SESSION IV: ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY OF THE WOOD INDUSTRY IN THE CONGO BASIN

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Forest Concessions in Central Africa

170 M ha dense humid forest
50 M ha production forest
31 M ha with a Management Plan
10 M ha certified (sustainable management or legality)
The management of forest concessions

A management model set up 20 years ago and in constant improvement
Well known forest resources
Available resources

Inventory data analysis of 25 million hectares

150 species currently listed

On 50 M ha:
⇒ 27 to 37 M m³/year harvestable under management plans
⇒ Of which 14 to 18 M m³/year harvestable with the current 54 commercial species

Source BAD, FRMI 2018
Current productions

A marginal place in the world timber production:
- 7 M m³ logs/year in average
- 1% of the world log production
- 5% of the tropical log production

Distribution of log harvesting by country (average 2012-2016)

Source: FAC
Low valorization

Many species are little harvested or not harvested at all
A fall in production coming in the second rotation for some species

Example of the Sapelli on a set of concessions

In the region: a current potential of 1.4 M m³ => 0.3 to 0.4 M m³ at the very most within 20 years
Limited industrialization

1/3 of the logs are exported
A contrasting situation:
Gabon: 100% processed timber
Cameroun: 75%
CAR, DRC, Congo: 40 to 60 %
Equatorial Guinea: less than 5%

Industrialization rate by country

Existing Industries
-Limited to 1st processing / very little 2nd and 3rd processing
-80% sawnwood / 20% veneer – plywood
-Extremely low material yield (almost 60% of residue that is not recycled)
Particular case in the region: Gabon

⇒ Timber export ban in 2010
⇒ Strong evolution of the sector: end of integration
⇒ Operators became specialized
⇒ Setting up of a timber market
⇒ Special Economic Zone of Nkok
Central Africa: a real potential for development
A competitiveness to be strengthened

⇒ Increase production by diversifying the harvested species

⇒ Industrialize to promote new species
Central Africa:
A competitiveness to be strengthened
Improve logistics

Transport:
30 to 60% of the FOB cost price
Central Africa: A competitiveness to be strengthened
Changing the Tax system

Forest taxes and export
• Timber: 20 to 30€/m³ (Congo, CAR, DRC)
• Sawnwood: 20 to 50€/m³ (except Cameroon)

Incidental taxes, abusive fees and deductions
Example in DRC: around 125€ /m³ for sawnwood

Insufficiently incentive tax system

Case of DRC
Central Africa: A competitiveness to be strengthened
Other issues

Staff training

Strengthening forest and industry research

Access to financing

Access to domestic markets for formal industrialists and professionalization of independent professionals
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