



LA RÉFÉRENCE EN MATIÈRE DE BOIS TROPICAL

## Congo Basin

*A forestry sector with a future*

Les FLEGT et REDD+ sont financés par :



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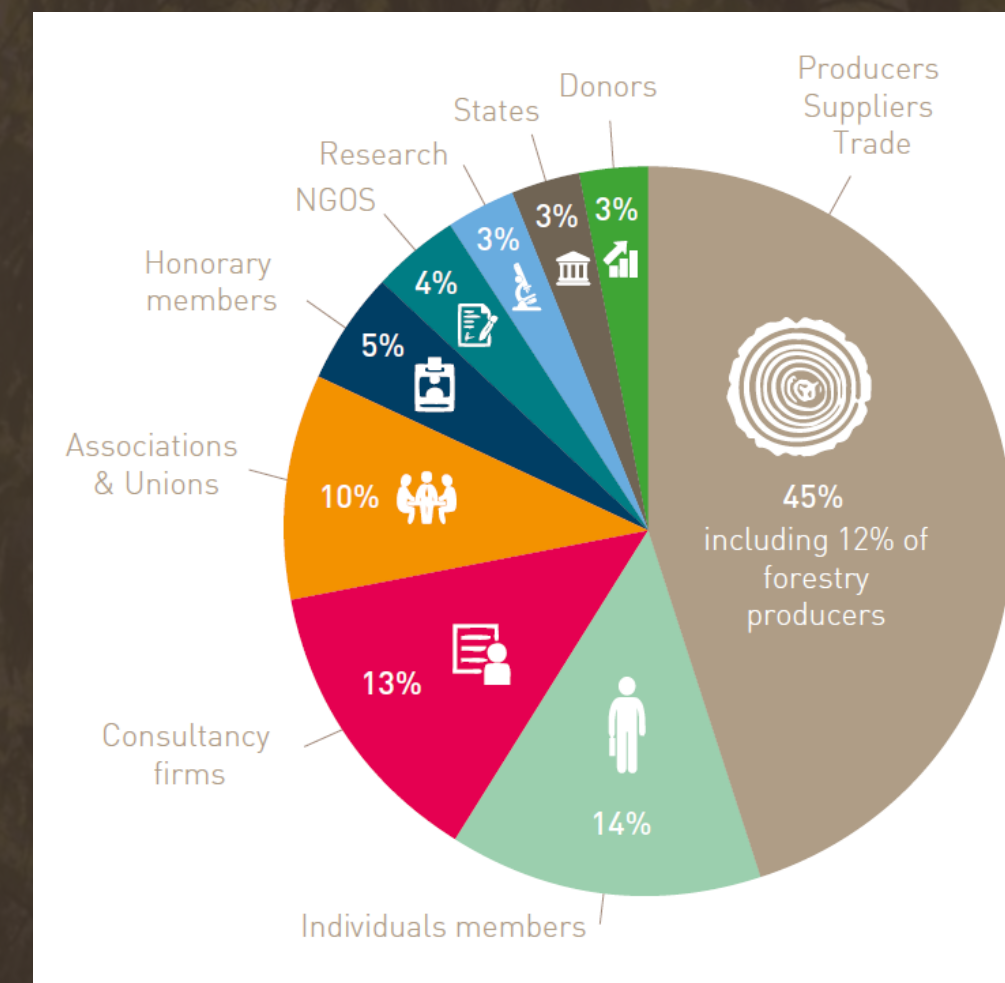


# ATIBT - International Tropical Timber Technical Association



**More than 60 years of experience**

- Founded in **1951** by FAO and OCDE
- International association, dedicated to the **protection of tropical wood resources**
- **Key partner** for industry professionals and **animator** of tropical wood sector
- leading **technical and scientific authority** in terms of tropical timber resources
- **Representation of timber industry** engaged in sustainable forest management



*130 members*

**Promotion of a sustainable, ethical and legal tropical wood sector**



# The Congo Basin forests



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## The world's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest tropical basin

- 200 million hectares
- 6 countries:
  - Cameroon
  - Central Africa Republic
  - Republic of Congo
  - Democratic Republic of Congo
  - Gabon
  - Equatorial Guinea
- Hosts 30 million people





# Forest management and wood sector in the Congo Basin

## A wide range of species

- The diversity of the rainforest is beautiful and vast
- **Sustainable Forest Management** is the ideal tool to preserve it!
- **A potential to market some 100 species, but in reality only 15-20 species are really harvested** (*potential to expand LKTS*)
- **Main species** : Ayous, Azobe, Bosse, Frake, Iroko, Kosipo, Okan, Okoume, Padouk, Sapelli, Sipo, Tali, Wenge...
- The main technical characteristics are:
  - Natural durability (for select species, even in direct contact with sea water)
  - Resistance to bending
  - Hardness
  - Stability
  - Resistance to fire



# Forest management and wood sector in the Congo Basin



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## Some data

- Private-sector managed **forest concessions**
  - Forest belong to States
  - Convention with operators (20-30 years)
  - Conception and validation of Forest Management Plan
- **> 24 millions of ha under forest management**  
= half of attributed forest areas (*OFAC – 2016*)
- **> 16 million m<sup>3</sup> potential** of RWE / year
- Operators mainly **vertically integrated**  
(harvesting + processing)
- Potential to further go down the value chain





# General trends and opportunities



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## An evolving sector over the past 3 decades

- **Gabon has institutionalised voluntary certification**
- **Taxes** and **administrative** procedures are being improved
- Lack of level playing field with the **informal sector and non-certified companies** which do not feel compelled to comply with the law
- Know-how transfer over the last decades: on-site training, skilled employees
- Yield improvement from the log to the final product, still a way to go
- Hydro-power infrastructure has improved, but public grid needs to be finalised and further spread out



# About logistics in Congo Basin



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4 countries considered

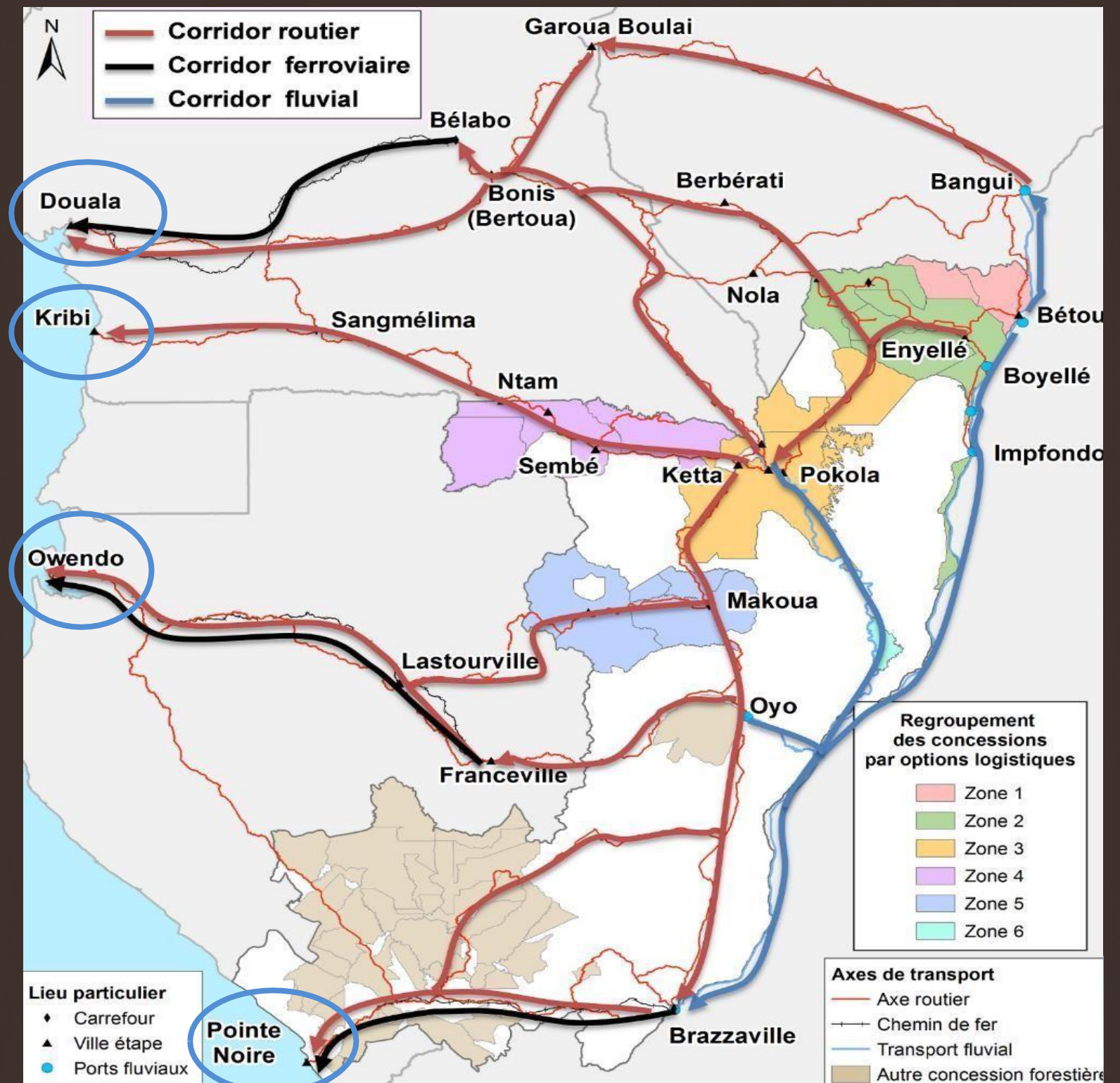
4 corridors

4 logistic hubs

3 modes of transport:

- Road
- Rail
- River

1'700 km is the  
longest distance





# Challenges and potential solutions



## Improve knowledge of the forest-wood sector

- Develop a **state of play** of the forest private sector
  - State of play and mapping of actors in 4 countries - *project FLEGT IP*
  - Market Analysis (Asian and Domestic-Africa)
- Get closer to **Asian operators**
  - ➔ **towards a shared forest management standard / level playing field**
  - Inter-union initiatives (*ex. UFIGA in Gabon*)
  - Raising awareness adapted to Asian operators: *projects FLEGT IP - PPECF*
  - International Africa-Asia events: the ATIBT forum was held last week in China



# Challenges and potential solutions



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## Improve responsible forest management, governance and law enforcement

- Development of **private certification**  
**ATIBT certification commission**
  - Coaching of companies to certification - *projects FLEGT IP / PPECF*
  - Advocacy for certification recognition in VPAs/FLEGT
  - Support regulatory measures in favor of certification
- Support **FLEGT VPAs** by involving the private sector  
**ATIBT FLEGT commission**
  - Strengthen consultations in the revision of regulatory texts - *FLEGT IP / FAO projects in Congo*



# Challenges and potential solutions



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## Give value to the forest

- **Include private sector** support into donor strategies
- Sustain the certified forest concession **business model**
  - Support change: *Think Tank PPECF-ATIBT: Special Action Plan Supporting Certification 2018-2019*
- Enhance the **services provided** by forest companies (payments for environmental services – PES)
- Explore **planting** opportunities and **agro-forestry** projects in savannah-like areas (afforestation)
  - Support of cocoa projects under forest shade - *project FLEGT-REDD+*



# Challenges and potential solutions



## Secure forests and facilitate activities

- Define **land-use plans** in producing countries
  - Advocacy with the states (*ex. private sector intervention at the Forum on Forest Governance, and the CBFP*)
- Define **incentive mechanisms** (tax exemption at the source, financing at acceptable interest rates)
- Support for infrastructure development **facilitating logistics**





# Challenges and potential solutions



## Improve the image of tropical timber and access to information

- **Communication** on positive impacts of legal/sustainable forest management
  - Marketing strategy for certified products in consumer markets – *development of Fair&Precious brand - ATIBT/AFD/PPECF*
  - Strengthen the communication of national professional associations - *communication plan development – ATIBT/PPECF*
- Raise awareness of **tropical timber buyers**
  - Harmonisation of the application of the EUTR, Lacey Act - *EU awareness campaign, study tours - project FLEGT REDD*
  - Provision of information on legality (*e.g. platforms like TTP, OTP/WRI*)



# Challenges and potential solutions



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## Towards a new forest resource management

- Improve knowledge of **forest resources**
  - Understanding forest dynamics to improve management plans (*ex. projects Dynafor and P3FAC ATIBT/AFD/FFEM*)
- **Diversify** the use of the resource
  - Promotion of LKTS (*ex. project LKTS ATIBT/PPECF*)





# THANK YOU



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POUR UNE GESTION DURABLE DES FORÊTS TROPICALES

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