covid context didn't seem resolvable, and thus accelerated the long-term downward trend in European imports.

This year, 2022, which was very promising, was therefore marked by both rising demand and rising prices.

According to the ITTO, all tropical timber product groups, including furniture (+10%), sawn timber (+22%), mouldings (+21%), parquet (+21%), joinery (+27%), plywood (+52%), veneer (+13%), marquetry products (+55%), flooring (+45%) and logs (+15%) were up in 2022.



The US market also witnessed an increase in 2022.

The international context and the economic recession that is looming mean that 2023 will probably be a more difficult year, with a drop in construction activity, particularly due to rising interest rates.

FOREST CONSERVATION, REHABILITATION AND EXPANSION STRATEGY IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

© John Lander - Imagéo
Congo - Concession Fair&Precious



Côte d'Ivoire is a country that is now mainly focused on agro-industry, but it nevertheless remains highly vulnerable to the hazards of climate change due to the loss of its forest cover. It's therefore urgent that action be taken. The SPREF (Strategy for the Preservation, Rehabilitation and Extension of Forests in Côte d'Ivoire) will therefore be crucial for the future of the Ivorian forests. This strategy relies on every stakeholder: the State, the private sector, civil society and technical and financial partners.

For the record, while at 16 million hectares of forest at the beginning of the 20th century, the total area covered by forests will only amount to around two million hectares in 2022, i.e. an average rate of disappearance exceeding 200,000 hectares per year, and the pressure on the forest continues to rise sharply, due to population growth, accelerated urbanisation, the creation of new industrial zones and agricultural operations.

Deforestation hasn't spared the State's classified forest estate either, since according to a study carried out within the REDD+ framework the country's 234 classified forests have lost over 70% of their forest cover in half a century, while the eight national parks and reserves have lost an average of 30%.

Thus, the SPREF revolves around the following key areas:

- Improving forest governance;
- Strengthening the protection of residual forest areas, their expansion and sustainable management;
- Restoring degraded forest areas and adapting to climate change.

The implementation of this national strategy requires a substantial budget. Various funding mechanisms will be implemented, calling on contributions from both technical and financial partners, the private sector, banks and carbon finance.

The budget required to achieve the implementation of the Strategy's actions and activities is estimated at CFAF 616 billion; it is to be used for three major projects:

- Improvement of forest governance (75,630,000,000 CFAF);
- Conservation, sustainable management and development of the various categories of protected forests (367,372,720,000 CFAF)
- Restoration of forests in the rural domain (172,997,280,000 CFAF)

MAIN ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN IN 2022

4

© John Lander - Imegao - Congo - Concession Fair & Precious

ADVOCACY ACTIONS

| ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION REGARDING THE NEW "ZERO DEFORESTATION" EU REGULATION

Background on the origin of this project

On 17 November 2021, the **European Commission** published a draft "**zero deforestation**" regulation to halt global deforestation attributable to the EU (referred to by the acronym EUDR - European Union Deforestation Regulation). Like the SNDI ([French National Strategy to Combat Imported Deforestation](#)), the draft regulation will apply to several key commodities (palm oil, beef, timber, coffee, cocoa, rubber and soy) as well as their derived products.

The draft regulation was then debated and voted on in the EU legislative bodies during 2022:

- On 28 June, the **Council of the EU's** Environment Council adopted a general approach on the proposed regulation. This position proposed changes that would impact forest-based industries, including an ambiguous definition of degradation in terms of sustainable management;
- On 13 September 2022, the **European Parliament** adopted its position on the proposed "zero deforestation" regulation, toughening some of the provisions;
- This was followed by a **tripartite negotiation** phase between the European Commission, the Council and the European Parliament;
- On 5 December, the Council and the European Parliament reached a **provisional agreement** on the European Commission's proposal to minimise the risk of deforestation and forest degradation associated with products imported into or exported from the European Union.

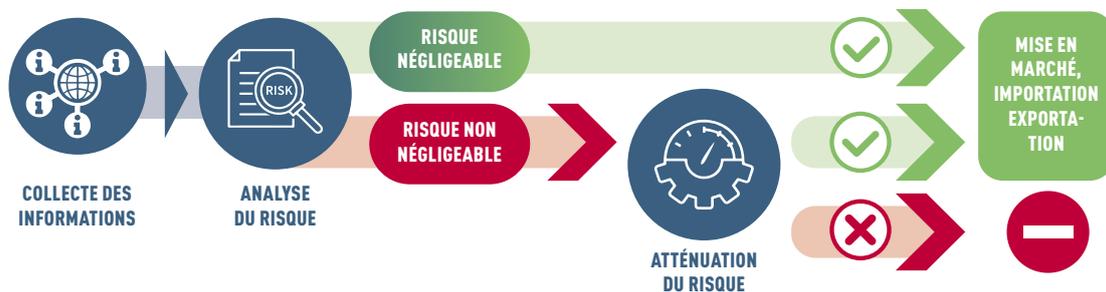


© John Lander - Imagéo

The agreement is provisional pending its formal approval by the two institutions (its approval is expected in the course of 2023), and it should be applicable by the end of 2024.



The provisional agreement outlines **mandatory due diligence** rules for all loggers and merchants who place, make available or export key commodities to ensure that they don't contribute to deforestation and forest degradation. In terms of timber, these rules also apply to a number of related products such as charcoal, furniture and printed paper.



The agreement also sets out strict obligations to trace the products that loggers sell back to the plot of land where they were produced (a **geo-location** requirement).

The text also provides for the EC to assign **a risk level for deforestation and for forest degradation to both EU and non-EU countries** (low, standard or high). The risk category will determine the level of specific obligations imposed on loggers and the intensity of inspections by competent authorities.

The agreement also takes into account **human rights** aspects of deforestation, including the rights of indigenous peoples to free, prior and informed consent as well as labour rights.

[Pour en savoir plus](#)

[Dernière version du texte](#)

[Page de la commission Européenne](#)

Key points regarding the timber industry

Key points regarding the timber industry

- The regulation broadens the list of relevant timber products;
- Timber products imported or sold on the EU market must not have contributed to deforestation or forest degradation and must have been legally produced (the definition of which is expanded to include social aspects) in their country of production;
- Loggers are always the companies that introduce timber products into the EU market, but they're also the ones that export;
- "Major" merchants (other than SMEs) must also demonstrate due diligence;
- The means of assessment remains due diligence (information gathering, risk analysis and risk reduction), with a few specific provisions:
 - Before placing on the market or exporting, each logger (or "major" merchant) must submit a due diligence declaration indicating compliance via an Information System (set up by the European Commission),
 - The European Commission has provided for a classification of producing countries (EU and non-EU), which will enable the implementation of simplified Due Diligence if the country is classified as low risk.
- The information to be collected includes the geolocation of all land plots where the timber was produced and the dates or period of production;
- The severity of penalties has considerably increased, thus reinforcing the fight against illegality;
- The Regulation will be applicable by the end of 2024 (mid 2025 for SMEs), and the EUTR will be applicable for another three years (under certain conditions).

To continue the work and exchanges on the new European RDUE regulation, ATIBT will continue regular exchanges with the main timber trade federations such as: ETIC, AEIM, Fedustria, LCB, Fedecomlegno, GDHolz, among others.

ATIBT's actions

Throughout 2022, ATIBT has been active in the European negotiations on this regulation, particularly on the elements that appear to be of concern to the timber sector, while reiterating its overall support for the Commission's proposal and its objectives. Furthermore, through the Certification Commission's "Deforestation" sub-group, ATIBT has informed and communicated on the evolution of this draft regulation and on its stakes.

Here are some examples of advocacy actions that ATIBT has carried out:

- Update of a FAQ section on the concepts, definitions and obligations included in the different versions of the text;

LA FILIÈRE FORÊT-BOIS CERTIFIÉE ET LA DÉFORESTATION IMPORTÉE :

DES EXIGENCES LARGEMENT PRISES EN COMPTE

Par Emmanuel Groutel, Wale et Caroline Duhesme, Secrétaire de la Commission certification ATIBT

Le Mercredi 17 novembre 2021, la Commission Européenne publie un projet de réglementation pour lutter contre la déforestation importée. À l'instar de la **Stratégie Nationale de lutte contre la déforestation importée** Française (SNDI), ce projet de réglementation s'appliquera à différents produits agricoles ainsi qu'au bois. Pour les bois certifiés selon des critères de gestion durable et responsable suivant les labels FSC et PEFC/PAPC, ce nouveau règlement s'inscrit parfaitement dans ce qui a déjà été entrepris par les sociétés certifiées pour la gestion durable des forêts. Le bois est donc pionnier à différents niveaux car le bois certifié garantit l'absence de déforestation ou dégradation de la forêt.

UNE FILIÈRE SOLIDE, PRÉPARÉE ET EN AVANCE

- Les certifications **FSC** et **PEFC/PAPC** sont d'une haute exigence dans leurs critères qui, outre les aspects purement forestiers (aménagement, traçabilité), englobent le respect des communautés, le droit et la sécurité des travailleurs, le respect de l'environnement, et la protection de la biodiversité.
- Seul le bois était déjà inscrit dans un tel schéma depuis 2013 avec le Règlement Bois de l'Union Européenne (**RBUE**) qui bannit l'importation de bois illégaux ;
- Les meilleurs en marchés ou importateurs ont mis en place des pratiques de **diligence raisonnée** depuis 9 ans déjà ;
- Des contrôles sont opérés dans les différents pays européens par les **autorités compétentes** ;
- Les **ONG** sont informées, impliquées et participent activement à cette orientation ;
- Des **guides des achats publics**, émis notamment par WWF complétés par celui de la SNDI en 2021, permettent d'aider les acheteurs et donnent un cadre aux transactions. Hors de France, c'est aussi le cas avec CPET au Royaume-Uni ou de TPAC aux Pays-Bas ;
- Les forestiers certifiés accueillent en transparence des observateurs, des chercheurs et des ONG.

Cette réglementation européenne est une **opportunité pour prouver l'implication des acteurs de cette filière** par leur engagement dans la certification de gestion durable des forêts.

Importer du bois sans contribuer à la déforestation

CERTIFICATION FORESTIÈRE (FSC, PEFC)

DILIGENCE RAISONNÉE (RBUE)

GESTIONNAIRE FORESTIER TRANSFORMATEUR TRANSPORTEUR NÉGOCIANT (OPÉRATEUR) TRANSFORMATEUR DISTRIBUTEURS COLLECTIVITÉS LOCALES

GESTION DURABLE

- Participation in various webinars on the draft text (Preferred by Nature) and involvement in the High Council for Forestry and Timber as part of the French SNDI (National Strategy to combat Imported Deforestation)."
- In April 2022, ATIBT's Certification Commission co-published a manifesto with Emmanuel Groutel (Wale) that reminds us of the opportunity that the draft EU regulation represents to demonstrate the commitment of this sector's stakeholders via their dedication to sustainable forest management certification.
- In June 2022, a few days before the approval of a general orientation by the EU Council, ATIBT had presented the position of the timber and forest sector on the regulation, in conjunction with several European federations (CEI Bois, ETTF, TTF).
- On 17 November 2022, during the EU triologue phase, ATIBT co-signed a letter addressed to the Council of the EU with several European federations and timber trade associations (CEI Bois, EOS, ETTF, CEPI, EFIC, EPF, CEPF, Eustafor, COPA-COGECA) to make recommendations on several points of attention (definitions, geolocation, etc.).

The issues at stake in this draft regulation

The main points of attention defended by ATIBT in the framework of the European negotiations in the Council of the EU focused on issues of concern from the point of view of the text's operational status and effectiveness, such as:

- The need to have **clear and operational definitions** of terms (deforestation, degradation, forests, etc.), which are unequivocal regarding the role of sustainable tropical forest management as a lever to combat both deforestation and forest degradation. The definitions that were finally adopted are in line with this.
- The **role of certification**: through its interventions, ATIBT has largely highlighted the benefits of forest certification to meet the needs for traceability and sustainability in forest management, and it **pleads for an unequivocal recognition of this process as a reliable tool** for analysis and risk reduction in the future EU regulation, which has been retained in the validated version.
- **The simplification of the due diligence system** and the elimination of duplicate situations. Only "downstream" operators (first placers on the EU market) will be required to carry out full due diligence, but merchants will have to ensure that the downstream operators have submitted a due diligence declaration. This provision has been adopted for SME merchants.
- Country risk ranking (Benchmarking): ATIBT has also expressed its thoughts on **the limitations of country-level risk classification** and the need to conduct these risk assessments at the sub-national or operator level to take into account individual best practices (such as sustainable management certification). This will be the focus of advocacy efforts to be conducted during 2023/2024 on the interpretation of the text's provisions.
- The cut-off date: ATIBT has called for a **cut-off date of 31 December 2020 for a halt to deforestation and degradation**, which has been retained and which is a more ambitious date for the preservation of forests than the initial EU Council recommendation.
- **The operability of traceability and the geolocation requirement**: regarding traceability, ATIBT reaffirms the experience gained by the tropical timber sector through the implementation of certification control chains, and endorses the importance of robust and efficient traceability. Although the geolocation requirement doesn't seem to be a major obstacle for the Congo Basin's certified timber sector (considering that

the annual cutting base is recognised as a geographical unit of production (a plot of land), ATIBT recognises that this **requirement seems very restrictive for products that have undergone several industrial processes, such as panels (plywood, MDF panelling, etc.), and will remain available to these sectors to share its experience.**

In 2023, ATIBT will continue its efforts to provide information on the final version and to promote an interpretation and clarification of certain provisions, as well as to position the certified tropical timber sector as a leader in the implementation of this new regulation.

| ACTIONS TO COMBAT ILLEGAL TIMBER



© John Lander - Imagéo - Congo - Concession Fair&Precious

In addition to causing unfair competition to companies that implement responsible practices, the illegal harvesting of tropical timber causes environmental, social and biodiversity damage. ATIBT is therefore closely monitoring actions to combat the illegal exploitation of tropical timber, which can spread throughout the entire supply chain, from harvesting to trade, transport and processing.

ATIBT has often reported that the penalties for violating companies aren't dissuasive enough (e.g. under the EUTR). This could change with the new EUDR, which provides for a further strengthening of these sanctions.

These measures also need to be reinforced in the producer countries.

In Gabon, for example, the mechanisms used to combat illegal logging under a comprehensive legal framework are illustrated by various areas of work:

- The National Action Plan to Combat Illegal Logging (PANEFI - Forest police and forest management checks);
- The DGF/AGEOS partnership for satellite monitoring of the forest cover;
- Collaboration between the Ministry of Water and Forests, law enforcement agencies and NGOs to arrest illegal loggers and prosecute them in court;
- Direct collaboration between the MINEF and the Public Prosecutor's Office.

The most frequent infractions encountered in the field are:

- Non-compliance with the management plan (art. 276);
- Intensive harvesting that is harmful to the environment (art. 276);
- Fraudulent manoeuvres (art. 275);
- Non-presentation of technical and accounting documents (art. 275);
- The lack of an inventory movement register (art. 228);
- False declarations regarding forestry matters (art. 279);
- Non-compliance with product standards and classifications (art. 228);
- Cutting timber outside of the limits defined in the permit (art. 275);
- Non-compliance with minimum harvestable diameters (art. 124).

The sanctions can be serious. For example, two forest concessions saw their logging permits withdrawn for a 3-year period, for a surface area covering of 242,587 ha.

Among the obstacles, the following have been identified:

- Excessively large and geographically dispersed forest areas,
- Insufficient logistical resources,
- The language barrier for Asian operators,
- Communication means are often difficult.

Future opportunities include the revision of the Forestry Code, the implementation of the Gabon national timber traceability system and the legality and traceability verification system, as well as innovative solutions such as e-governance and the implementation of the Early Warning System.

The Timber Trade Portal, a key tool to combat illegal timber

Lastly, as part of the fight against illegal timber, and with the support of Form International, ATIBT manages and enriches the www.timbertradeportal.com website, which is a key tool to understand what defines the legality of timber activities in 29 producing countries.

This www.timbertradeportal.com web portal answers the many questions that industry players have regarding the legal timber trade, due diligence, country-specific requirements and export.

ACTIONS THAT AIM TO IMPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE OF TROPICAL TIMBER



Conclusions from the CITES COP meeting in Panama in 2022: the Khaya, Pterocarpus spp. (Padouk), and Afzelia (Doussié) genera have been listed in Appendix II. Shortly after becoming aware of their decision, Professor Jean-Louis Doucet, President of ATIBT's Scientific Council, expressed his opinion on the matter.

At the 19th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES) held in Panama, Ipe and Cumaru were added to Appendix II of the CITES with a 24-month implementation deadline. The Khaya, Pterocarpus spp. (Padouk) and Afzelia (Doussié) genera were added to CITES Appendix II on 18 November with a 90-day implementation deadline.

Among the decisions that were made, some involve restrictions on the export of species that are not threatened. The reason? The difficulty of recognising their

timber. Professor **Jean-Louis Doucet (Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech/University of Liège)** is among the researchers who are calling for their research results to be taken into account.

Among the official delegations and NGOs present in Panama, only a few universities were present at the conference, including the University of Liège, which was the only Francophone research institution. *"Our presence at this major event is the culmination of a year of research aimed at simulating the evolution of the populations of 19 ligneous species in a context of increasing anthropic pressure,"* explained [Jean-Louis Doucet](#), President of CARE [Forest is Life \(TEREA/ Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech\)](#). *This project, funded by the Programme for the Promotion of Certified Logging (PPECF), was implemented by Dr. [Grace Loubota](#), a researcher in our research unit, who was able to present his results to representatives of the various CITES member states".*

The conclusions of Dr Loubota's work were nevertheless unambiguous:

neither padauk nor doussie are endangered and harvesting them will not endanger their populations in the coming century. "Their densities are sufficiently high and these two taxa regenerate without difficulty," explains Dr. Loubota. "We therefore don't understand why the EU countries have supported, or even proposed, the addition of these species to Appendix II of the CITES." The answer is simple: the timber of these two species is in fact hardly distinguishable from that of species believed to be threatened.

"This decision is disappointing," says Jean-Louis Doucet, "because while additional operational measures are justified for certain commercial species, these two species should not be included. These targets were poorly chosen! Representatives of European states will argue that it is sufficient for the Southern countries to develop a Non-Prejudicial Trade Opinion (NPTO)... This isn't that easy to do because it requires lengthy procedures that are impossible to complete within three months, which is the transition period after which the export of these species will be prohibited without this NPTO".

According to Jean-Louis Doucet, the initial victims will be companies that are committed to sustainable management, including FSC or PEFC-certified companies that export part of their production to Europe. Gabon, which did not want to be listed, will be among the first affected. "Logging companies operating in this country have been confronted with a doubling of energy prices within a six-mon-

th period, which makes the harvesting of most tree species unprofitable. Currently, only a handful of species can still be harvested profitably, including padauk and doussie. Both of these species have exceptional properties for high-value outdoor uses. To restrict their international trade is to put a noose around the neck of those forest managers who act responsibly."

Should the difficulties encountered by those authorised to verify the legality of imports into the EU (including the correct species identification) be passed on to the producing countries? There will be inevitable impacts, such as a reduction in the volumes of FSC or PEFC-certified tropical timber entering European markets and added pressure on countries that are committed to sustainable forest management. In the short term, all of Gabon's forests should be certified for their sustainable management. No European country can match this level of commitment. "Worse, by putting pressure on those Southern countries that export a renewable resource, they will inevitably be pushed to promote other resources, such as palm oil, to the detriment of forests that have become unprofitable. This is a disaster that can be avoided if we finally recognise the real virtues of tropical timber, whose image has been tarnished by decades of misinformation," concludes Jean-Louis Doucet.

Following these reports, ATIBT has initiated a vast project to better interact with the CITES authorities. This project will last at least three years.

ATIBT's involvement in the PFBC (Congo Basin Forest Partnership)



Today, nearly 120 partners grouped in seven panels are committed to the preservation of biodiversity, the sustainable management of forest ecosystems in the Congo Basin, the fight against climate change and poverty reduction in the Central African member countries, in accordance with the COMIFAC Convergence Plan and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

From 4 to 8 July 2022, the 19th CBFP Meeting of the Parties was held in Libreville. **On Thursday 7 July, a meeting of the private sector panel was held.** It was pointed out that the represented sectors should be expanded to include small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the forest and timber industry, as well as forest plantation and agroforestry companies. This panel currently consists of six chambers, which were formalised during this meeting; potential leaders were also identified, including ATIBT through Jacqueline Lardit for the "Large forestry and industrial timber companies" chamber.

The participants also made several general recommendations for the CBFP, including:

- Reinforcing the CBFP's operations and its impact on forests by following up on the implementation of the recommendations made in the declarations of the Meetings of the Parties: clear targets and deadlines need to be agreed upon.
- Increasing the involvement of administrations and the private sector of other industries.
- Making better use of timber waste to increase the yields and production of timber products without harvesting more trees in the forest.

Invited by ATIBT, the participants of Stream 1b on "Conditions and prospects for a sustainable timber economy" worked together in four sessions over a two-day period which respectively dealt with legal and sustainable timber production, third-party forest management certification, social forestry, and both timber processing and industry development. Recommendations were made to:

- **Improve forest management**, in particular by encouraging and maintaining dialogue between researchers, administrations and the private sector; by developing a regulatory framework to prepare management plans for a second rotation; by identifying markets for products made from LKTS.
- **Improve the image and reputation of forest governance in Central Africa**, for example through remote monitoring, through fiscal incentives for forest certification, and through both coaching and support for companies.
- **Enhance social forestry and reduce population pressure**, by adopting a comprehensive approach to community and communal forest management, in order to integrate various commercial

activities and wildlife management, and to establish ties between community forests and national markets.

- **Make better use of forest resources and the supply of legal timber to the domestic market**, which implies, in particular, providing SMEs with a stable regulatory framework, and strengthening the ties between industrial and artisanal companies for the supply of timber to the latter.

These working sessions resulted in a series of final recommendations for the Stream 1b session, covering all of the topics that were discussed during these two days. Françoise van de Ven, ATIBT's president, presented these final recommendations in plenary session on 8 July 2022.

<https://www.atibt.org/fr/news/13191/19e-reunion-des-parties-du-pfbc-a-libreville>

Certified tropical timber used for the Olympic Games site



© Paul CUVILLIER

Following the advocacy work carried out by ATIBT and the meetings and interactions with Solidéo, tali (*Erythrophloeum suaveolens*) with sustainable management certification has now been selected as the main option for the construction of the Olympic site for the Paris 2024 games, representing a surface area of nearly 4,400 m² of decking and barriers. Equivalent species may also be proposed.

Tali, a yellow-brown to red-brown timber, is a tropical timber from sub-Saharan Africa that is noted for its **resistance to wear**. Tali is a very durable timber species. As an example, it's used to build outdoor furniture, with the distinct advantage that it doesn't need to be treated, as it's naturally highly resistant to both termites and fungi. Its characteristics make it a **very environmentally friendly material**.

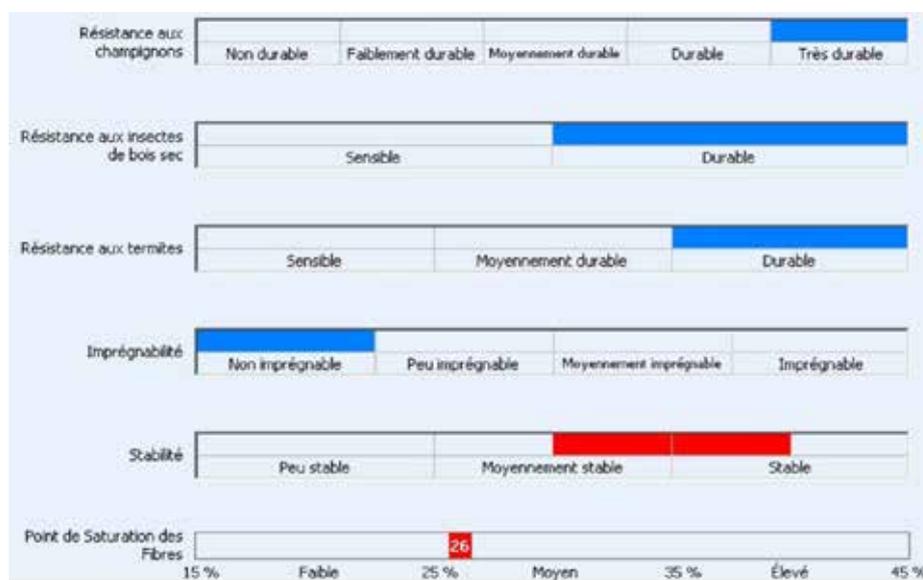
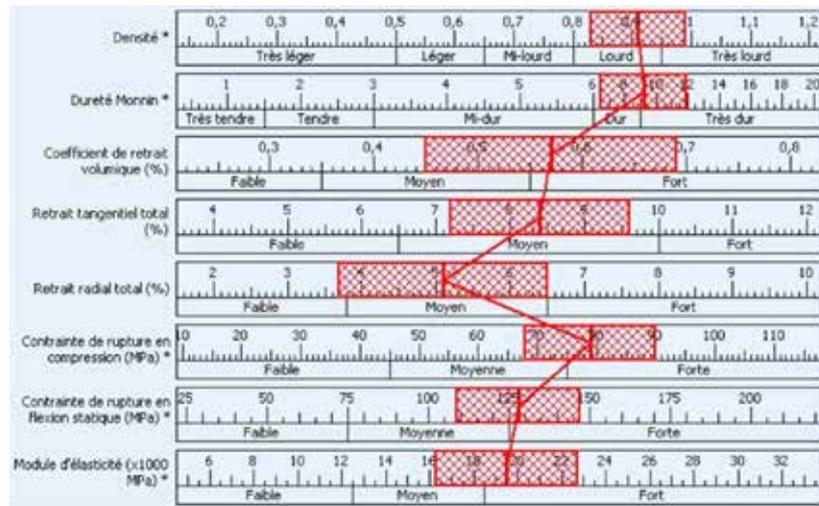
The Tropix sheet on tali summarises the technological characteristics of this African species (as a reminder, CIRAD's Tropix sheets are available online and via this QR code):



Beyond the tali's technical qualities, ATIBT's proposal regarding this species is linked to the fact that all the FSC-certified companies in the Congo Basin can potentially produce it. The supply is therefore large, and supply can be assured during this period of tension in the overall supply of timber. An exclusive mention of FSC certification was made in the call for tenders, which is understandable given the predominance of FSC areas in Central Africa (5.6 million ha).

The list of certified forestry companies able to meet this demand for certified tali can be found on the [Fair&Precious](#) website.

CIRAD's Tropix sheets are available online and via this QR code



ATIBT would now like to thank the certified companies, the Congo Basin authorities, the PPECF programme, LCB and all of the individuals who have been involved in obtaining this opportunity from Solidéo for tropical timber.

ATIBT has always considered certified tropical timber's exclusion from Olympic Game structural works to be unjustified, and the Association is delighted with this possibility in the context of their outdoor facilities. However, this change doesn't involve the first phase of their project, which is dedicated to the housing facilities. For the phase dedicated to the exterior fittings, in addition to the certification (the specifications specify that "the timber

must be FSC-certified, 100% certified for sustainable management"), a certain number of other requirements have also been expressed, in particular certificates of the timber's origin, to be submitted for validation by the project owner and by the contracting authority, and the validation of samples. A life cycle analysis is also to be provided.

ATIBT will provide its expertise for the analysis of the supply chain and for the verification of certifications. There is no doubt that a fine message can be told about this timber, whose social and environmental value must be highlighted and shared with the public, so as to "connect the cities with the forests".

SUPPORT FOR FOREST CERTIFICATION

| INCENTIVES TO ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND CERTIFICATION



© John Lander - Imagéo
Gabon - Concession Fair&Precious

The latest prospects for certification in the Congo Basin (see the chapter entitled “A few figures on the sector within the Congo Basin”) raise questions about the effects of the various incentives for certification that already exist in the Congo Basin, which may be direct or indirect:

- **Fiscal incentives:** this involves introducing fiscal incentives for independent third-party certification. Forestry tax rates can be modulated depending on whether or not a forestry company is certified and its type of certification. In 2020, **Gabon** adopted a measure in its finance law that distinguishes three rates for the surface area tax: 1) the most favourable rate is for concessions with certified sustainable forest management (a 25% reduction); 2) concessions with a legality certificate have an intermediate rate (a 50% increase); and 3) concessions with no certification have the highest rate (a 100% increase). The weight of this surface area tax within the overall tax burden isn't high, however, so the next step would be to also adjust

the harvesting and export taxes in a similar fashion (see the analysis by A. Karsenty below). **This measure**, which was renewed in subsequent years, is **undoubtedly the one that has had the greatest impact on the development of certification**. In Cameroon's 2021 rectifying finance law, the Ministry of Finance introduced a tax incentive on the felling tax. Companies with sustainable management certification benefit from a tax rebate which is symbolic, as the felling tax has been lowered by 1%.

- **Political incentives:** In Gabon, President Ali Bongo declared in 2018 that all concessions should be FSC-certified by 2022, with the deadline now extended to 2025. This declaration, which has been expanded to sustainable forest management, has **not yet been translated into law, but its effects are already being felt** (in combination with the tax incentive), given the number of companies that are signing up for the PPECF coaching process and entering the certification processes.
- **Regulatory incentives:** Certification is now recognised as a powerful tool to improve legal and responsible forest management practices, and in this sense it is very beneficial that regulatory provisions are increasingly based on it. This type of incentive involves the inclusion of the obligation to be certified (via third-party certification) within the regulatory framework. **For example,**

in Congo, the new forestry law 33-2020 of 08/07/2020 stipulates in article 72 that "*forestry companies shall certify the management of their managed forest concessions or the legality of the products that are harvested and processed there*". The implementing texts for this provision are still pending. However, it is necessary that inclusion in a law of the obligation to obtain third-party private certification be the subject of application texts that specify the terms and the scope, in order to limit the effects and risks involved, such as confusion between regulatory requirements and certification requirements, the risks of a loss of the administration's sovereign prerogatives of verification and disengagement by the State, the weight given to auditors' conclusions and the pressure they would have to bear, etc.

- **Institutional' incentives:** we must mention this last category of incentives, which can be found in the FLEGT VPAs, the partnership agreements signed between the EU and Cameroon, Congo and the CAR, which **all include the principle of acknowledgement of third-party certification** (legality or sustainable management certification), in particular to facilitate the issuance of the certificates of legality provided for in the LVS (Legality Verification System). In the case of **Cameroon**, the recognition of certification has been effective since 2013 via a number of regulatory texts. The FLEGT VPA provides for the issuance of FLEGT legality certificates based on certification. One procedure exists, but it remains too restrictive: to date, no forest title has received a FLEGT certificate of legality based on the recognition of certification, and this remains an issue. **In Congo**, a draft procedures manual for the consideration of third-party verified certification

was developed in 2020, but this manual still needs to be evaluated before a final version can be written.



© John Lander - Imagéo - Congo - Concession Fair&Precious

These various measures have different effects, the most effective being fiscal and regulatory measures. However, it's important to note that, **although it's a private initiative, the adoption of forest certification is attracting growing interest from public policy makers** who are introducing incentives for its adoption or making it mandatory. Forest certification is now recognised as a means of combating deforestation and forest degradation by ensuring that timber is legally harvested. These incentives must be developed in order to enhance the value of certification and to bring competitiveness back to certified companies, who should be able to compensate for the direct and indirect costs of certification via a premium price for their certified timber. In terms of the market, the challenge is also to have this tool adopted - and considered the most efficient - in the future European Union zero deforestation regulation.

Tax incentives for the timber sector

Alain Karsenty, economist and CIRAD researcher, outlines his vision of tax incentives for the timber sector below:

Most African forest countries have made significant progress in terms of the sustainable management of their production forests. The Central African sub-region stands out thanks to its forest areas that are certified by one or two sustainable forest management labels (FSC and PAFC). Nevertheless, there is still a significant proportion of operations that haven't yet adopted a management process and, contrary to what might have been expected in the early 2000s, the number of companies with "sustainable forest management" certification hasn't increased significantly. This is mainly due to the fact that African timber is increasingly sold in markets that are reluctant to pay "premiums" for certified timber, whether in Asia or Africa. Nevertheless, some countries have made or are considering making forest management certification mandatory in the near future. In addition, the CEMAC countries intend to impose a total ban on log exports from 2022 onwards, which is expected to have a significant (and, as of today, unassessed) impact on some companies and lead to a decline in forest-related tax revenues.

Tapping into potential fiscal resources and promoting sustainability

The use of private instruments (private certificates) to achieve public policy objectives (Domestic Resources Mobilisation, combating illegality, protecting the environment and combating climate change) is increasingly common. For example, Brazil and Peru grant tax reductions to forestry operations that have sustainable management certification. Since mid-2020, Gabon has introduced a tax schedule with three different rates for the surface area tax: one

has a decrease for FSC- or PAFC-certified concessions, the other has an increase for concessions which only have a legality certificate and the third one has a sharper increase for non-certified concessions. In its 2021 finance law, Cameroon has introduced a slight decrease in the felling tax for FSC or PAFC certified concessions.

In the context of the current health and economic crisis, **African states more than ever need to maximise their potential tax revenues, but without increasing the tax burden on formal companies** that are compliant with their various legal obligations. Innovative solutions can be found to provide incentives so that economic players comply with legal, social and environmental obligations and sustainable forest management. "Bonus-malus" mechanisms consist of gradually increasing the taxation rates of 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 budget. These solutions have proven successful in several environmental policies. Development partners could, if necessary, contribute to the funding of such a system so that the state budget is a net gainer.

Taxation of timber sold on the domestic market

Timber with a legal origin is subject to a VAT rate of 19.25% when sold on the Cameroonian market. This taxation rate makes it even less competitive than informal timber. In order to reduce the price differential between these products and promote legality, a 5% decrease in the VAT rate is under consideration, but this reduction would require a reclassification of such sawnwoods as essential products within the CEMAC nomencla-

ture. A simulation of this scenario tends to show that a tax rate reduction associated with a broadening of the tax base would increase tax revenues, while constituting a positive signal for legal operators. The workshop provides an opportunity to present this tax simulation and to discuss the benefit of applying this measure in Cameroon, and even throughout the Congo Basin countries.

Non-fiscal incentives

Furthermore, there are many non-fiscal incentives that can be used to encourage the adoption of legal and sustainable forest management practices. In Cameroon, public procurement must now be reserved for timber that is proven to be legal. In Gabon, timber entering the Special Economic Zone must be certified as legal. Export facilitation (customs expressway) for certified companies could be considered, as well as other administrative facilitations.

SUPPORT FOR CERTIFICATION SCHEMES THE PAFC CONGO BASIN



© John Lander - Imagéo - Gabon - Concession Fair&Precious

For the past four years, ATIBT has been carrying out a project funded by the PPECF, IDH and PEFC International for the development of a regional certification system that suits the Congo Basin context.

The year 2022 saw the full acceptance of the PAFC Congo Basin scheme, and its operational implementation (see the chapter entitled "A PAFC certification scheme that is now operational and accepted").

One of the specialities of the PAFC sustainable forest management standard is the integration of two indicators linked to current climate issues: a mapping of forest carbon stocks and an assessment of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in relation to forest logging activities.

In order to help concession managers operating under the PAFC Congo Basin certification standard to comply with these requirements, the PPECF (Programme for the Promotion of Certified Logging) commissioned TERA, an environmental and sustainable forest management consultancy, to develop measurement tools.

The GHG tool was field tested in 2022. Pilot projects were carried out in concessions in Gabon, Congo and Cameroon. The tool covers the main sources of emissions caused by logging activities, including fuel and energy use and above-ground biomass losses. It is designed to monitor emissions from forest activities and from both industrial sites and work camps.

The tool is designed to be easy to use and is made available to concession managers in the form of an Excel spreadsheet, with separate tabs for different emission sources and a tab that summarises all of the GHG data. This will make it possible to compare results from different forest management units and work sites. *"Each reporting year, concession managers will fill in a new table. The tool also makes it possible to compare GHG emissions from one year to the next using a specific table that aggregates this annual information,"* explains TERA. This tool is the first of its kind to be applicable to all of the Congo Basin's forest concessions.

The methodology for the mapping of forest carbon stocks in the Congo Basin uses existing studies on inventory levels. This data will then be cross-checked with data from the forest concessions, including inventory and forest management data. The aim is to cross-reference the carbon stock data from these existing studies with data from the forest concessions, and then to stratify it, first by using an Excel tool, and then to map it. *"The methodology provides forest operators with a set of tools - configurable spreadsheets, map-making procedures, guidelines for interpreting carbon stocks - as well as a user guide,"* says TERA.

Concessionaires will be the main users of this tool as part of their compliance with the PAFC requirements.

The tools were validated in mid-2022, and training is planned for the logger, in order to enable them to use the tools quickly and efficiently. A hotline will also be set up in 2023 to answer the questions forestry companies have on these two tools.



PREPARATORY WORK AHEAD OF THE FSC GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 2022



© John Lander - Imageéo
Cameroun - Concession Fair&Precious

In the run-up to the following FSC General Assembly, which was held in Bali (Indonesia) from 9 to 14 October, ATIBT sought to find a solution for the protection of Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL) through the adoption of motion 23, which relies on a landscape approach.

ATIBT has been involved for over two years in the preparation of the FSC GA, with the aim of finding a **favourable outcome for the protection of IFLs** and to have a positive impact on the FSC system (see the chapter entitled "An FSC Assembly that is crucial for the future of tropical forest certification").

For the record, motion 65 on the preservation of intact forest landscapes (IFL) was adopted during the FSC General Assembly of 2014, in order to "*ensure the implementation of principle 9 and the protection of intact forest landscapes*". This motion required the full protection of 80% of IFL areas within FSC-certified management units (FMUs), until more specific national FSC standards are established.

In 2019, the FSC board of directors had approved guidance for national Standards Development Groups (SDGs), allowing

for protection levels to be at least higher than 50% when the 80% threshold was shown to not achieve the greatest gains in preservation.

However, research conducted in the context of motion 34/2017 regarding the social, environmental and economic impacts of the implementation of motion 65 revealed that, in the tropical and boreal regions that were examined, **only 0.6-7% of existing IFLs were affected by the FSC's certified FMU approach**. Moreover, a majority of managers of affected FMUs indicated that they wouldn't be able to maintain their commitment to FSC if these requirements continued.

In the Congo Basin, the National Standards Development Groups have suggested indicators for preserving IFLs, based on a robust participatory and consensual process, building on the work of a regional High Conservation Value (HCV) Working Group. Among the regional indicators established, a proposal to protect 20% of the core IFL area within the forest concession was included. However, the FSC rejected this idea, deeming it as not conducive to protecting the "vast majority" of IFLs.

SUPPORTING THE MARKET FOR CERTIFIED TROPICAL TIMBER

Various projects were carried out in 2022, with the aim of providing technical, institutional and commercial arguments for greater recognition of certified tropical timber in the markets.

| LIFE CYCLE ANALYSIS AND RESULTS



DRYADES

Since 2021, ATIBT and its partners have initiated the "Dryades" project, which aims to enhance the value of tropical timber products in the construction sector by providing Life Cycle Assessments (LCA) - originating from Africa, Environmental Product Declarations (DEP), and Environmental and Sanitary Data Sheets (FDES) for a range of eco-certified products in the Congo Basin.

This project was for the most part funded by the [Programme for the Promotion of Certified Logging](#) (PPECF), by ATIBT member companies and by federations such as [Le Commerce du Bois](#) (LCB).

In 2022, ATIBT, with the technical support of the Estearna research firm, carried out 12 life cycle inventories (LCI) for the main Congo Basin timber products manufactured by its members who manage certified forests.

ATIBT offers a simplified reading of the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) results of certified timber products from the Congo Basin (available in a port on the West African coast), with two key indicators: **the Global Warming indicator and the Biogenic Carbon Storage indicator. The main advantage of tropical timber is its ability to store carbon due to its higher average density and the relatively high resilience of tropical forests.**

The results of the life cycle inventories were obtained from data collected over three years (2018 - 2019 - 2020) from four ATIBT member companies:

- INTERHOLCO (Republic of Congo)
- PALLISCO CIFM (Cameroon)
- PRECIOUS WOOD (Gabon)
- ROUGIER (Gabon)

This study was carried out in accordance with the ISO 14 040/44 and NF EN 15 804+A2 standards, and was **critically reviewed by an external third party**. The life cycle impact (LCI) assessments were established within a specific context, with the aim of coming as close as possible to compliance with the NF EN 15804+A2 standard, but according to a partial perimeter: from forestry to the shipping port. The completion of these LCI assessments is a key and preparatory work for the establishment of future FDES / DEP documents for certified timber products from the Congo Basin. These will include modules C and D (product use and end of life). **These life cycle impact (LCI) assessments are intended for:**

- Customers of certified managers that are members of ATIBT, so that they can draw up their own individual DEPs,
- Timber trade federations, so that they can establish collective DEPs.
- All ATIBT member companies that produce timber products from the Congo Basin, from sustainably managed forests (certified timber). Customers of ATIBT members will be able to use these life cycle impact (LCI) assessments to make their environmental declaration (EPD / FDES or other LCA).

Please note, these sheets can also be used by companies managing forests that have sustainable management certification (FSC / PAFC) and that are not ATIBT members. A written request for authorisation must be sent to ATIBT (info@atibt.org).

[You can download the life cycle impact \(LCI\) assessments directly on ATIBT's website](https://www.atibt.org/)



The [Estearna](https://www.estearna.com/) research firm was asked to produce the FDES data sheets, using the data provided by the companies. The research firm, which consists of construction and environment experts, works for construction professionals and institutions in France and Europe.

| THE THEMIS PORTAL



The Themis project was headed by the Dutch PROBOS institute and funded by the Programme for the Promotion of Certified Logging (PPECF) and the "IDH the sustainable trade initiative" foundation. The project consisted of developing a tool for the gathering of data on the timber purchases of companies that are members of the European federations. The tool takes the form of an online portal, where companies are encouraged to enter their data once a year.

Three federations are involved in the project, Fedustria in Belgium, LCB in France and ATIBT at the European level. Each year, and since 2021, the European federation member companies are indeed asked (it's currently on a voluntary basis) to submit their data to the Themis portal. The survey asks them about:

- Their chain of custody certification
- The product groups that are purchased/imported
- The total volumes that are purchased/imported
- The timber categories that are purchased/imported (non-tropical, tropical)
- The purchased/imported volumes that are certified, and with which certificate(s)
- The countries of origin (production and processing)

The portal takes into account the following certification schemes and regulations:

- **CoC certification:** FSC, PEFC, Legal Source, OLB, Legal Trace, Legal Harvest Verification, TLV, STIP and Keurhout (with the possibility of submitting an another scheme)
- **Timber certification:** FSC, PEFC, FLEGT licences, Source Up, CITES permits, FSC CW, Legal Harvest, Legal Source, TLV, LegalTrace, OLB, and PEFC Controlled Sources.

In 2022, 12 ATIBT member companies responded to the survey (out of 28 relevant members), based in France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark and Switzerland. **Three others started** to submit their data without fully completing the survey, citing the same reason as in 2021 (lack of time, especially when the companies purchase a large number of product groups).

During the preparatory webinar conducted at the end of January with the companies, the latter showed greater confidence in the project and asked more targeted questions than in the previous year. We also received more feedback on inconsistencies or bugs observed in the portal than in the previous year, which shows that the companies are more involved and have a better understanding of the issues involved in gathering data.

| SPOKESPEOPLE FOR FAIR&PRECIOUS

Two spokespeople joined the [Fair&Precious programme](#) in 2022: Edwige Eyang Effa and Norbert Gami. They will promote the 10 Fair&Precious commitments in both the Congo Basin and Europe. The Fair&Precious collective, which supports both the FSC and PAFC-PEFC certification schemes, intends to better interact with civil society stakeholders.

Norbert and Edwige's contributions were particularly appreciated in the framework of press relations, during webinars and during the Nantes forum.

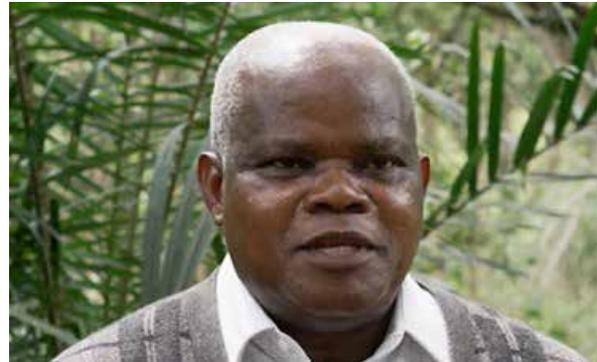
They also contributed to the production of the Fair&Precious films, providing expert testimony on the benefits of sustainable forest management in the Congo Basin



© John Lander - Imagéo

Edwige is a research associate at the IRET (*Institut de Recherche en Écologie Tropicale* - Institute of Tropical Ecology Research), where she is in charge of the SIG and cartography lab. She is familiar with the Congo Basin's forest certification mechanisms as she has been a member of the FSC Environmental Chamber since 2005 and has been involved in the evolution of the FSC in Gabon since 2008. Her knowledge of socio-economic issues and her social and environmental commitment (Edwige chairs the *Femmes, Environnement, Santé et Éducation* (Women, Environment, Health and Education) NGO, as well as the national forum of the Conference on Dense and Humid Forest

Ecosystems of Central Africa) are valuable to promote awareness of Fair&Precious' ambitions.



© John Lander - Imagéo

Norbert is an anthropologist in the Republic of Congo, with a PhD in Food Anthropology. He is specialised in conservation for the development and value enhancement of protected areas in Central Africa, through the lens of the involvement of indigenous and local communities in the sustainable management of natural resources.

Norbert has extensive knowledge of the social context of the Congo Basin's forest communities. In particular, he has studied the local populations' access to health care and how to improve their well-being, and he also examined their traditional environmental knowledge. He has worked for various organisations such as the WCS and The Forest Trust (now Earthworm Foundation, where Norbert worked on FSC certification), and for several programmes, such as ECOFAC (Support Programme for the Preservation of Biodiversity and Fragile Ecosystems) and *Avenir des Peuples des Forêts Tropicales* (Future of the Peoples of the Tropical Forests). His work on indigenous populations in forested areas allows him to better understand the involvement and consideration of these populations in forest resource management. This knowledge is fundamental for the continuous improvement of certification systems and their social impact.

THE PHOTO LIBRARY AND THE FIRST FAIR&PRECIOUS FILMS

The running of the Fair&Precious marketing programme is based on positioning, commitments, concepts, media, the involvement of beneficiaries, the development of partnerships and also content. Among this content, the "Media library", which essentially consists of videos and photographs, must be renewed regularly to maintain the programme's appeal to its target audiences. The production of these reports will enable the continuation of dynamic and appealing communication shared with all of the programme's partners: companies, institutions, media, NGOs, the general public, etc. In 2022, three short documentaries and a video clip were shot by the IMAGEO company, which we worked with for this project.

This series of documentaries on sustainable management is based on three themes:

- **Ecosystem services** (preserving both fauna and flora, combating illegal activities, generating additional income...)
- **Operational sustainability** (forest management plans, removals and cuts, reconstitution rates, species diversification, etc.)
- **Local populations and employees** (health and education initiatives, economic development initiatives, etc.)

The filming took place in the Republic of Congo, in Gabon and in Cameroon, in the certified concessions of Fair&Precious operators, with the simultaneous production of photo reports to complete the Fair&Precious media library. The organisation of the photo and films shoots was a genuine challenge, with visa delays and postponements due to covid, but we are pleased to present the first two episodes of this documentary series on sustainable tropical forest management:



EPISODE 1 :
Towards responsible
logging operations



EPISODE 2 :
Safeguarding
ecosystems

We also invite you to [take a look at the photos that were taken during the event.](#)

THE 10 FAIR&PRECIOUS COMMITMENTS

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



- 01** **MANAGING AND PROTECTING FORESTS TO COMBAT GLOBAL WARMING**

- 02** **PRESERVING FOREST RESOURCES BY HARVESTING LESS THAN NATURAL GROWTH**

- 03** **DEVELOPING KNOWLEDGE ON BIODIVERSITY TO FACILITATE THE REPOPULATION OF SPECIES**

- 04** **PRESERVING THE LIVING SPACES OF WILDLIFE**

- 05** **IMPLEMENTING ANTI-POACHING PROGRAMMES**

- 06** **CONTRIBUTING TO THE WELL-BEING OF POPULATIONS BY FACILITATING THEIR ACCESS TO EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE AND HOUSING**

- 07** **STIMULATING PRODUCER COUNTRIES' ECONOMIES BY ENHANCING THE VALUE OF THE FOREST AND BY FAVOURING LOCAL PROCESSING OF TIMBER**

- 08** **SETTING UP TRAINING COURSES FOR FORESTRY AND TIMBER PROFESSIONS**

- 09** **PROVIDING TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE ON THE DIVERSITY OF TROPICAL SPECIES AND THEIR USES**

- 10** **PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE PURCHASING OF AN EXCEPTIONAL MATERIAL**


ADVANCING TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE OF TROPICAL TIMBER

| AGREEMENT WITH THE CIRAD



© Paul CUVÉILLIER

In 2022, CIRAD's Tropical Timber team intervened in all five of the cooperation actions defined in the partnership agreement signed with ATIBT for the current year.

1 - Ad hoc technical support for ATIBT and its members, and responses to their technical requests within the CIRAD's "tropical timber" field of expertise

The aim of this support is to provide answers to questions raised by ATIBT members regarding technical issues: normative aspects of raw or processed products, processing levels, the durability of tropical vs. temperate timbers, drying defects, quality-usage adequacy, etc. Specific one-off actions were carried out by the CIRAD team:

- Contributed to the advice given to the Paris City Hall for the supply of certified tropical timber for decking used in bridges and footbridges,
- Advice and explanations on the macro-HOLZdata system,

- Explanations on the *Shorea* nomenclature (at the request of South Korean customs),
- Contribution to the ASP Cameroon document,
- Contributed to the drafting of the document on *Main elements of technical comparison between Tali, Oak and Bamboo composite for an outdoor decking installation for the SOLIDEO public institution*,
- Supply of technical elements for the elaboration of the FDES data sheets on tropical timber Cladding and Decking (for Estéana).

2 - Publication of technical documents created within the framework of the Technical Commission

Finalisation of the technical documents mentioned in the Timber & Standardisation Commission

3 - Participation in the French standardisation commission (BNBA/BF 035) "Durability and Environment for Timber" and the European one (CEN/TC 38 Durability of Wood and Derived Materials (eight working groups)) (Marie-France Thévenon)

4 - Moderation of the ATIBT Materials and Standardisation Commission, and occasional interactions with the other Commissions, mainly the Marketing Commission, the Forest & Industry Commission and the Training Commission

In terms of this chapter, two actions were carried out:

- Participation in the Marketing Commission and the Training Commission's 2022 video meetings, and in the December 2022 Think Tank.
- Drafting of the terms of reference for a report: **Guidelines and Recommendations on Contracts and Practices for the International Tropical Timber Trade** submitted to the ITTO for funding and accepted.

5 - Summarised contributions to ATIBT's annual report and other actions, whether contracted or not, that were carried out or are in progress (2023):

- Participation and contribution to the ATIBT / Fair&Precious stands at the *Carrefour International du Bois* trade fair (Nantes - June 2022); General Assembly; Plenary conference at the ATIBT Forum: *On the importance of pursuing research on tropical timber*.
- Quality control on a batch of Niové sawn timber for an importing company.
- Service contract between ATIBT and the CIRAD for the PAFFB project (training in the identification of forest species on processed products (sawn timber, veneers, etc.), and in the measurement and grading of sawn timber): training planned for 2023.

ATIBT'S MAJOR MEETINGS

| ATIBT THINK TANK #5



This Think Tank was organised around three thematic sessions: "Carbon Finance & Biodiversity", "Improving the image of tropical timber in Europe" and "Exploring new markets for tropical timber".

We would like to thank the Carbon & Biodiversity Commission for their support in organizing this Think Tank and for the richness of the discussions. They coordi-

nated the organisation and interventions of the first session. We also thank CNDB for organising the Thursday afternoon session, as well as Claude Garcia, who once again facilitated this meeting.

The minutes of Think Tank #5, as well as the presentations, are available via this QR code.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

| IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ADEFAC PROJECT



© ATIBT

The ADEFAC project (*Appui au Développement de la Formation en Afrique Centrale - Support for the Development of Continuing Vocational Training in the Forestry and Timber Sector in Central Africa*), funded by the French Development Agency, has allowed much progress to be made. 33 human resources (HR) managers and other managers from forestry and industrial companies, including nine women (27.27% of the participants), were trained in forward-looking management of staff, jobs and skills (GPEEC - *Gestion Prévisionnelle des Effectifs, des Emplois et des Compétences*), while 16 companies were coached to implement these GPEEC approaches and tools in their professional environments. Training tools and professional organisation initiatives, such as

videos and feedback from the field, were posted on the RIFFEAC website to share best practices with SMEs and promote the use of legal timber.

In total, 15 professional organisations of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) gathered together and got trained, including six in Gabon and nine in Congo, with 34 representatives of these professional organisations trained in the field, 12% of whom were women. 49 trainers, 14% of whom were women, were trained in continuing education engineering and the process of designing continuing education sessions in both Gabon and Congo. These trainers are teachers and professionals specialised in various fields, such as sawing, drying, sharpening,

conflict management and external mediation, carpentry, finishing, SME management, machine maintenance and artisanal operations.

The project also published 25 articles on the RIFFEAC website and 12 via ATIBT's newsletter. Four Thematic Working Groups (GTT - *Groupe de Travail Thématiques*) were set up in the four project countries: their participants were trained in 2022 on their roles and on the challenges of a shared governance of the continuing vocational training component in the forestry and timber sector. Two studies on the creation of an official label and the sustainable funding of vocational training were also carried out and discussed within the thematic working groups on continuing training.

Participants attended several national, regional and international events, such as the Advocacy Meeting on Women's Empowerment through Woodworking in Douala, the online Forest Conservation Day, the ATIBT Forum in Nantes, the 19th CBFP Meeting of the Parties in Libreville and the Furniture and Non-Timber Forest Products Made in Cameroon trade fair in Yaoundé, among others.

On-the-spot evaluations of GPEEC training, prescription training and training of the trainers was carried out, with results of between 4 and 4.5/5 on the one hand, and between 7 and 9.5/10 on the other. Three training-action sessions took place in Cameroon, Congo and Gabon in both timber sharpening and drying for 20 trainers, and a training session on carpentry and finishing took place in the DRC for nine participants. 11 people from seven companies were trained in electrical diagrams and fault-finding and obtained training on the fundamentals of mechanics.



© ATIBT

Prospects for 2023:

On the development of a Continuing Professional Training (FPC - *Formation Professionnelle Continue*) offer, it will be necessary to identify and select good, competent and available technical trainers who will be able to receive additional instruction to then create and deploy CPD training sessions. This will be done through:

- The formulation of the training-action activities' terms of reference by asking the logger's experts to really focus on the prescription and description phases of the specifications of the CPD training sessions to be created.
- The involvement of the Technical Implementation Team (EET - *Équipe d'Exécution Technique*) of professional organisations to identify companies that can accommodate trainers to assess skills needs and the drafting of specifications;
- The proposal of training-action as originally planned, including the contents of the catalogue sheets, the pedagogical process and its associated training materials, and the choice between using technical platforms or small tools.

MAINTAINING THE BALANCE OF FOREST SPECIES WITHIN FMUS

| ACTIONS RELATED TO REFORESTATION AND AGROFORESTRY



© John Lander - Imagéo - Gabon - Concession Fair&Precious

In order to maintain the forest's potential, both in terms of quantity and quality, it is increasingly key, especially in some countries where demographic pressure is intense, to combine natural regeneration with silvicultural methods that involve tree planting, while giving priority to local species with high heritage value. ATIBT, through its Agroforestry & Plantations Commission, provides value to forests and contributes **to the evolution of the forest concession model** with a view to making tropical rainforests a lever for the sustainable development of the local populations and territories.

Agroforestry is making a strong comeback in many forums and projects thanks to the benefits offered by this model. ATIBT is also interested in it, and regularly initiates or facilitates the drafting of studies regarding agroforestry activities in the Congo

Basin, as well as those that affect lumber plantations.

Furthermore, seeing that several structures are involved in these issues within the *Cité du Développement Durable* (Sustainable Development Centre) in Nogent-sur-Marne, **ATIBT gathered together its members who wished to participate along with a few of the Cité's stakeholders** to form an Agroforestry & Plantations Commission in 2021, whose first meeting was held on 1 June 2021.



© John Lander - Imagéo - Gabon - Concession Fair&Precious

In order to **contribute to the sustainable management of Cameroon's lumber production forests**, a "Reforestation in Cameroon's FMUs" project (see the following chapter "The FMU-REFOREST project") was signed with the EU delegation in Yaoundé. It started in October 2021 and will run until October 2026. Forest plantations will be carried out over the next four years in four Cameroonian forestry companies, bringing together both private and public stakeholders to work on reforestation and future forest management strategies.

THE FMU-REFOREST PROJECT



© ATIBT

Forestry companies are very selective in terms of the species they harvest; indeed, three species alone - ayous, sapelli and tali - contribute to over 50% of production. This selectivity has little impact on the forest cover (6-10% of the open canopy), but in the long term it leads [to the progressive scarcity of these harvested species](#). Most of these species are crucial for the local populations of these forests, as they provide them with non-timber forest products (NTFPs). However, natural regeneration alone cannot replenish the initial forest inventory. To maintain the forest's potential, it is therefore preferable that natural regeneration be combined with silvicultural methods that involve tree planting, with priority given to local species with a high heritage value.

It is within this context that [the FMU-REFOREST project](#) aims to contribute to the sustainable management of Cameroon's lumber production forests by rallying both private and public stakeholders behind reforestation and future forest management strategies. With funding from the European Union, the FMU-REFOREST project, whose objective is to enrich Forest Management Units in a partici-

patory and inclusive manner, supports PALLISCO, GRUMCAM, SEEF and SEFAC in carrying out these reforestation activities. The project, which was implemented by ATIBT, also benefits from the technical support of Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, Nature+ and the ENSET (University of Douala).

The FMU-REFOREST project also aims to engage in dialogue with the Cameroonian forestry administration (MINFOF), to collaborate with it and to inform it about its implementation and results. The aim is to reflect on the future of silviculture within the framework of sustainably managed forest concessions in order to help update the regulatory framework in favour of forest cover restoration at the national scale. The objectives also include planting over 240,000 trees in the forest management units of four forestry companies. To achieve this, it is essential what quality seed collection operations be carried out throughout Cameroon wherever this is possible. In order to guarantee the genetic diversity of forest species, and in the hope of having well-conformed trees in the future, several criteria guide us in the choice of good seed companies. These are

summarised in the practical tree planting guide, [which is freely available here](#). This guide was developed with the technical support of our partners Nature+ and Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech.

Action to carry out forest enrichment - using various techniques - is also planned. Among the challenges that lie ahead, logging operations will have to master the supply of quality seeds to nurseries, the upkeep of trees in felling gaps, log yards and plots of land that are subject to difficult conditions, and the involvement of local communities and indigenous peoples in silvicultural operations.

Initial nursery assessment and monitoring missions were organised. A successful project launch workshop was held with the participation of the State administration, the private sector and civil society. The five nurseries of the companies involved in the project have either been expanded or improved: the total capacity of these nurseries is now estimated at 149,800 plants. During this period, over 88,000 plants were produced. The species produced in the nursery have been diversified, as they now number 37 different species. During this period, 7.7 hectares were reforested on land plots in degraded environments and within a perimeter of 320 ha of forest in felling gaps and parks: over 20,000 trees were thus planted. This represents 24.9% of the total number of trees to be planted annually, which is relatively low but in line with expectations given the unavailability of seedlings in the nurseries at the start of the project. The unavailability of seedlings is linked to the time it takes to produce a plant (one year), to the low abundance of seeds, and to the diesel crisis that hit the sector for several months.

Of the trees planted, 27% are species with a high heritage value. To carry out these reforestation activities, 160 people from the forest concessions participated in the field work, including seed collection, nursery work and planting, 23.1% of whom were women and Baka. In order to standardise the monitoring of plantations, a system that monitors enrichment was set up in the companies involved in the project. Databases were established and shared with the companies. A Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech researcher is working on standardising them and has begun a major project to summarise the results of the various species' reforestation performances. The gathering of seeds, which is the key to a successful reforestation project, has also been completed. The local communities were invited to participate in this activity. They were recruited as reforestation team staff and contributed to the gathering of seeds. Over 20,000 moabi seeds were thus collected by the local communities.

Other players were also involved in the project's activities, including the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF). Field visits and exchange trips were also carried out. During the year 2022, six months after the official project launch, over 20,000 trees were planted in degraded areas, in logging gaps and in forest parks.

SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH

| ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN BY THE DYNAFAC COLLECTIVE

DYNAFAC, THE PLATFORM FOR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES ON SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

First of all, it should be said that one of the current challenges of our sector is the permanence of research activities on sustainability, not to mention the capitalisation of results from the recent Dynaffor and P3FAC projects.

The DYNAFAC collective, of which ATIBT is a member, is a group of structures concerned with the monitoring of forest dynamics on the basis of a network of sites and permanent mechanisms installed in Central Africa's forests.

Here are the main recommendations emerging from 10 years of research conducted by the Dynaffor and P3FAC projects, which ATIBT closely collaborated on:

- Adapt forest management to the 10 major forest types present in Central Africa
- Standardise rotation durations to 30 years
- Restore inventories to 100% for the group of commercial species, and at least 50% for each of these species, while taking into account removals
- Update and standardise minimum harvestable diameters at the regional level
- Install forest dynamic monitoring systems in all major concessions

Many tools were developed and made available online on the Dynafac website to improve the sustainability of management plans: DafSim, technical guides, scientific articles, etc. The long-term relevance of scientific achievements is ensured via scientific articles and knowledge consoli-

dation documents, subject to the sustainability of the Dynafac website; but the durability of their use is not yet ensured beyond the stakeholders involved in the DynAfFor and P3FAC projects (ATIBT, COMIFAC, CIRAD, GxABT, Nature+).

Recommendations can be expressed within the framework of ATIBT's Fair&Precious programme, given the importance of this research for the future of sustainable management and for the credibility of the players that are involved. The following recommendations can be highlighted, while noting that an assessment of these research programmes will be conducted in 2023:

- Perpetuate, expand and energise the DYNAFAC collective, by identifying and seeking funding for concrete projects (forestry dynamics, plantations, etc.), which is the best way to ensure that a collective remains active.
- More actively promote the tools produced by Dynafac: DafSim software, technical guides, etc.
- Expand dialogue to a larger number of forestry companies, including non-European and non-certified ones, by adapting approaches, discourses and participation strategies.
- Integrate the Dynafac collective's recommendations, and promote them to policy makers.

The Fair&Precious programme is working with Dynafac to improve the sustainability of forest management plans in Central Africa.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES ON THE VULNERABILITY STATUS OF SPECIES

The International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List plays a crucial role in raising public awareness in terms of the threats to both animal and plant species. Species used for lumber are no exception. However, the IUCN itself highlights the limitations of its Red List: (i) "a globally applicable category may not reflect a national or regional category for the same taxon"; (ii) "taxa are not reassessed at appropriate intervals"; (iii) "the data used to assess taxa are often estimated with considerable uncertainty...".

The project entitled "Updating the vulnerability status of timber species logged in Central Africa", funded by the [COMIFAC Programme for the Promotion of Certified Logging](#) (PPECF), Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech (University of Liège) and the MBG via the Franklinia Foundation, reviewed the preservation status of 19 logged species in Central Africa. The preservation status of each species was established using criterion A3 of the IUCN Red List. The aim was to model the species' population reduction in 100 years time by integrating the impact of logging and habitat loss. This modelling was based on the analysis of data from 98 forest management units representing around 22 million ha of forest. Additional information (species population density, diameter structure, the intensity of threats to key dispersers, and the match between a regular fruiting diameter and the minimum legal harvesting diameter) was also considered in the analysis of the preservation status of each species. The results that were obtained were submitted for validation to a panel of experts during a workshop organised from 5 to 9 December 2022 by the Gabon National Parks Agency with support from Nature+, Gembloux

Agro-Bio Tech/Liège University and the Missouri Botanical Garden's (MBG) Africa & Madagascar Department.

Given the IUCN's Red List thresholds, for a population reduction ranging from 30% to 50% in the next century, the species should be considered as threatened and classified as Vulnerable (VU). Only three species have been placed in this category: *Entandrophragmacandollei* (Kosipo), *Erythrophleumivorense* (coastal forest Tali) and *Triplo-chitonscleroxylon* (Ayous). These species should benefit from special management measures, such as methods to support regeneration.

When the population reduction falls below 30% in the next century, the species is not threatened. Nine species are classified as Near Threatened (NT). These are *Bobgunnia fistuloides* (Pao rosa), *Cylindrodiscus gabunensis* (Okan), *Entandrophragma cylindricum* (Sapelli), *Erythrophleum suaveolens* (continental forest Tali), *Lophira alata* (Azobé), *Millettia laurentii* (Wengué), *Prioria balsamifera* (Agba / tola), *Terminalia superba* (Limba / fraké) and *Tieghemella africana* (Douka). The evolution of their populations should be monitored regularly.

Lastly, the following species are classified as being of "Least Concern" (LC): *Afzelia-bipindensis* (Doussié), *Aucoumea klaineana* (Okoumé), *Dacryodesigaganga* (Igagan-ga), *Entandrophragma utile* (Sipo), *Milicia excelsa* (Iroko), *Pterocarpus soyauxii* (Padouk) and *Testulea gabonensis* (Izombé). Two species that have just been placed in Appendix II of the CITES are therefore not actually threatened according to the panel of experts.

At the end of the workshop, these assessments are to be submitted to the [IUCN Red List of Species website](#) for publication.

The results of the workshop were widely reported in the Gabonese media:

- In the written press:
 - <https://www.gabonreview.com/exploitation-du-bois-les-statuts-de-conservation-de-21-especes-en-revision-a-libreville/> ;
 - <https://www.agenceafrique.com/39229-gabon-libreville-accueille-un-atelier-de-revision-des-statuts-de-conservation-dune-vingtaine-despeces-ligneuses-dafrique-centrale.html> ;
 - <https://www.lenouveaugabon.com/fr/agro-bois/0612-19254-gabon-vers-la-mise-en-place-d-un-mecanisme-de-controle-de-la-gestion-des-especes-exploitees-des-forets>
- In broadcast media, the excerpt available at the following address <https://www.facebook.com/tvgabon24/videos/452739127056230/> was broadcast on the Gabon24 television station.



© Atelier IUCN - Libreville

Figure 1. Participants at the IUCN Red List update workshop in Libreville (Gabon).

2023, MORE GENUINE CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE

5



© John Landen - Imago - Gabon - Concession Fair & Precious

Many issues have been raised throughout this report, but there are still some important points that we need to mention as they will be developed in 2023.

THE HALT OF LOG EXPORTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO

© John Lander - Imagéo
Gabon - Concession Fair&Precious



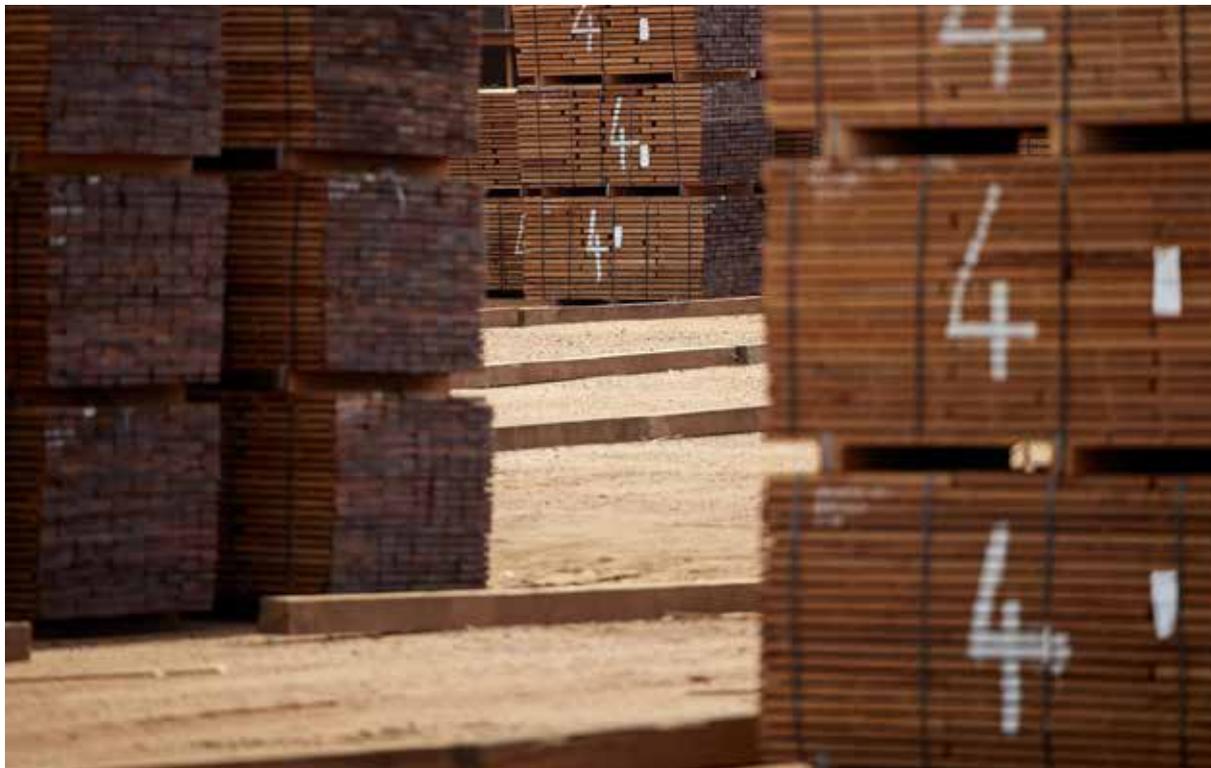
The cessation of log exports was the subject of a request made by CEMAC in 2021. This measure had to be implemented but was postponed to January 1, 2023. Up to now Republic of Congo is the only one who stand to implement it without delay. Some other countries such as Cameroon are planning a gradual implementation.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 97, paragraph 1 of Law 33-2020 of 8 July 2020 of the Forestry Code, which refers to the ban on exports of logs from both natural and planted forests of the Republic of Congo, the Minister of Forest Economy sent a letter to the CEOs and Managing Directors of forestry companies on 21 October indicating that, as of 1 January 2023, timber exports will be limited to finished and semi-finished products only.

After several consultation meetings, the forestry companies requested a meeting with the Minister to present the sector's various concerns regarding the implementation of this measure, in particular in terms of the timber from the 2022 annual cut, the timber from the completion cut that will be harvested in 2023 and the social and economic impacts. Halting the export of logs in the Congo certainly aims to create added value by processing the timber locally and ultimately offers a potential source of employment, but this would require investments that haven't always been anticipated due to the Covid pandemic, and also because of the increased costs of raw materials (steel) and because of the delivery delays of the new processing units in 2021 and 2022.

Lastly, we need to bring up the opportunity cost generated by the measure, both in fiscal terms (the high taxation of exported logs, which constitutes substantial revenue for the State) and in industrial terms (the processing of certain logs may prove to be less profitable than exporting them). Moreover, we will also need to check whether a list will be prepared to identify the species considered as "heavy timber", which are likely to remain exportable in the form of logs.

PRODUCTION SHARING IN THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO



© John Lander - Imagéo - Congo - Concession Fair&Precious

With "Production Sharing" (PdP - *Partage de Production*) in the Republic of Congo, the country's authorities wish to address the challenges of the national timber sector, in particular by increasing production, by supplying future special economic zones and by supplying the local market, all in order to maximise the sector's contribution to the national economy. Various articles of the new Forestry Code refer to this project (especially articles 104, 106, 107, 108, 109 and 254).

Following a study entrusted to the FRMi research firm in 2021, a clear definition of the concept and an effective methodology were to provide both insight and operational responses. Thus, several scenarios and approaches were considered. The specific objectives of this mission were to provide proposals and elements to help

draft the future application texts describing the implementation of the PdP as well as a roadmap for its implementation. This project, which was inspired by current practices in the oil sector, remains complex to understand for forest operators. The heterogeneity of the production to be shared (differences in species, qualities and diameters), the relationships with the markets (both domestic and export), the investments to be made to expand production, the uncertain profitability of these investments, the infrastructure required for the logistics of increased production, and also the large number of trade-offs that would certainly be necessary for the implementation of the measure, raise questions about its feasibility. A highly thorough consultation with the sector's professionals will be necessary over the next few years.

THE CHALLENGE CENTRAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES FACE IN TERMS OF THEIR DOMESTIC TIMBER MARKET

In 2022, and following an agreement between the FAO and ATIBT to support the consolidation of sustainable timber value chains in Central Africa, ATIBT finalised a set of recommendations. This was done within the framework of the "Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World" (SW4SW) programme adopted in May 2018 as part of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) joint initiative, following the SW4SW global meeting held at the FAO's headquarters in 2017.

ATIBT highlighted the importance of improving the sustainability of timber value chains, more specifically in the national and regional markets of Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Gabon and the Republic of Congo. ATIBT was pleased to be involved in this consideration process with the FAO.

The areas of intervention were identified, allowing the situation in each of the four countries to be addressed. In summary, we would like to highlight the following priorities:

- At the general level, institutional consolidation and partnerships, support to stakeholders in the timber sector and capacity building;
- At the political, administrative and legal level, simplified access to legal timber;
- At the economic level, support to market development;
- At the socio-cultural level, consideration given to both gender and socio-cultural aspects;
- At the technological level, the promotion of research.

The crucial issue of developing lesser-known timber species (known as LKTS) was also on the agenda in each country. It is important to diversify the resources that are used, and to shift the focus of industrial players specialised in the local market away from well-known (but sometimes over-harvested) species and towards species whose resource is abundant - and sometimes less costly - and which is subject to little competition from export markets.

Some of the other points raised were more specific, particularly in terms of regulations, and included the need for reduced VAT on timber intended for the local market.

Lastly, it should be mentioned that the work was complemented by the outcomes of the ATIBT Forum and the results of the sessions organised during the PFBC meeting in Libreville in early July 2022. In order to share the results, the FAO and the CPB organised - in collaboration with WWF - a workshop in December 2022, in which ATIBT was invited to report on its experience.

SECOND GENERATION FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS



© John Lander - Imagéo - Gabon - Concession Fair&Precious

The management plans of the first rotation will soon come to completion, initially in the Gabonese concessions. Although the principles adopted for the first generation management plans aren't fundamentally being called into question, it is important that we consider how they should evolve after 25 years of implementation. The logging companies that benefit from these concession allocations are working closely with forest managers, researchers and the forest administration to develop management plans for the second rotation. As with their first management plans, these companies are true pioneers, exploring appropriate technical approaches even though the legislative

framework for the second rotation has yet to be established.

The results of the DYNAFOR and P3FAC projects have led the DYNAFAC collective's researchers to recommend some adjustments to the elaboration of management plans. These include taking into account the types of forest present in each forest concession, and adapting the standards for the replanting of species and for the duration of the rotations. In addition, over 40 years of monitoring mortality, yields and the growth of trees of various species now provide us with improved and more reliable parameters for the calculation of harvest forecasts.

The development of a legislative framework for the new generation of management plans, especially for the second harvesting rotations, first requires an assessment of the implementation of the initial management plans. The lessons learned from this implementation and the recommendations - in addition to those produced by the research - will help to improve the methodology for the preparation of management plans and their contents, including the sustainable management measures themselves.

The first step is to analyse the yields achieved in relation to the development forecasts: volumes harvested per species, compliance with the harvesting plans, diversification of the harvested species, road infrastructure, etc. The objectives are to assess the level of resource utilisation, especially in terms of the use of secondary species, to analyse economic models, and to consider potential solutions to ensure the sustainability of concession operations. This analysis should be conducted in parallel with consideration on the industrialisation of the sector.

This also includes social aspects (the number of jobs created, the quality of life in the living units, furthering knowledge of the local population, local development achievements in neighbouring villages, etc.) as well as biodiversity and environmental services (measures and their impacts on the protection of watercourses, carbon conservation/storage, plants and wildlife including rare, protected and endemic species and their critical habitats).

The context for sustainable forest management has changed significantly since the late 1990s. The legislative framework for the new generation of management plans will have to take into account climate change, the United Nations' sustainable development goals, biodiversity conservation objectives (2022 Montreal COP meeting) given its global erosion, international standards on environmental and social impact assessments, the utilisation of ecosystem services, population growth and food security needs which put increased pressure on forests due to increased agricultural land requirements, the development of both national and regional markets which may lead to market diversification, and national plans to develop the timber processing industry, especially in special economic zones.

Economic models and the future legal framework will have to take into account a possible diversification of activities and sources of income, via payments for ecosystem services, carbon finance, ecotourism, the development of forest and agroforestry plantations, and even the improved utilisation of non-timber products by loggers or the populations that live in or around the concessions.

ATIBT is engaged in dialogue with the technical and financial partners who support the sustainable development of the forest-timber sector in order to obtain support for the assessment of the implementation of management plans and to assist forestry administrations so that they can develop a legislative framework for the new generation of management plans in a participatory manner.

DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE FUNDING FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

In preparation for [the organisation of the One Forest Summit](#) planned for March 2023 in Libreville, ATIBT participated in the work done on the "Innovative Funding" theme, an opportunity to remind everyone of the role that certified concessionaires play as conservation players and the need to develop innovative funding mechanisms.

ATIBT represents the certified tropical timber-forest sector, and its members include forest managers located in the Congo Basin and the Amazon. ATIBT supports the fight against deforestation and the preservation and rehabilitation of tropical forests, which are essential to reduce CO₂ emissions and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and natural carbon sinks. Preserving tropical forests is also crucial to **conserve biodiversity**, to **preserve water resources**, to **improve food safety** and to **maintain the livelihoods** of the local populations. The role of ecosystems cannot be reduced to mere carbon storage.

ATIBT members have implemented effective measures for sustainable environmental and social forest management through recognised certification schemes such as PEFC (PAFC in the Congo Basin) and FSC. However, these approaches are not sufficiently rewarded, and it is observed that **the sustainable forest-timber sector doesn't have access to carbon funding as conceived by the mechanisms of "voluntary carbon market certification"**.

In 2023, ATIBT will pursue the implementation of alternative funding strategies and conservation interventions to safeguard carbon stocks and biodiversity in these vulnerable forests.

In 2022, ATIBT participated in the [OBC initiative](#) (Organisation for Biodiversity Certificates) [5], which aims to create an **operational tool to assess local positive impacts on biodiversity** (see the chapter on the Carbon & Biodiversity Commission).

ATIBT believes in the development of the concept of "certificates with a positive impact on climate, biodiversity and social aspects" (a more appropriate formulation than "carbon credits" or "biodiversity credits"), which can be used by companies as a complement to (and not as a replacement of) their efforts to reduce their own carbon or biodiversity footprint.

Furthermore, although the subject is less recent and already widely debated, **the carbon funding issue remains one of ATIBT's topics of consideration in its Carbon and Biodiversity Commission.** Discussions have focused on so-called "REDD+" prevented deforestation projects, i.e. conservation projects aimed at preventing (mostly unplanned) threats of deforestation or forest degradation. Forest concessionaires, especially those who already engage in sustainable management practices, don't see the benefits of such a project.

However, there are **other opportunities** for forest concessionaires to **benefit from carbon funding via so-called "IFM"** (Improved Forest Management) projects. For example, this type of project deals with the implementation of so-called "RIL-C" practices (Reduced Impact Logging for Climate Change mitigation)^[6], the increase in rotation lengths and minimum diameter cutting limits, the conversion of low-productivity forests to high-productivity forests, the preservation of certain

areas within the concession, etc. To date, too few IFM projects exist. The methodologies are complex and there are technical obstacles (e.g. demonstrating that without carbon funding, improved practices would not have emerged) that are holding back forest concessionaires. The Carbon & Biodiversity Commission is examining how to eliminate these obstacles and how to put investors into contact with project leaders in the field.



© John Lander - Imagéo - Congo - Concession Fair&Precious

**We would also like to pay tribute
to Sylvie Gourlet-Fleury in this report.
She passed away in January 2023.
Her legacy leaves us with a treasure
trove of knowledge and a solid
foundation to continue research
on tropical forest population dynamics.**

THANKS

Most of the projects managed by ATIBT in 2019 received ongoing financial support from our main donors: the EU (European Community), the AFD (French Development Agency), the FFEM (French Facility for Global Environment), the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation), the KfW (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau - German Development Agency), through the PPECF programme managed by COMIFAC and IDH (Sustainable Trade Initiative).



AFD (Agence Française de Développement)
Christophe DU CASTEL
Emmanuel FOURMANN
Mathieu AUGER SCHWARTZENBERG
5, Rue Roland Barthes
75598 PARIS CEDEX 1 - FRANCE
ducastelc@afd.fr / fourmanne@afd.fr
augerschwarzenbergm@afd.fr
Tél +33 (0)1 53 44 33 10
Fax +33 (0)1 53 44 38 66
www.afd.fr



BMZ (Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung)
Lena Siciliano BRETAS
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
Division 122
Rural development, lands rights, Forests Dahlmannstra. 4
53113 Bonn - ALLEMAGNE
Tél : +49 228 5353864
Lena.Bretas@bmz.bund.de
www.bmz.de



**Commission Européenne
Délégation de l'UE à Brazzaville**
Jacob Haushofer
jacob.haushofer@eeas.europa.eu
Délégation de l'UE à Yaoundé
Claudia Antonelli
claudia.antonelli@eeas.europa.eu



EFI (European Forest Institute)
Jussi VIITÄNEN
FLEGT and REDD Facilities
80100 Joensuu - FINLANDE
jussi.viitanen@efi.int
Tél +34 6 73 27 28 02
www.efi.int



FAO (Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture)
Sven WALTER
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla,
00153 Roma - ITALIE
sven.walter@fao.org
Tél +240 22 20 55 416
www.fao.org



FFEM (Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial)
Aurélien AHMIM-RICHARD
5, Rue Roland Barthes
75598 PARIS CEDEX 13 - FRANCE
ahmim-richarda@afd.fr
Tél +33 (0)1 53 44 32 78
www.afd.fr



GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH)
Herbert CHRIST
Friedrich Ebert Allee, 40
53113 Bonn - ALLEMAGNE
herbert.christ@giz.de
Tél +49 61 96 79 12 82
Fax +49 61 96 79 73 33
www.giz.de



IDH (Dutch sustainable trade initiative)
Arthur van Schendelstraat 500
3511 MH Utrecht - P.O. Box 1241,
3500 BE UTRECHT - PAYS-BAS
Tél +31 (0) 6 5286 2393
www.idhsustainabletrade.com



KfW (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau)
Martin BOSTROEM
Palmengartenstrasse, 5-9
6325 Frankfurt am Main - ALLEMAGNE
martin.bostroem@kfw.de
Tél +49 69 74 31 4090
www.kfw.de



LIBERTÉ • ÉGALITÉ • FRATERNITÉ
RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
MINISTÈRE
DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES
ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT
INTERNATIONAL

MEAE (Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères)
Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères - Sous-direction de l'environnement et du climat
Pôle Biodiversité-Forêts-Océans
Philippe DELETAIN
Catherine BODART
27, Rue de la Convention
75732 Paris CEDEX 15 - FRANCE
philippe.deletain@diplomatie.gouv.fr
catherine.bodart@diplomatie.gouv.fr
Tél +33 (0)1 43 17 62 53
Tél +33 (0)1 43 17 71 68



LIBERTÉ • ÉGALITÉ • FRATERNITÉ
RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
MINISTÈRE
DE L'AGRICULTURE
DE L'AGROALIMENTAIRE
ET DE LA FORÊT

MAA (Ministère de l'Agriculture, et de l'Alimentation)
Chargée de mission «FLEGT et Règlement Bois de l'Union Européenne»
3, rue Barbet de Jouy
75007 PARIS Cedex 07 - FRANCE
Tél +33(0)1 49 55 40 94



OIBT (Organisation Internationale des Bois Tropicaux)
Sheam SATKURU
International Organizations Center,
5th Floor Pacifico-Yokohama, 1-1-1,
Minato-Mirai, Nishi-ku,
Yokohama, 220-0012 - JAPON
satkuru@itto.int
Tél +81-45-223-1110
Fax +81-45-223-1111

This new annual report was produced by the ATIBT team, with contributions from various partners, in particular the chairmen of our association's commissions and of the scientific council, as well as our marketing consultant Bertrand Faucon. The layout was done by Geoffrey Langlinay - LG Design Graphik. We would like to express our warmest gratitude to them.



THE LEADING AUTHORITY ON TROPICAL TIMBER

ATIBT - Jardin d'agronomie tropicale de Paris
45 bis, avenue de la Belle Gabrielle
94736 Nogent-sur-Marne CEDEX - FRANCE
Tél. +33 1 43 94 72 64 - Fax. +33 1 43 94 72 09