



FOR SUSTAINABLY MANAGED TROPICAL FORESTS

Report of the ATIBT Forum and the Carrefour International du Bois

Nantes, May 31 - June 3, 2022



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Context

The ATIBT Forum was held in Nantes (France) from May 31 to June 3, 2022, within the framework of the Carrefour International du Bois (CIB, or Timber Show), the leading trade show in Europe for the wood industry, which this year welcomed a record of 14,000 visitors, a strong increase (20%) compared to previous editions. ATIBT participates regularly, but it is the first time that the idea were raised to make our biannual Forum in the framework of this international professional meeting.

As a reminder, the Timber Show is a business fair organized every two years in Nantes by the professionals of the Pays de la Loire region, and by the Grand Port Maritime de Nantes St Nazaire. The Timber Show gathers over 3 days exhibitors and visitors. Sawn timber, panels, parquet, specialized trade, constructive wood solutions all products and innovations are gathered there.

The presence of tropical timber and the value of certification are subjects that are relatively little highlighted at the IBC, which was one of the reasons for organising this new edition of our Forum in Nantes.

This ATIBT Forum was, after 2 years of pandemic, a particular moment of meetings: it was the occasion to celebrate the 70 years of the Association during an inaugural evening on May 31, before conferences and round tables over 3 full days on June 1, 2 and 3.

Beyond celebrating its anniversary in the country where it was born and where our association has its headquarters, we wanted to organize this new meeting in France, for several other reasons:

- First and foremost, the need to re-launch meetings within our association, and to exchange on the future of the sector, at an important time (new EU regulation against imported deforestation, new forestry codes in the Congo Basin countries, carbon market, etc..)
- Take advantage of one of the largest meetings in the timber industry today, to address issues mainly related to the tropical timber market and reach buyers and principals with a focus on sustainable management and certification.
- Address opportunities related to the environmental services market, including carbon, among others.
- Choose a location that would reduce the risks inherent to the Covid crisis. France, of course, is not immune to the pandemic, but Covid policies there have been moderately restrictive in recent months.

Theme

The theme of the Forum was "***Choosing certified wood to protect the Congo Basin forest***", in line with many current issues such as the necessary development of markets for certified tropical timber, the promotion of certification, and the protection of forest ecosystems in Central Africa. The different contents proposed were designed to integrate the economic,

social and environmental stakes of the development of a legal and ethical tropical timber trade.

Course of the Forum

The day before the CIB began, on the afternoon of May 31, the Association held its Ordinary General Assembly. The Forum kicked off with a gala evening organized on the Ile de Nantes, in the Nave of the Machines de l'Île, in honor of the ATIBT's 70th anniversary. Within the framework of the CIB, conferences and round tables were then held at the Exhibition Center of la Beaujoire from June 1st to 3rd.

After this time of conviviality and history of the association, the time of exchanges and sharing of ideas took place, backed by the Timber Show. The program was focused on market topics, highlighting the most representative actions of the work programs of ATIBT and its closest partners.



Thus, there were :

- Debates in short format on the ATIBT stand or in side-event format, during the 3 days of the show, with partners and also the ATIBT team coming to present the results of studies and reflections;
- Themes in conference format, during the first day, with in particular the representatives of the producing countries, the European strategy against deforestation, the carbon issues and the payments for environmental and social services, among others.

Content and sessions

A dedicated room in the Exhibition Centre where the CIB was held hosted a series of conferences on June 1 and side-events on June 2.

In addition, ATIBT was mobilized on three stands in Hall 1 during the three days of the show:

- An ATIBT stand, organized as an "agora", where round tables were organized, mainly on June 2 and 3 but also on the afternoon of June 1, bringing together two to four speakers and about ten to twenty participants.
- A Fair&Precious stand, dedicated to the five Fair&Precious forest operators who were able to make appointments and discuss with their networks.
- An institutional stand "Congo Basin - COMIFAC", which highlighted the collaboration of ATIBT with COMIFAC.

17 round tables were organized on the ATIBT stand on June 1, 2 and 3.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1st - MERCREDI 1^{er} JUIN 2022

Jour 1 Day 1

SESSIONS AGORA FORUM ATIBT
Stand ATIBT (Hall 1 - B7)

Accueil sur les stands ATIBT - Fair&Precious - Bassin du Congo

Echanges avec l'équipe ATIBT

Présentation d'échantillons de bois

Vidéos Fair&Precious Travail des sociétés certifiées

Messages des Ambassadeurs Fair&Precious

12:15 - 13:30 **Lunch break - Pause déjeuner**

15:00 - 16:30 **Leave no one behind – how to include smallholders and communitybased forest enterprises - By FSC and Rainforest Alliance**
Ne laisser personne de côté - comment inclure les petits exploitants et les entreprises forestières communautaires ? Par FSC et Rainforest Alliance
Video 12

16:30 - 17:15 **Break**

17:15 - 18:00 **Platforms and information tools on the tropical timber due diligence**
Les plateformes et outils d'information pour la diligence raisonnée des bois tropicaux
Video 13

Jour 1 Day 1

CONFERENCE PLENIERE FORUM ATIBT
Salle 1 (Hall 4)

Choosing certified wood to protect the forests of the Congo Basin
Choisir le bois certifié pour sauvegarder les forêts du bassin du Congo

09:30 - 09:35 **Welcome speech - Mot de bienvenue, ATIBT** **Video 1**

09:35 - 09:50 **Opening Speech by the Minister of Forest Economy in the Republic of Congo**
Discours d'ouverture par la Ministre de l'Economie Forestière en République du Congo
Forest certification in the Rep. of Congo - Certification forestière en Rép. du Congo **Video 2**

09:50 - 10:00 **Speech of FSC Executive Director - Discours du Secrétaire Exécutif de FSC**
Kim Carstensen **Video 3**

10:00 - 10:25 **Speech on tropical timber market by Executive Director of ITTO**
Discours de la Directrice Exécutive de l'OIBT sur les marchés de bois tropical. **Video 4**

10:25 - 10:50 **Wood as sustainable solution – time for action (builds on the outcomes of the World Forestry Congress) Thais Linhares-Juvenal**
Le bois comme solution durable - il est temps d'agir (sur la base des résultats du Congrès forestier mondial) Thais Linhares-Juvenal **Video 5**

10:50 - 11:15 **Opportunities for certified tropical timber in today's markets - Opportunités pour le bois tropical certifié sur les marchés d'aujourd'hui : F. Van de Ven** **Video 6**

11:15 - 11:45 **Speech by the Executive Secretary of the Central African Forest Commission**
Discours par le Secrétaire Exécutif de la Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale **Video 7**

11:45 - 12:15 **Press conference - Conférence de presse**

12:15 - 13:30 **Lunch break - Pause déjeuner**

13:30 - 14:40 **Valuing carbon and biodiversity in sustainable forest management - Valorisation du carbone et de la biodiversité dans la gestion durable des forêts** **Video 8**

14:40 - 15:20 **Are current management standards adapted to dynamics of commercial species? Les normes actuelles d'aménagement sont-elles adaptées à la dynamique des essences commerciales ?** **Video 9**

15:20 - 16:00 **Developments the timber sector in Central Africa**
Evolutions de la filière bois en Afrique centrale **Video 10**

16:00 - 16:20 **Coffee break - Pause Café**

17:00 - 17:40 **The importance of further research on tropical timber**
De l'importance de poursuivre les recherches sur le bois tropical **Video 11**

17:45 - 18:00 **Conference Closing - Clôture de la conférence**

THURSDAY, JUNE 2nd - JEUDI 2 JUIN 2022

Jour 2 Day 2

SESSIONS AGORA FORUM ATIBT
Stand ATIBT (Hall 1 - B7)

COMIFAC and its role in the sustainable management of Central African forests
La COMIFAC, et son rôle dans la gestion durable des forêts d'Afrique Centrale **Video 21**

10:30 - 10:45 **Break**

10:45 - 11:15 **Sustainable wood value chains: meeting the needs of climate neutrality and livelihoods**
Chaînes de valeur durables du bois : répondre aux besoins de neutralité climatique et de moyens de subsistance **Video 22**

11:15 - 11:30 **Break**

11:30 - 12:00 **From the forest to the oceans: The billion dollar yachting industry**
De la forêt aux océans : L'industrie du yachting à un milliard de dollars **Video 23**

12:00 - 12:15 **Break**

12:15 - 12:45 **Further circularity of tropical timber**
De la circularité plus poussée des bois tropicaux **Video 24**

12:45 - 14:00 **Lunch break - Pause déjeuner**

14:00 - 14:30 **Presentation of F&P spokespersons**
Présentation des porte-parole F&P **Video 25**

14:45 - 15:15 **ATIBT's F&P operators speak out**
Parole aux opérateurs F&P de l'ATIBT
Avenir des marchés de la RSE : les entreprises prennent l'initiative **Video 25**

15:15 - 15:30 **Break**

15:30 - 16:15 **Potential of wood residues for a transition to modern and sustainable bioenergy**
Potentiel des résidus de bois pour une transition vers une bioénergie moderne et durable **Video 26**

16:15 - 16h30 **Break**

16:30 - 17:30 **An Amazon Initiative - How can European importers stimulate the increase of certified concessions in Brazil?**
Une initiative amazonienne - Comment les importateurs européens peuvent-ils stimuler l'augmentation des concessions certifiées au Brésil ? **Video 27**

Jour 2 Day 2

SIDE EVENTS
Salle 1 (Hall 4)

10:00 - 10:30 **Power of policies: Public and private sector taking lead on tropical timber**
Le pouvoir des politiques : Les secteurs public et privé prennent l'initiative en matière de bois tropicaux **Video 14**

10:30 - 10:45 **Break**

10:45 - 11:15 **Results of the DynAffor project: study of the structure and dynamics of Central African forests**
Résultats du projet DynAffor : étude de la structure et la dynamique des forêts d'Afrique centrale **Video 15**

11:15 - 11:30 **Break**

11:30 - 12:00 **Presentation of EU-AFD-FLEGT project**
Présentation du projet UE-AFD FLEGT **Video 16**

12:00 - 12:15 **Break**

12:15 - 12:45 **Women in sustainable forestry: the critical resource still invisible**
Les femmes dans la foresterie durable : une ressource critique encore invisible **Video 17**

12:45 - 14:00 **Lunch break - Pause déjeuner**

14:00 - 14:30 **Let's hear from the certification of legality**
Parole à la certification de légalité **Video 18**

14:30 - 14:40 **Break**

14:40 - 15:10 **FSC Ecosystem Services – New economic revenue models for forestry's**
FSC Services Ecosystémique : nouveaux modèles de revenus économiques pour les services forestiers **Video 19**

15:10 - 15:20 **Break**

15:20 - 17:00 **Sharing production regime discussion in Republic of Congo**
Discussion sur le régime de partage de production en République du Congo **Video 20**

FRIDAY, JUNE 3 rd - VENDREDI 3 JUIN 2022		
SESSIONS AGORA FORUM ATIBT		
Stand ATIBT (Hall 1 - B7)		
09:30 - 10:00	Creation and development of PAFC Congo Basin Création et développement de PAFC Bassin du Congo	FR/ENG Video 29
10:00 - 10:30	The SFM standard and the operationalisation of the Congo Basin PAFC La norme de GDF et l'opérationnalisation de PAFC Bassin du Congo	Video 29
10:30 - 11:00	PEFC and the chain of custody PEFC et la chaîne de contrôle	Video 29
11:00 - 11:15	Break	
11:45 - 12:15	Development of national markets and places for SMEs/Artisans Développement des marchés nationaux et places PME/Artisans	FR/ENG Video 30
12:15 - 12:45	LKTS market promotion and diversification (how to do it?) - FSC LKTS FSC LKTS - Promotion du marché des LKTS et diversification (comment faire ?)	FR/ENG Video 31
12:45 - 14:00	Lunch break - Pause déjeuner	
14:00 - 14:30	Life cycle assessment of African certified timber & the Themis portal - L'analyse du cycle de vie des bois certifiés africains & Le portail Themis	FR/ENG Video 32
14:30 - 14:45	Break	
14:45 - 15:30	Regional market development and SEZ issues: Creating win-win situations with SMEs Développement de nouveaux marchés de bois tropical de l'Afrique et enjeux des ZES - Création de situations gagnant-gagnant avec les PME	FR/ENG Video 33
15:30	Closing cocktail of the ATIBT forum Cocktail de clôture du forum ATIBT	Video 34



Participants

The 2022 Forum gathered nearly 200 participants (not to mention the many Timber Show visitors who attended the roundtables while visiting the stands!), from the private sector, civil society, public administrations and research. We benefited from the participation of a large number of participants and partners from the Congo Basin countries, particularly in the framework of the ADEFAC project (artisans, trade unions), but unfortunately we had to deplore visa problems prior to the Forum, which prevented a certain number of guests from coming. We also had the pleasure of receiving participants from Côte d'Ivoire, Mexico, the United States, and many European countries.

The sustainable management certification schemes FSC and PEFC/PAFC were of course present. They contributed financially to the Forum, and had also contributed to the preparation of some sessions in round tables and side-events with ATIBT.

The official participation of Her Excellency Rosalie Matondo, Minister of Forest Economy of the Republic of Congo, who inaugurated the conference day on June 1st with an opening speech, and of Mr. Hervé Maidou, Executive Secretary of COMIFAC, should be highlighted.

Moderation and languages of discussions

The plenary sessions on June 1 were moderated by Hortense Batindek, from ATIBT, and participants were able to benefit from translation during almost all of the three days thanks to the presence of our two regular translators and a headset system. Speakers were in English or French, sometimes in Spanish.

Restitution of the exchanges

Wednesday June 1st - Plenary conference

WELCOME SPEECH

Françoise VAN DE VEN (ATIBT)

Françoise van de Ven, in her capacity as president of the Association, welcomed the participants of the ATIBT 2022 Forum for a first day of plenary conferences.

[Watch the video](#)



OPENING SPEECH BY THE MINISTER OF FOREST ECONOMY IN THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO H.E. Rosalie MATONDO

In her opening speech at the ATIBT Forum, the Minister of Forest Economy of the Republic of Congo recalled the many events in which her country has participated in recent months, as well as its long-standing national and international commitments to sustainable management and preservation of forest ecosystems. H.E. highlighted Congo's adherence to almost all global agreements related to the "forest-climate" pair, which have been translated into recent reforms of the Congolese forestry sector.

The Minister highlighted the recent institution of log production sharing, which aims to maximize the exploitation of exploitable timber potential, increase state revenues, develop employment, boost the domestic market and increase industrialization. The Minister stressed the importance of certification, and in particular the Congo Basin PAFC, to meet the requirements of the commitments made by Congo, to the social and economic development of the country, but also to contribute to the promotion of tropical timber. She called for more multifaceted support from the private sector, technical and financial partners and other donors to accompany Congo in the implementation of its forestry policies. She also emphasized the importance of the forests of the Congo Basin for the climate and thus for all humanity; and in doing so, the indispensable commitment of all stakeholders to promote certified wood from the Congo Basin and from her country in particular, in the face of the bad image that it may have and the implications of a possible boycott. She praised the role of ATIBT on these issues.

The role of plantations and agroforestry in meeting the challenges of climate, deforestation, industrialization, economic diversification, sources of income and food production was also highlighted by the Minister. She then reminded that the Republic of Congo is a member of the ATIBT Board of Directors. She then paid tribute to ATIBT for its role over the decades in promoting forest management and certification, as well as for its understanding of the challenges and issues of the moment: industrialization, promotion of certification, international marketing and actions in producing countries, and professional training.

The Minister concluded her speech by encouraging ATIBT to continue its efforts and actions with the private sector and governments in the research and promotion of appropriate solutions and best practices, the promotion of tropical timber, and the improvement of performance in forest governance.

[Watch the video](#)

SPEECH OF FSC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Kim CARSTENSEN

The Executive Secretary of FSC took the floor to underline the role of ATIBT and its contributions to FSC, with of course a special highlight on Central Africa where important FSC certified companies are operating. He recalled that ATIBT and its FSC-certified members are important in the FSC economic chamber, and work well to promote certification in the Congo Basin.

Kim Carstensen mentioned the diversity of existing species in the Congo Basin, and in particular the LKTS, as a potential development axis to take into account. The FSC strategy for the years 2021-2025 is to double the area of certified natural forests, and the tropical regions are crucial in the context of the "Forest For All For Ever" campaign. Interaction with FSC organizations in Denmark, the Netherlands and France was mentioned, as well as work on ecosystem services.

Recalling that the Timber Show is a major timber trade fair in Europe, particularly for African tropical timber, he was pleased that FSC Netherlands, Denmark and France were present at the fair. The African region and particularly the Congo Basin is a high priority for FSC, and he thanked the ministers and their representatives for their support in implementing sustainable forest management in their respective countries. Tropical forests are key to the FSC strategy as they are the most valuable ecosystems. This is clearly stated in the FSC Global Strategy 2021-2026, with a target of doubling the area of certified natural forests in tropical areas.

Another crucial objective is the development of the tropical timber market. In the Congo Basin, there has been a significant increase in certification, particularly in Gabon with the award of a new FSC certificate to Gabon Advanced Wood (covering 180,000 ha). In order to go further, FSC is developing other projects, engaging stakeholders across the value chain. These include encouraging the diversification of the use of tropical timber species through the promotion of LKTS (with the support of FPA2, Netherlands Enterprise Agency, FSC Netherlands and Denmark), and work on ecosystem services (with the FSC Congo Basin regional office, FSC France and Denmark, and the support of PPECF). These projects demonstrate FSC's high level of forestry technicality and aim to provide additional income to foresters and to promote the development of FSC certification in Africa.

He concluded by reminding that this year 2022 is very important for FSC with the holding of its General Assembly in person in Bali in October. He recalled the very active role of ATIBT, which has filed several motions to find a solution to Motion 65, which defines the modes of management of intact forest landscapes (IFL), and which supports a motion proposing French as the 3rd official language. The FSC ES thanked the PPECF program for its support of sustainable management certification, and looked forward to seeing you in Bali.

[Watch the video](#)

SPEECH ON TROPICAL TIMBER MARKETS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ITTO Sheam SATKURU (ITTO)

This session was an opportunity to review the current global context of tropical timber markets: sanitary crisis, war in Ukraine, ... All these events and their consequences have of course impacts on the tropical timber trade.

Sheam Satkuru first recalled the consequences of the war in Ukraine: trade sanctions against Russia and Belarus, including on timber, while Russia is the world's largest exporter of sawn timber, or the suspension of FSC and PEFC certifications, the conflict has repercussions on the timber markets, including tropical timber markets. For example, Chinese imports of timber from the Philippines have risen sharply as a result of the suspension of imports from Russia.

Ms. Satkuru also compared the Zero Deforestation legislation of the EU, the UK and the US, all of which are based on a risk assessment system. As these laws are still under development, it is necessary for the sector to closely monitor their evolution.

Finally, before discussing ITTO's ongoing actions, an updated analysis of the impacts of the health crisis on the EU, US, Chinese and Vietnamese markets was provided, showing the sector's resilience, with tropical timber imports increasing in 2021 compared to 2020.

[Watch the video](#)

[Read the presentation](#)

WOOD AS SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION - TIME FOR ACTION

Thais LINHARES-JUVENAL (FAO)

Thais Linhares-Juvenal returned in this session to the World Forestry Congress (held in Seoul from May 2 to 6, 2022), and to the Seoul Declaration, which highlighted that forests offer solutions rooted in nature provided that action is taken without delay. The Seoul Declaration proposes the following avenues:

- Investments in forests and landscape restoration should be at least tripled globally until 2030.
- Production and consumption must be sustainable, and policies must promote innovative green financial mechanisms.
- The use of wood must move sectors towards a circular bio-economy and climate neutrality.
- Knowledge and information must inform and support policy decisions for forests and landscapes, as well as effective communication about forests.
- Forest-based solutions must include all stakeholders.

Thais Linhares-Juvenal also spoke about [the Ministerial Call for Sustainable Timber](#), also born at the World Forestry Congress in Seoul, which addresses the lack of awareness of wood's potential as a sustainable material. This call aims to improve policy dialogues at global and regional levels on how to strengthen investments and synergies to promote sustainable timber, in order to significantly increase the use of sustainable wood-based solutions as part of Nationally Determined Contributions by 2030.

After presenting [the new FAO report on the state of the world's forests](#), Thais Linhares-Juvenal finally presented the GROW THE SOLUTION communication campaign, which aims to change consumers' perception of timber, disseminate information on the benefits of wood from sustainably managed forests, propose examples of wood use to encourage its use and create connections between sustainable wood and sustainable cities.

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR CERTIFIED TROPICAL TIMBER IN TODAY'S MARKETS

Françoise VAN DE VEN (ATIBT)

Françoise Van de Ven began this session by recalling the current context of certified tropical timber markets. Today, only 29.5% of tropical timber used in Europe comes from sustainably managed forests. As part of the promotion of tropical timber, ATIBT has created [Fair&Precious](#), a collective brand to promote tropical timber from sustainable, ethical and legal management, to respect the strictest environmental standards, and to develop a more humane economy that protects the living.

An argument based on scientific literature, validated by the ATIBT Scientific Council (North/South), demonstrates the relevance of sustainable management and FSC and PEFC/PAFC certification of tropical forests to ensure [the 10 Fair&Precious commitments](#). Fair&Precious' commitment 10 responds to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal N° 17 "Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development". Today, there is still a lack of certified tropical timber on the market, whereas if the 28 countries of the EU were importing 100% of their tropical wood from certified sustainable forests, this would have a positive impact on approximately 11.7 to 13.4 million hectares of forest, or 16,714,285 soccer fields (since we often talk about soccer fields when we talk about forests!).

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SPEECH BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN FOREST COMMISSION

Hervé MAIDOU (COMIFAC)

Hervé Maidou began his speech by recalling the purpose of COMIFAC, the Intergovernmental Organization of reference for the harmonization and monitoring of the implementation of forest and environmental policies in Central Africa, which was born out of the will of the Heads of State of Central Africa, who have been committed since 1999 through the "Yaoundé Declaration" to work together for the conservation and sustainable management of Central African forest ecosystems. Mr. Maidou then congratulated ATIBT for the organization of this Forum and the 70th anniversary of the Association.

Today, the forests of the Congo Basin are becoming the first green lung of the planet after the heavy deforestation recorded in recent years in the Amazon basin. Their role of carbon storage is therefore essential in the context of global warming. In addition, these forests are a natural capital for the socio-economic development of the countries of the sub-region: they fulfill essential social and cultural functions, and their degradation is likely to have consequences on the living conditions of the populations at local, national and global levels. The Congo Basin should therefore benefit from substantial financial support for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity in view of its exceptional heritage and its high level of endemism.

Mr. Maidou recalled that in order to achieve the conservation and sustainable management objectives set out in the Yaoundé Declaration of the Heads of State of the Central African countries, an action plan commonly called the Convergence Plan was adopted in February 2005 in Brazzaville. This Convergence Plan was revised in 2014 in order to integrate new emerging themes. This conference was an opportunity for the Executive Secretary of COMIFAC to emphasize that COMIFAC member countries are united and committed to strengthening the partnership with Europe in order to support the implementation of the Convergence Plan for an economic, social and equitable development of the Congo Basin communities. In this regard, Mr. Maidou praised the international cooperation for the sustainable management of the Congo Basin forests.

[Watch the video](#)

VALUING CARBON AND BIODIVERSITY IN SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT Pierre SCHUELLER (TEREA) - Arthur PIVIN (Carbone4) - Alain KARSENTY (CIRAD)

On Wednesday, June 1, during the first afternoon session, a conference was held on the theme of the valorization of carbon and biodiversity in sustainable forest management. This intervention was animated by Pierre Schueller, in charge of forest-climate projects for the consulting firm TERA and representative of the ATIBT Carbon and Biodiversity Commission, who presented the stakes and objectives of this commission. Two experts of the topic then took the floor to develop their respective subjects. First, Arthur Pivin, project manager at Carbone 4 and head of the "Biodiversity" unit and member of the "Neutrality" unit, presented [the Net Zero Initiative methodology](#) developed by Carbone 4, as well as a consortium project aimed at developing biodiversity certificates on an international scale. Secondly, Alain Karsenty, a CIRAD researcher and expert in forest taxation and environmental economic tools, presented the latest news on carbon markets, particularly after COP26 in Glasgow, and the impact on the forestry sector.

[Watch the video](#)

[Read the presentation](#)

ARE CURRENT MANAGEMENT STANDARDS ADAPTED TO THE DYNAMICS OF COMMERCIAL SPECIES?

Aurélie AHMIM-RICHARD (FFEM) - Sylvie GOURLET-FLEURY (CIRAD) - Jean-Louis DOUCET (Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech)

Aurélie Ahmim-Richard began by presenting the programs supported by the FFEM in support of sustainable forest management. In order to guarantee the sustainability of forest management and the reconstitution of resources in the long term, it is essential to better understand the ecological functioning of forest dynamics. It is in this context that [the DynAfFor program](#) was born, following the P3FAC project, which aims to improve this knowledge and inform policy decisions in the countries of the Congo Basin.

Sylvie Gourlet-Fleury then presented the history of monitoring forest dynamics. Since the early 1980s, systems have been developed to monitor the behavior of forests, their response to exploitation, and their recovery from exploitation. Sylvie Gourlet-Fleury also returned to the current inventory and species monitoring systems, which tend to show that logging has a positive effect on tree growth.

Finally, Jean-Louis Doucet discussed the recommendations for the private sector from this research ([available in the DYNAFAC synthesis report](#)):

- Standardize minimum operating diameters. To choose the ideal value, detailed studies on the ability of the species to reproduce were conducted.
- Standardize the 30-year rotations, because they are currently too short to reconstitute the stocks. For commercial species, 100% of the stock should be reconstituted.
- Promote the diversification of forestry operations: replace species with low recruitment and recovery rates by species with more sustained production. For example, azobe could be replaced by eyoum.
- Monitor the systems over the long term.
- Effectively fight poaching, as many species are dispersed by animals.

The conference concluded with the following observation: in order to achieve true sustainability, it is necessary that companies committed to sustainable management have access to better financing, without which current management standards cannot be truly adapted to the dynamics of commercial species.

[Watch the video](#)

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TIMBER SECTOR IN CENTRAL AFRICA

Jacqueline LARDIT VAN DE POL (ATIBT) - Nicolas BAYOL (FRM) - Christophe DU CASTEL (AFD)

The timber sector in Central Africa is undergoing a revolution, marked by a strong desire of governments to increase the contribution of the timber sector to the economy through the development of industrialization. Political measures are being implemented: generalization of the log export ban, development of Special Economic Zones, fiscal measures, mechanisms to promote the development of national log markets and to attract investments from non-concessionary industrial operators.

The session led by the ATIBT Forestry and Industry Commission and AFD was an opportunity to gather the opinions of the sector's actors on these developments in the timber sector, their implications for everyone, and the necessary accompanying measures. It was structured around three themes:

- Lessons learned from the Gabonese experience;
- Levers for further industrialization and better use of forest resources;
- Training and professionalization of the industrial sector.

[Watch the video](#)

THE IMPORTANCE OF FURTHER RESEARCH ON TROPICAL TIMBER

Jean GÉRARD (CIRAD) - Emmanuel GROUDEL (WALE)

Conducting research on a natural material such as wood is to show humility, to apprehend the complexity by showing practicality and sobriety. Many challenges remain to be met concerning the choice of species, their use in mixtures, the transformation processes, in particular the cutting and gluing methods, the valorization of the related materials, even the slash, and the logistics.

For the promotion of species that are less well known to the market, not everything can be decided on the basis of inventory results. A subtle balance must be maintained between forest potential and market expectations. It is thus a question of changing perspective and moving from a traditional viewpoint which starts from the forest to go towards the product and the sale, to a marketing viewpoint which aims at understanding the market, at satisfying the customer by offering them a product answering their needs and expectations. Research on the wood material itself is underpinned by a better understanding of its variability and heterogeneity, which are constraints that limit its use, and which must be mastered. This variability depends on the growth conditions of the trees and is expressed between species, within each species, and within the tree. Two factors are particularly discriminating for the use of tropical woods: their biological stability (= natural durability) and their physical stability (= associated with different indicators of "nervousness"); research needs to be continued and deepened in these two areas.

In addition, new research approaches must be developed, adapted to the countries of the South, associated with low-cost science, and favoring frugal innovation and low tech (as opposed to high tech!). The field of research to be pursued on tropical woods thus appears particularly wide!

[Watch the video](#)

[Read the presentation](#)

Wednesday, June 1 - Agora

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND - HOW TO INCLUDE SMALLHOLDERS AND COMMUNITYBASED FOREST ENTERPRISES?

Andrew GOLDBERG (RAINFOREST ALLIANCE) - Tijmen HENNEKES (FSC NETHERLANDS) - Fernandito GUTIERREZ (member of Ejido Dziuché) - Edgar GONZALEZ GODOY (RAINFOREST ALLIANCE MEXICO) - Scott FRANCISCO (CITIES4FORESTS)

Rainforest Alliance Mexico Director Edgar Gonzalez Godoy introduced the ejidos, Mexico's unique land tenure system. Community members cultivate designated plots and collectively maintain communal holdings of agriculture and forests, which emerged in modern times through a land reform in 1934. The session highlighted the sustainable management of ejidos

as a critical component of maintaining Mexico's globally significant biodiversity and for economic and livelihood support. In addition, Edgar was joined by Fernandito Gutiérrez, member of Ejido Dziuché (Quintana Roo, Mexico). Fernandito leads the Ejido Dziuché forest management team and spoke about the importance of stewardship and development of strong markets for wood and non-timber products from the communities in the Mayan language.

In addition, several videos have been shared by the Rainforest Alliance on community forests in Latin America:

- Guatemala: [Community Forest Concessions: A Guatemalan Success Story - YouTube](#)
- Guatemala : [Concesión Forestal Comunitaria - Carmelita, una comunidad que vive del bosque - YouTube](#)
- Peru: [Indigenous Community Forest Enterprise in the Peruvian Amazon - YouTube](#)
- Mexico: [Working With the Rainforest: Sustainable Forest Management in Mexico - YouTube](#)

[Watch the video](#)

[Read the presentation](#)

INFORMATION PLATFORMS AND TOOLS FOR THE DUE DILIGENCE OF TROPICAL TIMBER Chloé VIALA (PREFERRED BY NATURE) - Marie Vallée (WRI) - Caroline DUHESME (ATIBT)

Preferred by Nature presented its [Sourcing Hub](#) platform which gathers risk analyses on the legality of wood for more than 60 countries. The methodology of elaboration was discussed, including the steps of understanding the legislation and its degree of enforcement, which are developed on the basis of available written sources, local expertise and with the inclusion of feedback from stakeholders. Where there is a risk that the rules of a legal category may not be properly applied, the Sourcing Hub proposes possible mitigation options. Finally, some visuals of the new version of the platform - which should be more intuitive - were unveiled.



Marie Vallée (WRI) reported on recent improvements to the [Open Timber Portal](#) (OTP), an independent web platform that aims to promote compliance with the law.

Caroline Duhesme (ATIBT) explained the challenges of the [Timber Trade Portal](#) (TTP), now available in French, English and Mandarin. The platform has been enriched in recent months with new country files, making it more complete.

The complementarities between the different tools is a question often raised: the development of targeted and complementary tools is an important subject in the rise of responsible purchasing policies.

[Watch the video](#)

Thursday, June 2 - Agora

COMIFAC AND ITS ROLE IN THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF CENTRAL AFRICAN FORESTS Françoise VAN DE VEN (ATIBT) - Hervé MAIDOU (COMIFAC)

Françoise van de Ven first praised the benefits of the partnership between COMIFAC and ATIBT, reminding that COMIFAC is a privileged partner for our Association.

Hervé Maidou then presented COMIFAC's actions, starting with some key figures: the Congo Basin represents 300 million hectares, i.e. 22% of the world's tropical forests, with an impressive biological diversity. These forests hold 10% of the forest carbon stored in the world's tropical forests, and provide livelihoods for 115 million people. Logging in these forests has undergone a deep transformation towards sustainable forest management.

Mr. Maidou also spoke about the sub-regional convergence plan for the sustainable management of Africa's ecosystems, in which ATIBT and COMIFAC cooperate: it is a strategic planning framework for the various priority interventions, defined on the basis of respect for the values of human rights and indigenous peoples, solidarity, good governance and the consideration of gender. COMIFAC has defined 6 priority intervention areas through this convergence plan:

- Harmonization of forestry and environmental policies
- Sustainable management and development of forest resources
- Conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity
- The fight against climate change



- Socio-economic development
- Sustainable financing

Finally, Mr. Maidou emphasized the importance of communication to promote the use of tropical timber from sustainably managed forests: "We must continue to engage in environmental diplomacy,"he stressed, "and we need our European partners".

[Watch the video](#)

SUSTAINABLE TIMBER VALUE CHAINS: ADDRESSING CLIMATE NEUTRALITY AND LIVELIHOOD NEEDS

Thais LINHARES-JUVENAL (FAO) - Richard EBA'A ATYI (CIFOR) - Françoise VAN DE VEN (ATIBT)

Are the furniture in our homes, the paper we use, the wood we burn, the wood used in building structures, sustainable? These questions are being asked, more than ever, in a context of growing concern about deforestation and the impact of climate change. People on every continent depend on wood products from the world's forests, and many of the world's poorest people depend directly on wood and other forest resources for their livelihoods and incomes. But unsustainable practices remain a major challenge, from production to consumption. This session focused on the need to assess value chains to identify opportunities and threats to sustainability. Speakers discussed value chain assessment, contribution to climate neutrality and livelihoods.

Thais Linhares-Juvenal emphasized the triple aspect of the concept of sustainability: a sustainable value chain must not only be profitable throughout the chain, but must also have broad positive effects for society and a neutral or even positive impact on the environment. The discussion focused mainly on the value chains of wood products in the Congo Basin, their sustainability challenges and opportunities, for example the climate contribution of wood through the construction sector. Finally, the work of FAO in the Congo Basin countries was recalled (mapping of value chains; analysis of country-level capacities for value aggregation; analysis of logistic flows; support to legality; support to the adoption of innovations to reduce costs and increase productivity and legality; support to cooperation and integration for better access to markets, to financing lines, and to optimize value added; support to public policies for responsible consumption).

[Watch the video](#)

[Read the presentation](#)

FROM THE FOREST TO THE OCEAN: THE BILLION DOLLAR YACHTING INDUSTRY

Kristian JORGENSEN (FSC Denmark) - Tijmen HENNEKES (FSC NETHERLANDS)

The yachting industry is where luxury, technical innovation and high quality meet. The industry has come a long way in developing technical solutions to reduce its environmental impact. However, the sector still faces many challenges in sourcing sustainable timber.

The project "[Ensuring more sustainable timber in the yachting industry](#)", coordinated by FSC Denmark and supported by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation (FPA2), aims to support the use of sustainable timber in the yachting industry. The aim is to promote responsible purchasing policies and to study new wood-based solutions. The marine environment is a challenging environment for wood, and the yachting industry is looking for alternatives to the very rare natural teak. Kristian Jørgensen, FSC Denmark, and Tijmen Hennekes, FSC Netherlands, introduced the project with a call for collaboration across the full value chain "From the Forest to the Ocean".

[Watch the video](#)

[Read the presentation](#)

ON THE FURTHER CIRCULARITY OF TROPICAL TIMBER

Frédéric ANQUETIL (A.F. BOIS)

The ATIBT stand also hosted a round table on the further circularity of tropical woods, led by Frédéric Anquetil.

He highlighted the impacts - immediately positive - on the environment of the reuse of tropical timber, both on the reduction of the depletion of forest resources (otherwise limited), on the participation in the reduction of the greenhouse effect (by preserving biogenic carbon), and the low energy cost for the processing of these woods. However, there are still difficulties to overcome: the recognition of tropical species, the very diffuse character of the deposit, an effective selective deconstruction, as well as the cost of intermediate storage of deconstructed wood.

To be sustainable, the forest-wood industry will have to integrate a new production model... yet to be invented.

[Watch the video](#)

[Read the presentation](#)

PRESENTATION OF THE FAIR&PRECIOUS SPOKESPERSONS

Bertrand FAUCON (Stratémark) - Edwige EYANG-EFFA (Fair&Precious Ambassador) - Norbert GAMI (Fair&Precious Ambassador)

Bertrand Faucon started by reminding the key points of [the Fair&Precious program](#):

- A program led by ATIBT, with the support of AFD and KfW - COMIFAC (PPECF)
- Creation of the Fair&Precious brand in 2017
- 5 companies certified in Gabon, Congo and Cameroon
- 5,400,000 ha certified for sustainable forest management in the Congo Basin

- 41 official partners of the Fair&Precious brand
- Communication actions that include image, market and influence marketing.

The floor was then given to the Fair&Precious ambassadors, Norbert Gami and Edwige Eyang-Effa. **Norbert Gami** is an anthropologist based in the Republic of Congo and a WCS collaborator. He presented the ATIBT motions during the preparatory sessions of the FSC GA. **Edwige Eyang Effa** is a researcher at the Institute for Research in Tropical Ecology in Gabon, and is closely involved in certification issues in Central Africa.

[Watch the video](#)



ATIBT'S FAIR&PRECIOUS OPERATORS SPEAK OUT & FUTURE OF CSR MARKETS: COMPANIES TAKE THE LEAD

Certified operators: PALLISCO CIFM (Cameroon), ROUGIER Gabon, PRECIOUS WOODS (Gabon), CIB OLAM (Republic of Congo) and IFO INTERHOLCO (Republic of Congo)

During this session, the operators spoke of their membership in the Fair&Precious collective and of a "win/win commitment", which allows them to capitalize on the achievements of Fair&Precious to strengthen the certified tropical timber sector.

They presented the following key points:

- Joining Fair&Precious, an asset in the company's CSR strategy
- A commitment to a major cause for the protection of tropical forests and support for local development
- Communication and employees who relay and amplify the messages in favor of sustainable forest management.

The issue of education and training was also raised, to emphasise that Fair&Precious also has a role to play in these areas.

The operators have sent out the following message: ***"Together, we are increasing the market share of FSC and PEFC-PAFC certified timber. Together, we are influencing the decisions that affect the future of our industry."***

As a reminder, the Fair&Precious programme was funded by the PPECF. Fair&Precious is a collective brand to promote tropical wood from sustainable, ethical and legal management, to respect the strictest environmental standards, to develop a more humane economy, protective of man and nature...

In concrete terms, Fair&Precious acts to enhance the value of the forest resources of the Congo Basin and to promote good practices within the tropical wood sector and, above all, the purchase of certified tropical wood to target audiences.

Visit the website: www.fair-and-precious.org

[Watch the video](#)

POTENTIAL OF WOOD RESIDUES FOR A TRANSITION TO MODERN AND SUSTAINABLE BIOENERGY

Sven WALTER (FAO and Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries - ACSFI) - Derek NIGHBOR (Forest Products Association of Canada - FPAC) - Evelyne THIFFAULT (Université de Laval) - Arturo GIANVENUTI (FAO) - Françoise VAN DE VEN (ATIBT)

ACSFI commissioned a study on the potential of wood residues in the transition to bioenergy. The final report was not yet available during the Forum but the results already obtained clearly demonstrated this potential and the important role of Africa in the consumption of wood energy (fuelwood). There are several groups of residues, from logging and felling, sawing of logs and wood processing, wood products themselves and finally the use of wood for manufacturing and end-of-life products.

Clear messages were presented in this session:

- Encourage systematic changes in land and forest governance to enable modernization of the wood energy value chain: in Africa, with the exception of South Africa, logs largely supply the local market with wood energy.
- Stimulate increased efficiency and value addition in the roundwood industrial network: better use of residues in production through processes that optimize high-value material products.
- Stimulate the use of wood resources with a "domino effect": it is necessary to encourage the recovery of wood for cogeneration, recycling to other products or as wood energy as an end use.

The study shows that there is potential and procedures to increase the profitability of felled wood through improved processes, cogeneration and recycling. The publication of the final report of this study is highly anticipated.

[Watch the video](#)

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AN AMAZON INITIATIVE - HOW CAN EUROPEAN IMPORTERS STIMULATE THE INCREASE OF CERTIFIED CONCESSIONS IN BRAZIL?

Kristian JORGENSEN (FSC Denmark) - Kasper KOPP (Keflico) - Eduardo LEAO (AIMEX) - Mark VAN BENTHEM (Probos) - Leandro RYMSZA (Lamapa)

FSC's global strategy is to double the area of FSC-certified tropical forests to 50 million hectares by 2026. The Brazilian Amazon, which is the largest tropical forest in the world, currently has only 2.8 million hectares certified as FSC sustainable management. To achieve this, we should not double, but at least triple the area of FSC surfaces to reach 8.4 million ha in 3.5 years, or 1.6 million ha per year! An ambitious but achievable goal.

This should be an economic incentive for both the northern Brazilian timber industry and European importers. Indeed, this session addressed the issue of the impact of European import demand on forestry in the Amazon. Mark Van Benthem (Probos) was able to demonstrate, with statistics, that 26% of tropical timber imports into Europe come from Brazil, but that only 6% of these imports are certified. On the other hand, Leandro Rymsza (Lamapa) pointed out that even if 90% of the harvested volume is sold on the domestic market, where the demand for responsible origin is still low, it is the demand for responsible origin wood on the 10% destined for export markets that is driving the development of responsible forest management.

The question is of course how to increase FSC-certified sustainable management - and for an Amazon initiative: how can European importers stimulate the growth of FSC-certified forest areas in the Amazon? Ways to make responsible logging more economically viable were discussed, including expanding the use of LKTS. FSC Motion 65 on IFL became an important topic, raised by Eduardo Leão (AIMEX), as this is a major concern for concessionaires and forest managers in Brazil.

The speakers in this session finally stressed the need for increased collaboration across the Atlantic between all actors in the chain, importers, producers, NGOs, and called for support for this "Amazon Initiative"!

[Watch the video](#)

[Read the presentation](#)

Thursday, June 2 - Side-events

THE POWER OF POLICY: PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS TAKE THE LEAD ON TROPICAL TIMBER
Aurélien SAUTIÈRE (FSC France) - Camilla HYLDGAARD THOMSEN (Keflico - Danish Timber Trade Federation) - Scott FRANCISCO (Cities4Forests) - Sarah LAROUSSI (CNDB)

Through their purchases, local authorities play an essential role in developing the use of certified tropical timber. To this end, many actors are mobilizing to provide useful information to local authorities and to actively offer certified products. This is notably the case of Camilla Hylgaard Thomsen, member of the Board of Directors of the Danish Timber Trade Federation, which systematically promotes the certification of tropical timber to local authorities. Scott Francisco (Cities4Forest) presented the work of his organization to demonstrate the positive impacts of using responsible tropical woods, particularly in terms of carbon. Sarah Laroussi (CNDB) spoke about the work of the French sector to develop the use of timber in construction, especially tropical timber. For her, it is necessary to be able to use "the right timber for the right use" and certified tropical timber is a valuable material, especially for outdoor installations. Finally, Aurélien Sautière, Director of FSC France, who moderated this session, shared the work of his association in partnership with WWF France, Le Comité 21 and Les Ecomaires to encourage local authorities to use FSC-certified timber, including tropical timber.

For more information, you can consult this link: [Acteurs publics | Forest Stewardship Council \(fsc.org\)](#)

[Watch the video](#)

RESULTS OF THE DYNAFFOR PROJECT: STUDY OF THE STRUCTURE AND DYNAMICS OF CENTRAL AFRICAN FORESTS
Sylvie GOURLET-FLEURY (CIRAD) - Aurélie AHMIM-RICHARD (FFEM)

Discussions started on the modifications that should be made to management plans developed in the framework of a second rotation. Such plans are starting in Gabon, at CEB and Rougier, and will soon be implemented in other Central African countries, particularly in Congo and Cameroon. In particular, the DynAfFor and P3FAC projects, developed within the Dynafac collective of research organizations, associations, private companies and administrations, have: (1) generated numerous data to improve predictions on the reconstitution of the exploitable commercial stock, (2) issued a series of recommendations that should be promoted in the region, in particular the adoption of a 30-year rotation duration, the reconstitution of 100% of the exploitable stock at the end of these 30 years, and the standardization of the minimum exploitation diameters. A retrospective evaluation of the management plans that have been carried out in the region would be fundamental, not necessarily to modify the concept of the management plan but to modify some of its rules. For example, conducting a new management inventory may be of little value and, if it is to be done, should follow a more appropriate protocol than is practiced today. The DafSim

software, designed and developed within the framework of these projects and which integrates a large part of the acquired knowledge, allows the actors to project themselves into the future. This software is now of interest to some of the forestry companies and administrations involved in Dynafac.

Discussions continued on the species constitution of the exploitable stock. Sapelli will no longer be dominant in this stock at the end of the second rotation; other species will have to be exploited. Many species, well studied and for a long time by CIRAD wood technologists, have very interesting technological characteristics and could be exploited. In northern Congo, in particular, it would be possible to multiply by 5 the number of trees exploited per ha if the market existed, which is not the case today. A positive evolution could come from the development of special economic zones as it is the case in Gabon and Congo. The arrival of industrialists specialized in processing and interested in a large number of species other than Sapelli could partially solve the problem. Products such as glued laminates, using a large number of different species, are relatively inexpensive to develop. The development of an African market should be encouraged.

The discussions concluded with the observation that it is possible to evolve very quickly when the most commercial species become rare, as in Indonesia, or as in Africa with Azobé, which is sought after by the SNCF for railway sleepers. As Azobé is becoming less and less easy to find, six other much more abundant species have been identified as possible replacements. Ideally, we should stop reacting only at the last moment, as we have done systematically in the past, and manage to anticipate problems.

[Watch the video](#)

PRESENTATION OF THE EU-AFD FLEGT PROJECT

Cecilia JULVE (NATURE+) – Mathieu AUGER SCHWARTZENBERG (AFD) – Christophe DU CASTEL (AFD)

During this side-event, Cecilia Julve presented the EU-AFD FLEGT program, which aims to contribute to the sustainable management of tropical forests by improving forest governance and law enforcement in producer countries through Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs). These VPAs aim to combat illegal logging and encourage sustainable forest management. The program is deployed on 3 continents: South America, Africa and Southeast Asia, for a period of 5 years (2021-2025).

The program integrates 3 components in order to operationalize the VPAs, to strengthen the capacities of civil society organizations and to support the private sector in the implementation of the VPAs:

- Institutional support for the implementation of VPAs
- Stakeholders support (civil society organizations and private sector)
- Coordination, monitoring and evaluation

[Watch the video](#)

WOMEN IN SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY: THE CRITICAL RESOURCE STILL INVISIBLE

Sheam SATKURU (ITTO) - Thais LINHARES-JUVENAL (FAO) - Paulette EBINA-TARGANZO (MINISTRY OF FORESTRY ECONOMY of the Republic of Congo) - Françoise VAN DE VEN (ATIBT)

The panel brought together four women, all of whom have management positions in the forest-wood sector and come from four different continents: Africa, Europe, Southeast Asia and South America.

The panel was moderated by Ms. Thais LINHARES-JUVENAL, who invited the panelists to briefly present their backgrounds, the challenges they faced, the advantages and disadvantages of their positions and their successes.

The experiences highlighted several points:

- It is important not to get discouraged because mastering the work allows you to progress by remaining persistent.
- There are still glass ceilings, even if progress is being made: for the past decade, we have seen important positions being occupied by women.
- Equal pay is often still a problem.
- In a leader position, a woman takes more account of social and environmental aspects, qualities that are very useful in the current evolution of the forest-wood industry.

[Watch the video](#)

[Read the presentation](#)

LET'S HEAR FROM THE CERTIFICATION FOR LEGALITY

Caroline DUHESME (ATIBT) – Sandra RAZANAMANDRANTO (PREFERRED BY NATURE) – Luigi BOVOLENTA (CONTROL UNION) – Antoine HUGUET (BUREAU VERITAS)

In order to meet market expectations, independent certification systems attesting to the legality of forest management have been developed since the 2000s. These systems are developed by certification bodies, and are based on the verification of the requirements of the regulatory framework in the producing country, completed by a chain of custody certification. There are three systems in the Congo Basin, which were presented during this session:

- [TLV \(Timber Legality Verification, by Control Union\)](#): Luigi Bovolenta, auditor, presented the TLV system, whose standard has two characteristics: adaptability and flexibility. The TLV standard is adaptable according to the regulatory context of the country where the certification takes place. In addition, TLV certification allows for the certification of different activities: due diligence, legality of forestry activities, and chain of custody. In the Congo Basin, TLV is present in Gabon.

- [OLB \(Origin and Legality of Wood, by Bureau Veritas\)](#): Antoine Huguet, Key Account Manager, presented the activities of Bureau Veritas to support the forestry and timber sector, through inspections, supplier audits, verifications for the EUTR, and sustainable forestry certification (FSC, PEFC) and legality (OLB). In the Congo Basin, OLB represents nearly 4 million certified hectares. OLB operates according to a classic forest certification scheme (audit of forestry activities according to the local regulatory framework, 5-year cycle), and will be revised to integrate the new regulatory guidelines (EUTR, draft EU regulation against imported deforestation).
- [LegalSource \(by Preferred by Nature, Ex Nepcon\)](#): Sandra Razanamandranto, Marketing and Development Director, also presented Nepcon's activities (verification, certification) on various raw materials, including wood. The Legal Source system is based on the requirements of the EUTR, and offers some flexibility. Part of the system is the assessment of the quality system and due diligence. The specificity of the Legal Source system allows companies to define their own benchmark for the scope of the audit, according to their own due diligence (supply chain, forestry activity). The system will be revised, and a project to integrate a blockchain system is under development.

[Watch the video](#)

FSC ECOSYSTEM SERVICES: NEW ECONOMIC REVENUE MODELS FOR FOREST SERVICES

Caroline DUHESME (ATIBT) – Esteban TOJA (FSC) – Markus PFANNKUCH (PRECIOUS WOODS)
– Aurélien SAUTIÈRE (FSC FRANCE)

This session talked about a FSC initiative, which in 2018 developed the 30-006 procedure to allow certified companies to be audited on the ecosystem services they provide. 5 services are currently included in this procedure. The speakers answered the following questions: what does this procedure provide? How does it work? What are the opportunities for this procedure in certification?

Markus Pfannkuch spoke about the experience of Precious Woods in Brazil to certify two procedures, one around watercourses, the other around carbon sequestration.

[Watch the video](#)

DISCUSSION ON THE PRODUCTION SHARING REGIME IN THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO

H.E. Rosalie MATONDO, Minister of Forest Economy of the Republic of Congo



Mrs. Rosalie MATONDO, Minister of Forest Economy of the Republic of Congo, made a presentation on "the implementation modalities of the production sharing principle in the Republic of Congo" during the 2022 ATIBT Forum in Nantes.

After welcoming the participants, the Minister of Forest Economy reminded them that the decision to introduce the

principle of production sharing in the new forestry law (Law 33-2020 of July 8, 2020 on the forestry code in the Republic of Congo) is part of the government of the Republic of Congo's will to reform the forestry sector. However, this provision of the law will be the subject of a specific law.

Based on the study on the modalities of production sharing carried out by the FRMi consultancy, the Minister indicated that production sharing will be done at the level of timber yards for all species of the cutting base (VMA), including secondary species, which are generally promoted and little exploited by the concessionaires. For this, it is necessary to have a laboratory for the study of the woods to guarantee the promotion of their species. This law will therefore provide the domestic market with wood products of legal origin and help artisans to be supplied in safe places, to stimulate the further processing of wood in the four special economic zones already created.

The Minister also stated that private concessionaires will remain the managers of the forests and the State will pay for the services they provide. To this end, she encourages them to manage and certify their concessions.

The principle of production sharing will apply to all timber species produced in the forest concession through the VMA, with the addition of finances generated by the upstream efforts of the logging companies. However, she recalled that the Congolese forests must continue to be exploited according to good sustainable forest management practices.

Finally, the Minister indicated that the process of developing the law on production sharing modalities is participatory. Several stakeholder commissions exist and are therefore participating in the discussions on the matter.

[Watch the video](#)

Friday, June 3 - Agora

CREATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PAFC CONGO BASIN / THE SFM STANDARD AND THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF PAFC CONGO BASIN / PEFC AND THE CHAIN OF CUSTODY

Germain YÉNÉ (PAFC Congo Basin) - Thomas SEYVET (PEFC International)

During this session, Germain Yéné, coordinator of PAFC Congo Basin and Thomas Seyvet, development officer at PEFC International, presented the regional initiative PAFC Congo Basin. After setting the context and the reasons that led three PEFC members to collaborate to create a regional sustainable forest management scheme, the entire process of creating the standard was presented, highlighting the involvement of local stakeholders throughout the process. The sustainable forest management standard was then presented in more detail, highlighting the specificities and innovations it contains as well as the different guides that have been developed to accompany companies towards certification. Finally, the topics of accreditation, auditor training and promotion were discussed before concluding with the recognition link between PEFC International and its three national members, PAFC Gabon, PAFC Cameroon and PAFC Congo, co-owners of the PAFC Congo Basin certification scheme.

This project was funded by the PPECF.

[Watch the video](#)

[Read the presentation](#)

DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL MARKETS AND PLACES FOR SMES/ARTISANS

Hortense BATINDEK (ATIBT) - Jean-Marie NTOUTOUME (Director of UFIGA) - Germain MBOCK (Director of ENEF) - Léonce MEDZEGUE

A round table on the domestic markets of the timber sector in the Congo Basin was held on Friday morning. Its objectives were to explore with ADEFAC participants solutions for the supply of the domestic timber market and to bring together large companies and SMEs.

Domestic timber markets in Central African countries are evolving, but too often remain disconnected from producers with sustainable practices. This observation is made despite the fact that the SME sector constitutes an important lever for the future of sustainable management, due to its dynamism and the increase in needs. The availability of formal timber for artisanal SMEs is decreasing, timber is becoming more expensive, and at the same time, larger surface are setting up, selling chipboard products from outside the country to a growing middle class.

We present here the questions that have been asked, with the main elements of answer:

- **What levers can be used to evolve local woodworking trades?**

The market is evolving very quickly, both at the country and regional level. Craftsmen have a problem with the supply of sustainable wood and are not able to be totally competitive. It is necessary to comply with standards and training. The first lever is to be able to attend meetings like the Timber Show, where many issues can be better understood. Artisans and schools need coaching, and training issues need to be followed up by the private sector. The private sector must be able to invest in training; industry and crafts must be consistent in this respect.

Let's not confuse crafts with "do-it-yourself". There must be a quality requirement. It is essential to adapt craftsmen to the needs of consumers.

- **What are the roles of the professional associations of large companies and those of SMEs?**

Professional associations have a role to play in defining training needs and must "set the stage" for skills development. The role of ATIBT was considered essential for participation in the Timber Show. The link between large companies and SMEs is the provision of raw material. A link needs to be improved between large companies, committed to sustainable management, and small companies, is important. The associations must be in permanent interaction, to create a dynamic.

- **What can states do for the development of the craft sector?**

They must create the legislative framework that is flexible enough to be used by all. What is the point of the industry going to training if there is no framework for it?

The Timber Show is a good example of what needs to be done. The Congo Basin countries must organize similar events.

In Cameroon, different organizations dependent on the State have a role in training:

- The CPB, a service attached to MINFOF, has missions that have not been completed, in terms of research and characterization of species, for example;
- ENEF;
- The SAR (Rural Crafts Section);
- Technical high schools;
- The training centers, private or public;

The concern is the interconnection between these organizations, and the good adequacy with the needs.

- **What are the needs in terms of continuous professional training?**

Craftsmen are not sufficiently connected to technology. There is a gap between the needs and the possibilities in the field. Access to machine tool suppliers must be facilitated. In Gabon, some initiatives exist with the support of donors. The WB is building training centers, and the FAO is supporting certain actors in the community sector to develop NTFPs and create income-

generating activities. Finally, we must be aware that wood also contains certain useful chemical compounds that allow us to envisage activities similar to those done with NTFPs.

This roundtable essentially highlighted the different approaches used by professional organizations and training institutions to improve skills and the quality of learning on the one hand, and to increase collaboration between the employment and training environments on the other. The validation of training programs is done in consultation with the relevant administrations and the training of learners increasingly involves companies for internships and work-study training.

[Watch the video](#)

FSC LKTS - LKTS MARKET PROMOTION AND DIVERSIFICATION (HOW TO DO IT?)

Kristian JORGENSEN (FSC DENMARK) - Paulette EBINA (MINISTRY OF FORESTRY ECONOMY of the Republic of Congo) - Stéphane GLANNAZ (PRECIOUS WOODS)

Kristian Jorgensen (FSC Denmark) first recalled the immense potential of biodiversity in tropical forests, both in terms of timber species and ecosystems. The development of markets for LKTS would allow sustainable forest management to be more profitable, while reducing the pressure on the most exploited species. But the forest would not be the only beneficiary: the diversification of the product offer is also an asset for companies. This allows for greater flexibility in delivery times, price fluctuations and the design of finished objects.

In collaboration with several partners in the tropical timber value chain, the discussion focused on the following question: why should we diversify our timber species, and how do we do this diversification? Stéphane Glannaz (Precious Woods) also presented examples of objects highlighting the richness and diversity of tropical timber species.

[Watch the video](#)

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LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT & THE THEMIS PORTAL

Mark VAN BENTHME (Probos) - Josépha COACHE (ATIBT) - Alessandra NEGRI (ATIBT)

The Themis portal is a tool for collecting data on wood purchases from member companies of European timber trade federations. Mark van Benthem (Probos - Themis Project Manager) went back over the origins of the Themis project and the need to collect data on the trade of tropical timber to effectively promote its use. He shared in particular the experience of the

Dutch sector and underlined the interest of having at the level of the European Union data on the purchases of certified timber by companies importing tropical timber in order to support the purchase of certified timber. Josépha Coache (ATIBT) then presented the portal (the majority of the audience was composed of participants who were not familiar with the portal), and recalled the actions of the project's pilot federations (ATIBT, Fedustria and LCB) to support the companies concerned by the project and encourage them to fill in their data. Finally, this roundtable provided an opportunity to discuss with the participants phase 2 of the project.



Alessandra Negri (ATIBT/LCB) was able to present the project of life cycle analysis of certified timber products from the Congo Basin (called DRYADES). Like the THEMIS portal, the objective of this project is to promote the use of certified tropical timber products. Indeed, to reach the construction market, data on the life cycle of products are increasingly requested by builders in consumer countries, so it is essential to have data on the life cycle of tropical timber products. The results of the first phase of the project, life cycle inventories from Africa, will be available in July 2022, the results of the second phase of the project, cycle analysis to the consumer country (global European market, France, Netherlands), will be available in December 2022.

These projects were funded by the PPECF.

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DEVELOPMENT OF NEW MARKETS FOR TROPICAL WOOD IN AFRICA AND THE CHALLENGES OF THE ZONES

Alain Bertin TIOTSOP (ATIBT) - Pierre TATY (Director of Cabinet of the Ministry of Forest Economy of the Republic of Congo) - Jean Marie NTOUTOUME (General Delegate of UFIGA) - Naason BOUEYA (President of the Association of Carpenters of Congo)

In recent years, we have witnessed forestry reforms in the countries of the Central African sub-region. This is the case of Gabon, which is undergoing a real revolution without equal. Indeed, after stopping the export of logs, the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZ) and the obligation to certify all forest concessions, Gabon is experiencing the development of a timber industry where the added value is integrated into the local economy. Other countries such as Cameroon and the Republic of Congo are also planning for full domestic log processing and the establishment of SEZs.

The panelists answered the following questions:

- What are the levers for creating SEZ supply chains with forestry and primary processing companies?
- To what extent are local capacity building and professional training (initial and continuing) levers to accompany these regulatory changes?
- What are the needs of SMEs to open up to regional and international markets?

The answers to these questions have allowed us to better understand the issues and challenges of changes in the regulatory frameworks of the various countries, particularly the improvement of the local qualified workforce and the development of local markets.

[Watch the video](#)

Collaboration between the École Supérieure du Bois and the ADEFAC project



As part of the implementation of the AFD-funded project "Support to the Development of Continuing Education in the Forestry and Wood Sector in Central Africa" (ADEFAC), the project team and ADEFAC participants had the opportunity to visit the École Supérieure du Bois (ESB) and meet with the school's director, the head of international relations, as well as Gabonese students.

The Gabonese students gave the

ADEFAC team a guided tour of their school. The participants were able to discover the main spaces: the classrooms, the auditorium, the workshops, the laboratory, the xylotheque, the "innovation" space and the experimentation room.



The two visits to the ESB allowed us to identify avenues of reflection that could be used to strengthen relations between the ATIBT and the ESB or between the ESB and partners in Central Africa (Congolese government, training institutions, professional organizations, etc.). Among these avenues, we can cite:

- The search for a strong partner organization in Central Africa for the ESB;

- Reflections on the establishment of a double degree ESB-training institution in Central Africa;
- Joint consideration of the bachelor and professional license levels, which are more in line with the needs of the job market in the Congo Basin countries;
- The support that the ESB could provide, at the request of the Minister of Forest Economy of the Republic of Congo, for: the creation of an equivalent school in Congo; the creation of a laboratory for the identification and characterization of species; or scientific projects on LKTS.

Outcome of the 2022 ATIBT Forum

Forum 2022 ended on Friday June, 3rd with a closing speech by Her Excellency Rosalie Matondo at the ATIBT stand. During 3 days, the three stands attracted many visitors thanks to the round tables. It is estimated that an average of 25 to 30 people (with peaks of 60 or 70) were almost continuously on the stand or in the side-events, which allows us to consider that more than 400 people visited us throughout the 3 days, and an even greater number was able to hear our messages (14,000 people visited the Timber Show). The Fair&Precious stand also allowed the brand operators to make it a useful and lively space for their exchanges.

Discussions about effective communication on certification and tropical timber from sustainably managed forests converged on the common will to consolidate the Fair&Precious community, to strengthen its action and to eventually evolve it into another form to make it ever more strategic. The two Fair&Precious ambassadors (one in person, the other on video) emphasized that "it is fundamental that the actors of the wood sector, but also the general public, have a better knowledge of the stakes of sustainable management and its benefits, not only environmental but also social".

The two sustainable management certification schemes, FSC and PAFC, were able to benefit from a considerable audience and present their respective actions. For PAFC, the focus was on the presentation and ongoing operationalization of the scheme.

Beyond the observations of the previous points, other remarks should be noted:

- The repeated observation that the future of conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests depends on the market of ecosystem services and the carbon market in particular; this Forum has allowed to affirm the relative merits of the launch of the ATIBT Carbon & Biodiversity Commission, in early 2022;
- The constant mention of the use of lesser-known species; this mention was made within the framework of the assessment of the recommendations of the DYNAFFOR project on the future of management plans, within the framework of the presentation of the sharing of progress, or within the framework of discussions with the FAO or the ITTO.
- Continued exchanges on vocational training, with the ADEFAC project; the importance of vocational training for the development of domestic timber markets was emphasized;

- The creation of new links between ATIBT and Latin America. The recent membership of forestry companies on this continent, as well as the numerous exchanges with the Rainforest Alliance, make it possible to consider the creation of a specific Latin American activity at ATIBT;
- The better knowledge of Latin American community forests that resulted from the Nantes Forum is undeniable. The floor will have been given to actors who do not often have the opportunity to express themselves on the European markets;
- The Forum's assessment of the tropical timber market in Europe is positive. The context of the war in Ukraine is regrettable, but the need to rely on other sources of supply is emphasized, and tropical timber finds its place in this new context and this "post-Covid economy".

One point was particularly noted by the Executive Secretary of COMIFAC : this forum allowed *"integration between industrialists from the North, South and other continents to plead the cause of the timber trade from tropical forests and specifically from the forests of the Congo Basin"*. The Secretary General of COMIFAC also noted the importance of the various supports of COMIFAC through the Program for the Promotion of Certified Logging (PPECF), in favor of a sustainable and responsible management of our forests in Central Africa.

But of course the Nantes Forum did not stop there. Other meetings have marked us. We can mention, among others, the visit to the Ecole Supérieure du Bois by the Minister of Forest Economy, the visits to companies by some of our visitors from Africa, as well as a specific discussion organised by the ATIBT between forest operators and the FSC, with the aim of preparing the participation to the next General Assembly in Bali.

Acknowledgment

ATIBT would like to thank in particular the following people and organizations

- **The Minister of Forest Economy of the Republic of Congo, H.E. Rosalie Matondo**, who honored the ATIBT forum with her presence and who actively participated in many meetings;
- **Mr. Executive Secretary of COMIFAC, Hervé Maidou**, who accompanied us throughout the event and contributed to many discussions;
- **Mr. Peter Latham, outgoing President of PEFC International;**
- **Mr. Executive Director of FSC International, Kim Carstensen;**
- **ITTO Executive Secretary, Sheam Satkuru**
- **FAO SW4SW Program Manager, Thais Linhares;**
- **The PPECF program**, which expressed its desire to financially support this meeting very early with the construction of the Fair&Precious, ATIBT and COMIFAC booths. This made it possible to organize many activities;
- **PEFC International and FSC International**, which financed the organizational means essential to the meeting, and the human resources;
- **FSC Netherlands**, which allowed us to facilitate the arrival of the authorities of the Congo Basin;

- **FAO**, which also supported us in terms of human resources, some travel and the necessary audio-video resources;
- **ITTO**, which supported us with the financing of interpreting services and translation of documents;
- **FFEM**, which also contributed to the financing of logistical costs for the Congo Basin authorities;
- **AFD**, through the ADEFAC project, which allowed for the broad participation of professional associations in the Congo Basin;
- **The Fair&Precious operators**, with the companies **Pallisco**, **Precious Woods**, **Rougier**, **IFO-Interholco** and **CIB Olam**, which contributed directly to the financing of the Fair&Precious stand;
- **The companies Jammes**, **CID** and **Pasquet**, which provided the wood necessary for the construction of the stand, and the company **Pub Volume** which designed and built it;
- **Finally, all the speakers who contributed to the richness of this Forum!**

