

Forest – Industry Committee

Objectives

The Forest - Industry Committee is headed by active ATIBT members and has the following objectives:

- To defend the interests of producers and converters/processors of the forest-timber sector based in Central and West Africa,
- To support and inform ATIBT members based in Africa in order to maintain a sector that is innovative, respectful of international standards, and economically viable;
- To ponder, with the stakeholders in the field, in order to actively contribute to international debates on the tropical forest-timber sector, so as to provide pragmatic answers to the requirements advocated on the international scene regarding the sustainable management of forests;
- To federate the various players of producer countries around the main issues related to the tropical forest-timber sector, to participate in debates, to adopt and defend shared positions by leading an "African" network in order to conduct studies, share experiences, share investments and deal with technical issues;
- To maintain a link between producer/consumer countries and communicate on the measures implemented at the producer country level and contribute to improved visibility of the sector;
- To provide input for thought that can be carried out within the other committees.

This committee thus reinforces the link between the ATIBT team and the forestry - and industrial companies of Central-and West Africa, a link all the more important as the distance between ATIBT's headquarters and the producer countries is significant.

Make-up of the committee

Members of ATIBT's Forest - Industry committee perform their duties free of charge. Any stakeholder who's actively involved in the Forest - Industry sector can become member. They are not required to pay membership to ATIBT, but they must actively participate in the functioning of the committee in a constructive manner (providing information or carrying out the research that is required for the needs of the committee, suggesting improvements, etc.). Members can represent themselves or an entity.

Each member must briefly describe his/her activities or needs. The number of members is not limited.

Relations with the other ATIBT committees

As it raises issues pertaining to tropical forestry and processed products, and seeks solutions for them, the Forest - Industry Committee actively provides input for discussions, and guides the actions carried out in the other committees, whether in terms of logistical issues, technical issues, market issues, certification issues, etc.

It is therefore essential that a strong link exist between this committee - which deals with issues that arise upstream in the sector - and the other committees working on subjects that are further downstream.

Reasoning topics

The general reasoning topics are the sustainable management of forests, the local processing of timber and the trade of forest production.

Although the following list is not exhaustive, we would like to mention the following activities:

- Sustainable forest management - achievements - evolution - outlook
- Forest plantation development
- Promotion of secondary species
- More extensive processing of timber
- FLEGT / EUTR and certification
- Local and regional markets
- Forest / timber industry legislation
- Capacity building

The topics discussed at ATIBT's international Forums, or during the RACEWOOD meetings, will receive particular attention and monitoring by the committees; conversely, the committees will be directly involved in the choice of the main topics planned for these meetings.

The specific topics selected for the 2017-2018 year – grouped by general topic and including their links with the other committees - are shown in Appendix.

Members of the committee (to be precised)

- Timber sector professionals
- Research firms, Universities, Research and training centres
- Equipment or services suppliers
- Individuals

Appendix – 2017 roadmap for the forest - industry committee

The specific topics selected for the year 2017, as well as their merging into a general theme and their links with the other committees, are shown in the below table.

THÈME	TOPICS	LINKS W/ OTHER COM.
SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT		
EVOLUTION OF LEGISLATION IN CENTRAL AFRICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revision of forestry codes; - Revision of implementation texts 	-
FOREST PLANTATIONS (STUDIES FUNDED VIA THE FLEGT-REDD+ PROJECT IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE, IN CAMEROON, GABON, CONGO AND IN DRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysis of the current legislative framework - Review of lumber plantation experiences - Inventory of agroforestry pilot projects 	- Certification (carbon)
LKTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consideration within inventories and management / operational plans 	- Marketing
FOREST MANAGEMENT	Status report on forest management (in practice during the last 20 years) – evolution, outlook	
LOCAL PROCESSING OF TIMBER		
RENFORCEMENT CAPACITÉS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training courses - ... 	- Training
TRADE		
ISO STANDARD FOR COC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possible influence on EUTR/FLEGT, CoC FSC certification, PAFC, legality. 	
CITES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guide 	
TIMBER MARKETS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual statistics - Participation in Africa's national and regional markets 	