



First Africa-China Workshop on  
**Forestland Governance, investments and sustainability**  
3-5 September 2019, Yaoundé- Cameroon

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**Context and motivation**

Since the early 2000s, the increasing activities by Chinese companies – in forestland conversions including for logging, agribusiness, mining and infrastructure development– have caught special international attention because of the related sustainability challenges. These Chinese increasing investments and trades in Africa are partly driven by the China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Forum of China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), with significant ecological and social implications for African countries under deforestation pressure. In the same vein, China has become Africa’s biggest trading partner, reaching a trading value of 203.98 billion USD in 2018 with 20% increase from 2017. In timber trade sectors, China has become a major export destination of the timber-rich African countries such as those in the Congo Basin including Cameroon. By estimation, more than 75% of Africa’s timber production was exported to China in 2017. This trend is predicated to keep rising, notably because of the growing wood demand in China. These Chinese investments and related trade implications have been disputed for their environmental (biodiversity, ecosystem services, climate change mitigation) and social (forest-dependent people’s livelihood, labour conditions, etc.) effects in Africa.

**Objective and expectation**

The Africa-China workshop will seek to facilitate a constructive science-policy dialogue between key stakeholders involved in the governance of Chinese forestry investments in Africa. Participants to the workshop will include scientists, policy-makers, local communities, private and non-state actors, and journalists. More specifically, the workshop aims to: (i) elucidate the effects of Chinese investments in forest sector in Africa; and (ii) explore opportunities to enhance and promote sustainability in Chinese forestry investments; and (iii) promoting multi-stakeholders dialogue and interactions on Chinese forest-related investments in Africa.

**Organizers and partners:** The proposed workshop is organised by the African Forest Policies and Politics (AFORPOLIS) organisation and the Global Environmental Institute (GEI) – China in cooperation with the University of Göttingen in Germany, the University of Dschang in Cameroon, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) and the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) - Cameroon.

**Thematic focus**

In the frame of its first edition, the Africa-China workshop will focus on a broad range of issues that include: forestland exploitation (timber production and trade, community forestry, illegal logging, law enforcement and accountability, social and environmental responsibilities, subcontracting systems, mining-forest interfaces, etc.) and forestland expansion and plantations (wood production for bio-energy such as charcoal, reforestation, urban forestry, agro-forestry, etc.). An invitation letter will be issued by the organising committee for each selected participant.

**Contact**

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