

ANNEX 1b – STREAM 1 b

Recommendations Stream 1b: Conditions and perspectives for a sustainable wood economy

During two days, the participants of Stream 1b "Conditions and Prospects for a Sustainable Wood Economy" had productive discussions in four sessions:

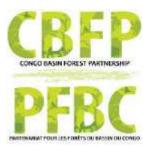
- Legal and sustainable timber production;
- Third party certification of forest management;
- Social forestry;
- Wood processing and industry development.

The various presentations raised some crucial issues for the development of a sustainable timber economy in Central Africa and the following actions were recommended:

Continuous improvement of forest management:

- > Encourage and maintain discussions between researchers, administration and private sector;
- Integrate research results and recommendations into revised management standards (DME, rotation length, etc.);
- Assess the implementation of management plans over the last twenty years;
- Put all forest concessions under planning;
- > Develop a regulatory framework to prepare management plans for the second rotation;
- Ensure the cost-effectiveness of forest concessions through the integration of a multipurpose approach in management plans;
- Identify markets for products made from lesser-known species (LKTS).

Improving forest governance's image and reputation in Central Africa:



- Support financially the process of development, implementation and operationalisation of digital traceability and legal verification systems and create bridges between company and national systems;
- Use remote sensing for forest law enforcement (Early Warning System);
- Organise outreach campaigns after new regulations are issued;
- Improve communication between Asian companies and authorities (language barrier);
- Promote tax incentives for forest certification based on a bonus-malus system;
- Continue coaching companies to inform them about certification, then accompany them towards certification (example PPECF);
- Select and train more auditors competent in forestry, social and environmental fields;
- Improve the skills of companies in social and communication fields;
- Promote certified products on the international market.

Strengthening social forestry and reducing demographic pressure:

- Enhance the governance of community forests, communal forests (Cameroon) and local community forest concessions (DRC);
- Manage subcontractors who exploit timber resources in community forests, communal forests and community forest concessions (respect for exploitation standards);
- Simplify community forest management procedures for timber harvesting;
- Adopt a comprehensive approach for the management of community forests, communal forests etc. to integrate different commercial activities (wood, agriculture, PNFL, tourism) and wildlife management;
- Create links between community forests and national markets;
- Build community capacity, especially in processing, marketing and management;
- > Develop and implement family planning and environmental education campaigns.
- Define a land use plan that takes into account population growth, especially for agricultural products and firewood.

Improving the value of forest resources and supplying the domestic market with legal wood:

- Offer SME and SMI operators a stable regulatory framework that provides clarity on the investments to be made;
- Create an attractive ecosystem for wood processing (logistics, inputs, fiscal incentives, qualified labour and management);
- Implement decisions N°29/CEEAC/CCEG/XVI/15 of 25 May 2015, on the adoption of measures for the development of wood markets in Central Africa and N°30/CEEAC/CCEG/XV/2015 of 25 May 2015 on measures to promote SMEs/SMIs in the wood sector in Central Africa, in full respect of forest governance, in order to promote the development of domestic and sub-regional markets for legal wood;



- Rapidly prepare a regulatory and fiscal framework to be able to apply the log export ban from 2023 and attract investment in wood processing for the countries of the Congo Basin;
- Include factories in industrial zones to recover waste (particle boards, cogeneration, etc.) and to promote secondary and tertiary processing (glue factory);
- Include the use of legal wood in public contracts in the legal texts relating to the award of contracts;
- > Promote products made from little-known species and other materials such as bamboo;
- Ensure a sustainable balance between the availability of forest resources and the industrial and artisanal capacity of primary processing;
- Put in place mechanisms to support the development of forest plantations;
- Facilitate the formalisation of SMEs;
- Strengthen links between industrial and artisanal companies for the supply of wood to the latter;
- Strengthen the skills of local SMIs to play a more important role in 2nd and 3rd transformation and the valorisation of exploitation and transformation waste.

Final recommendations

- 1. Support financially the process of development, implementation and operationalisation of digital traceability and legal verification systems and create bridges between company and national systems.
- 2. Encourage and promote forest legality and sustainability certification.
- 3. Adopt a multipurpose and inclusive landscape approach in management plans.
- 4. Develop a regulatory framework to prepare management plans for the second rotation.
- 5. Implement decisions N°29/CEEAC/CCEG/XVI/15 of 25 May 2015, on the adoption of measures for the development of wood markets in Central Africa and N°30/CEEAC/CCEG/XV/2015 of 25 May 2015 on measures to promote SMEs/SMIs in the wood sector in Central Africa, in full respect of forest governance, in order to promote the development of domestic and sub-regional markets for legal wood;
- 6. Include the use of legal wood for public contracts in legal texts relating to the award of contracts;
- Provide a secure regulatory and fiscal framework to attract investments in wood processing for SMEs;
- 8. Support countries to set up economic intelligence units to monitor the sustainable development of the wood sector and anticipate changes;
- 9. Strengthen actors' capacities through the development of vocational training;
- **10.** Promote products made from little-known species and other materials such as bamboo.
- **11.** Ensure a sustainable balance between the availability of forest resources and the industrial and artisanal capacity of primary processing.
- **12.** Sensitise populations on family planning and organise/strengthen environmental education.