



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;
7. 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.