

SATURDAY 4 MARCH

- 16:00-18:00 ATIBT Board Meeting at Conrad hotel (*Meeting room 2nd floor*)
 18:30-20:00 Welcome Cocktail (*Restaurant "The Cave", Conrad Hotel*)

SUNDAY 5 MARCH

9:00-10:30 **General Assembly of ATIBT** (*Grand room 2nd floor, Conrad Hotel*)
This General Assembly will be open to all of the Forum's attendees (The vote will be reserved for ATIBT members)

10:45-11:00 **OPENING OF THE TECHNICAL FORUM** (sessions 1 & 2)

- Mr. Jean-Marie Noiraud, Moderator
- Mr. Robert Hunink, President of ATIBT
- H.E. Estelle Ondo, Ministry of Forest Economy, Fishing and Environment, in charge of protection and sustainable management of ecosystems, Gabon

11:00-16:30 **SESSION 1 THE FUTURE OF TROPICAL FOREST AND ITS POPULATION**

11:00-12:15 **Theme 1.1 - The new challenges of forest management in Central Africa**

Speakers

- Roland Pourtier, Paris 1 Sorbonne University: ***Populations and forests in Congo Basin***
- Jean-Louis Doucet, Gembloux University: ***logging rules more sustainable; first operational results of the DynAfFor project***
- Gijs Breukink, WWF: ***Vision on forest management and IFL***

The debate will focus on emerging environmental and social issues that need to be addressed to improve the sustainability of management plans. The point of view of scientists will be confronted with that of NGOs.

Panelists

- Christophe du Castel, AFD
- Benoit Demarquez, TERE
- Raymond Ndomba Ngoye, COMIFAC
- Françoise Van de Ven, UFIGA

This will be an introduction for the following panel, which will discuss the role of companies in addressing the challenges mentioned, and how to change forestry professions.

12:15-13:30 **Theme 1.2 - Model forest concessions in the Congo Basin**
Current considerations and debates

Speakers

- Alain Karsenty, Cirad: ***The concept of concessions 2.0.***
- Emmanuel Groutel, Wale: ***A certain vision of concessions. Assessment of opportunities.***
- Hervé Bourguignon, Moringa: ***Agroforest Projects associated to Forestry Companies***

The future of the concession model and its possible evolution in the context of global changes will be discussed. More concretely, it will be necessary to draw up the future contours of the profession of manager of natural forests.

Panelists

- Jean-Louis Doucet, Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, University of Liege
- Francis Rougier
- Patrice André PA'AH, PAFC Cameroun
- Nicolas Bayol, FRM.

Forestry companies are quite capable of increasing their level of quality and fine-tuning their actions for a more comprehensive approach to the issues that will affect the forest massifs they operate in. Various concrete ideas will be considered here.

13:30-13:40

Presentation of the Convention signature for Project P3FAC between FFEM and l'ATIBT.
Speech of Ms AHMIM-RICHARD, Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial

13:30-15:00 *Lunch*

15:15-16:30 Theme 1.3 - Valuation of related products

Speakers

- Patrick Martin, ATIBT: *Introduction*
- Vincent Manaut, Cabinet Merlin: *Cogeneration project in Africa*
- Alexandre Valette, SCIENCE: *Production of charcoal and outlook*

Panelists

- OLAM Company
- Paul Emmanuel Huet, Rougier
- Pierre-Marie Desclos
- Martine Valette, Science

A real stake for the future, improved valuation of the related products is essential in the tropical timber sector. It is certainly an opportunity for many companies.

16:30-17:00 *Coffee break*

17:00-18:30 **SESSION 2 TRAINING IN THE TIMBER PROFESSIONS**

Speakers

- Christophe du Castel, AFD: *Analysis of the situation. PARAFE program.*
- Patrick Martin, ATIBT: *Training by professionals*
- Christian Huber, Ecowood : *Vocational diploma training courses in Gabon.*
- Patrick Charpentier, ENSTIB: *Support of ENSTIB to vocational training in the wood industry*
- Pierre-Jean Durel, FOREZIENNE: *The sharpening formation*

Panelists

- Jean-Louis Doucet, Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech (Liège University)
- Jean Gérard, Cirad

Despite the needs expressed by professionals, many initiatives have collapsed over the years, and the lack of qualified personnel is often a detriment to investments and the smooth functioning of companies. ATIBT, in connection with many professionals in the sector and with the organizations in charge of vocational training, will make a point. We will discuss the role of new technologies (e-learning).

MONDAY 6 MARCH

9:00-9:40 OPENING OF THE OFFICIAL FORUM

- Jean-Marie Noiraud, Moderator
- Robert Hunink, President of ATIBT

OFFICIALS

- H.E. Thani Bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, UAE
- H.E. Juma Al Kait, Assistant Undersecretary for UAE Ministry of Economy
- H.E. Estelle Ondo, Ministry of Forest Economy, Fishing and Environment, in charge of protection and sustainable management of ecosystems, Gabon

9:40-12:30 SESSION 3 LEGALITY, CERTIFICATION AND GLOBAL WARMING RESPONSIBLE PURCHASE OF TIMBER

ATIBT/FFEM film "How to preserve the tropical forest?" (3 min)

9:45-11:00 Theme 3.1 – Legality

Illegal logging is not only a lack of income for States and unfair competition for legally operating logging companies, it is one of the main reasons for deforestation and a lack of benefits of environmental services for local populations

General presentation of the FLEGT program and the interest of the UAE authorities to know it: 20mn

- Lucie Berger, European Delegation in Riyadh: **FLEGT action Plan**
- Vision of an official from the UAE Ministry of Environment & Climate Change: **UAE goals on wood regulation**

EU regulation on timber: 15 mn

- Ed Pepke, EFI -European Forest Institute: **International timber trade**
- André de Boer, ETTF/STTC: **Private sector experience**
- Marie Vallée, WRI/GFW : **Open Timber Portal**

Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA): 20mn

- Blandine Ouoguia and Jack Soh Ndeh, Forestry syndicate Cameroon(GFBC): **Private sector experience with VPA**
- Jacqueline Lardit-van de Pol, ATIBT: **Legality and global warming**

Given the number of presentations, the discussion session will be short, and the number of questions limited.

In 2003, European Union has published its Action Plan for Strengthening Forest Legislation, Governance and Trade (FLEGT). We will make a general introduction here, and an exchange will take place with a representative of the UAE authorities.

Next, we will discuss the FLEGT plan and what it means in terms of timber trade. This section will first deal with the Wood Regulation which requires importers to apply a reasoned due diligence system that reduces the risk of importing illegal timber

Finally, we will talk about the support that the European Union provides to producer countries for participatory policy processes in order to strengthen forest law and governance and trade through the Voluntary Partnership Agreements.

11:00-11:30 *Coffee break*

11:15-12:30 Theme 3.2 - Private initiatives for the responsible purchase of wood

Speakers

- Caroline Duhesme, ATIBT: **Comparison of approaches and impacts between FLEGT and Certification**
- Anand Punja/Mathieu Auger Schwartzberg, FSC: **FSC News; FSC and IFL: a positive evolution?**
- Françoise van de Ven, UFIGA (Forestry syndicate Gabon) /Rose Ondo (PAFC Gabon): **PAFC situation in Gabon, and roadmap for Congo Basin**
- Anne-Cécile Capel, ONF international (ONFi): **Opportunity assessment by REDD+ for the private sector**

Panelists

- Remi Sournia, PEFC

Participatory political processes are naturally slow, but provide a solid basis for change.

Trade cannot wait until the end of the process, and with pressure from environmental NGOs, private initiatives have emerged to independently prove that the timber marketed comes from forests managed sustainably.

This section begins with an analysis of the two approaches (FLEGT and certification).

Then three certification systems will pass the review (FSC, PAFC and REDD +).

12:30-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:15 SESSION 4 LOGISTICS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Speakers

- Yann Alix, General Delegate of SEFACIL Foundation: **Current challenges in the logistics and supply chain of tropical timber in the world.**
- Mahmoud Al Bastaki, CEO, Dubai Trade: **Opportunities offered by Dubai, logistics hub**
- Tarik El Farouki, Regional Director Africa, DP World: **Existing Infrastructure and Services in Dubai Square**
- Stanislas de Saint Louvent, DGA Bolloré Ports: **Ports and logistic corridors in Africa**
- Nicolas Bayol, FRM : **Improving the competitiveness and transport conditions of the timber industry in northern Congo**

Panelist

- Didier Raux
- Speakers

Current situation. Opportunities and difficulties of the logistic chain.

Dubai offers undeniable logistical opportunities.

In addition, various other projects are developing in Africa and the situation of the ports evolves there.

New logistic corridors are being established, or are being restructured, between Cameroon, CAR, and Congo.

A very detailed study was carried out on this subject in 2016, for northern Congo

The situation of shipping companies (groupings, etc.) will be discussed.

15:15-15:45 Coffee break

15:45-18:45 SESSION 5 AFRICAN TIMBER MARKET WORLDWIDE AND IN PARTICULAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST

15:45-17:00 Theme 5.1 - Evaluation of the ATIBT Marketing Program

Speakers

- Christophe du Castel, AFD : ***The objectives for this program.***
- Bertrand Faucon, Stratémark et Laurent Lagadec, Links : ***Presentation of the actions carried out in 2016. Review of the program***
- Christine Le Paire, ATIBT : ***The Marketing Commission of ATIBT***

An assessment of ATIBT's marketing program in 2016, and the actions planned for the year 2017.

Focus on the "Fair & Precious" brand

Panelists

- Jean Bakouma, WWF
- Anand Punja, FSC
- Paul-Emmanuel Huet, Rougier
- Stephane Glannaz, Precious Woods

17:00-17:45 Theme 5.2 - Tropical timber trade in the Middle East

Speakers

- Rizwan Sajan, Chairman, Danube Group
- Mohamed Mawlana, Chairman, Al Nibras Group
- Pierre-Marie Declos: ***The keys for companies based in Africa to conquer the Middle East market***

Particularities concerning the timber market in the Middle East and Asia: the keys to approach this.

Panelists

- Paolo Bracciano, Regalis
- Gisbert Burgman, Wijma
- Philippe Delmotte, OLAM

17:45-19:00 Theme 5.3 –Assets and qualities of tropical timber

Speakers

- Patrick Martin, ATIBT: ***Presentation of the “The User guide of ecocertified African timber”. Presentation of the LKTS project***
- Benoit Demarquez, Terea: ***The forest resource of lesser know timber species***
- Emmanuel Groutel, Wale: ***marketing of lesser known timber species***
- Christian Huber: ***Presentation of a wooden construction in the Congo basin***

This guide published by ATIBT in 2016, is presented, offering a lot of technical information on the tropical wood material, highlighting the challenges of eco-certification and the environmental benefits of sustainable development exploitation.

The issue of “less known timber species” (LKTS) is also discussed, and the forum will conclude with the presentation of initiatives on timber construction in Gabon.

Panelists

- Stephane Glannaz, Precious Woods
- Gisbert Burgman, Wijma

19:00-19:15 CONCLUSION OF THE FORUM

Final Synthesis of the Forum by Jean-Marie Noiraud

20:30

GALA DINNER

Speech by Robert Hunink, President of ATIBT