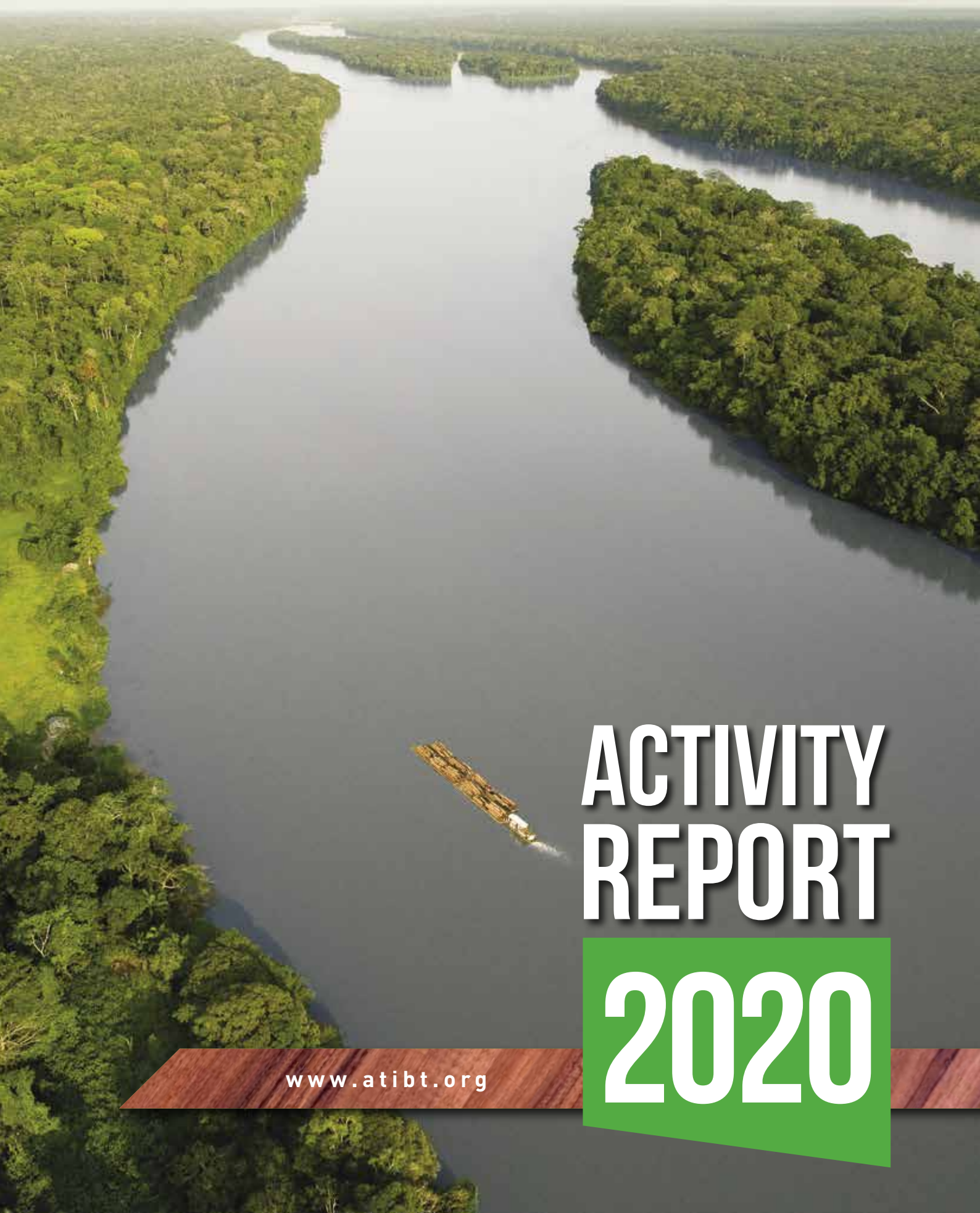




THE LEADING AUTHORITY ON TROPICAL TIMBER



# ACTIVITY REPORT

# 2020

[www.atibt.org](http://www.atibt.org)

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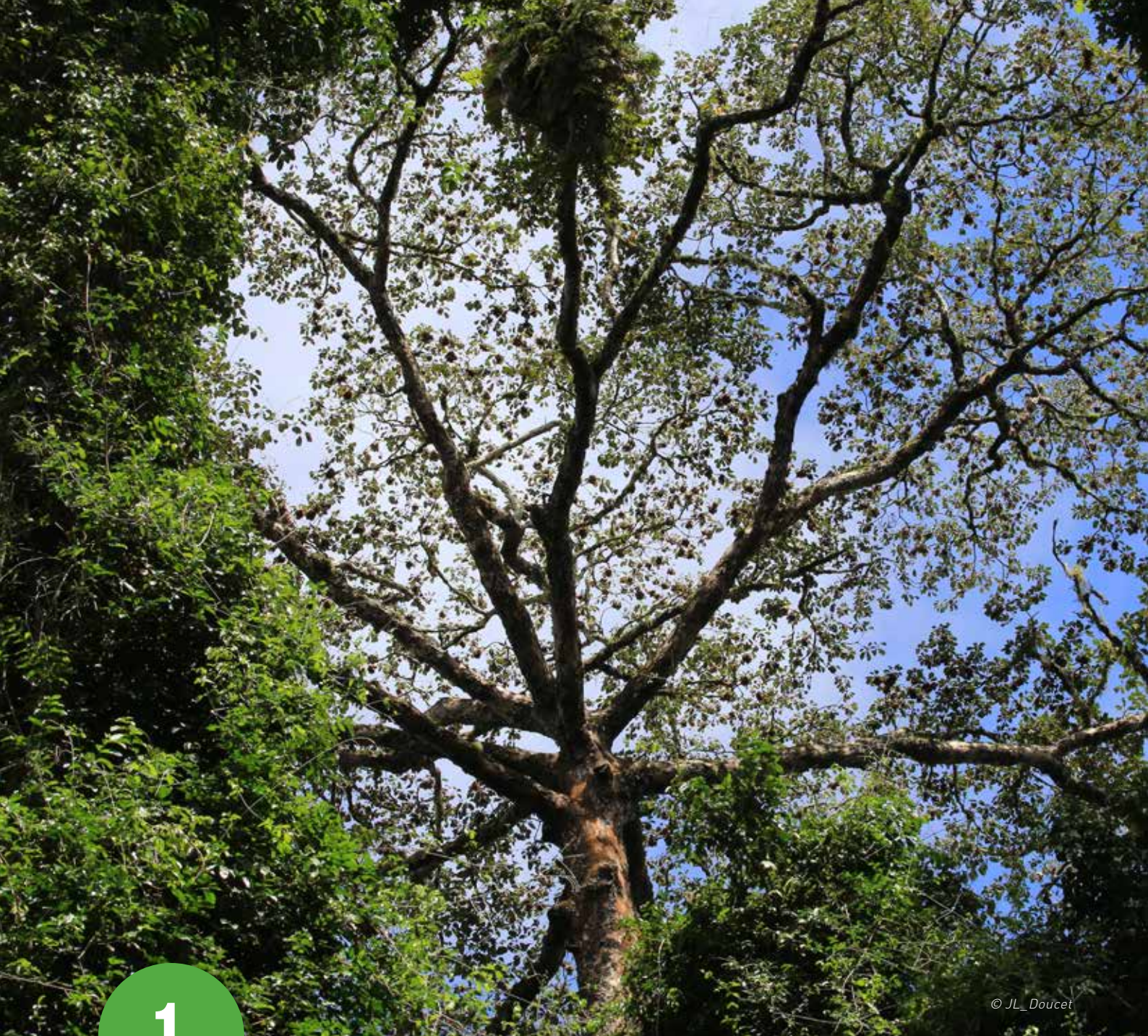
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# ACRONYMS

- AFD:** *Agence Française de Développement* (French Development Agency)
- ATIBT:** *Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux* (International Tropical Timber Technical Association)
- CBFP:** Congo Basin Forest Partnership
- CFT:** *Compagnie Forestière De Transformation* (Forestry Processing Company)
- CIB:** *Congolaise Industrielle des Bois* (Congoese Industrial Timber Company)
- CIRAD:** *Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement* (International Centre of Agricultural Research for Development)
- CITES:** Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
- COMIFAC:** *Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale* (Central African Forestry Commission)
- CTWPDA:** The China Timber & Wood Production Distribution Association
- DEVCO :** Direction générale de la coopération internationale et du développement (UE)
- DGENV :** Direction générale pour l'environnement (UE)
- DUE :** Délégation de l'Union Européenne
- EFI:** European Forest Institute
- ETTF:** European Timber Trade Federation
- RBUE:** *Règlement Bois De L'union Européenne* (EUTR: EU Timber Regulation)
- FAO:** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- FSC:** Forest Stewardship Council
- FFEM:** *Fonds Français pour L'environnement Mondial* (French Facility for Global Environment)
- FIB:** *Fibres Industries Bois* (Timber Fibre Industries)
- GFBC:** *Groupement de la Filière Bois du Cameroun* (Cameroon Timber Sector Consortium)
- GGSC:** Global Green Supply Chain
- GNFT:** *Groupe National des Forêts Tropicales* (National Rainforest Group)
- IDH:** *Initiative pour le commerce durable* (Sustainable Trade Initiative)
- IFL :** Intact Forest Landscape
- IUCN:** International Union for Conservation of Nature
- KFW :** Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau
- LCB:** *Le Commerce du Bois* (The Commerce of Timber)
- LKTS:** Lesser Known Timber Species
- MO:** *Maîtrise d'ouvrage* (Project ownership)
- MOD:** *Maîtrise d'ouvrage déléguée* (Delegated project management)
- OIBT:** *Organisation Internationale des Bois Tropicaux* (ITTO - International Tropical Timber Association)
- ONFI:** *Office National des Forêts International* (National Office for International Forests)
- ONG:** *Organisation Non Gouvernemental* (NGO: Non-Governmental Organisation)
- PEFC/PAFC:** Programme for the Endorsment of Forest Certification
- PES:** Payments for Environmental Services
- PFBC:** *Partenariat pour les Forêts du Bassin du Congo* (CBFP - Congo Basin Forest Partnership)
- PPECF:** *Programme de Promotion de l'Exploitation Certifiée des Forêts* (Programme for the Promotion of Certified Logging)
- RDC:** *République Démocratique du Congo* (DRC: Democratic Republic of Congo)
- RIFFEAC:** *Réseau des Institutions de Formation Forestière et Environnementale de l'Afrique Centrale* (Network of Forestry and Environmental Training Institutions of Central Africa)
- SME :** Small and Medium Enterprise
- SPIB:** *Syndicat des Producteurs Industriels du Bois* (Union of Industrial Timber Producers)
- STTC:** Sustainable Tropical Timber Coalition
- SW4SW:** Sustainable Wood For Sustainable World
- UE:** *Union Européenne* (EU: European Union)
- ULG:** *Université de Liège* (University of Liège)
- UFIGA:** *Union des Forestiers et Industriels du bois du Gabon* (Union of Foresters and Timber Industries of Gabon)
- VSE :** Very Small Enterprise
- WRI:** World Resources Institute



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# ATIBT, THE ASSOCIATION DEDICATED TO TROPICAL TIMBER AND SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT



# EDITORIAL

**OLMAN SERRANO** - ATIBT PRESIDENT



*The tropical forestry sector,  
a local development for a global impact*



There is no doubt that 2020 has been a challenging year for nearly all sectors, not excluding the tropical forest and wood industry. The ongoing sanitary crisis continues affecting the world economy and more importantly, the wellbeing of millions of people. Our thoughts are with the families that lost their beloved ones and with those going through difficult times resulting from the pandemic.

Contrary to the expectations in early 2020, the tropical forestry, including wood products manufacturing and trade, has demonstrated its resilience. While some sectors of the economy collapsed, the tropical wood industry managed to maintain a relatively high level of production and trade, minimizing expected losses.

It is commendable the way that the responsible, tropical wood industry has reacted to the crisis, by taking care of its most valuable asset: their staff and their families. Special medical equipment was imported under very difficult circumstances, hygienic measures were introduced at the workplace and local populations were trained on precautionary healthy measures. As a reward, production and sales could continue with little interruption.

Similarly, the ATIBT team made special efforts in implementing the planned activities for the benefit of its members and thus, supporting the sustainable management of tropical forests resources and

the trade of legally manufactured wood products. Home office has been practiced since early 2020 and numerous virtual meetings, including Board Meetings and the General Assembly, were organized.

As a result, ATIBT's international recognition as a reliable partner in the tropical forestry sector has increased, receiving several invitations to get involved in new initiatives related to its competencies. As reflected in this annual report, despite the general limitations, ATIBT has been active in the tropical forest policy dialog at national, regional and international levels. The work within the different ATIBT Commissions and working groups has been remarkable, involving members and key partners in reflections about improving the value chain, including ecosystem services, intact forest landscapes, cooperation between certified Congo Basin companies and Asian traders and many others.

All these achievements would not had been possible without the continues financial support and active engagement of partners investing in sustainable tropical forestry, such as the German Development Bank (KFW), the European Commission (EU), the French Agency for Development (AFD), the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).



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What could we expect for 2021? ATIBT will make further efforts in working closer to its members, responding to their needs and continue being at their service. While our industry is still dealing with numerous challenges, we are committed to continue our engagement in contributing to the development of the tropical forestry sector, a local development for a global impact. The year 2021 is the 70th anniversary of the creation of our Association. It is a good opportunity to reflect in the future role of ATIBT by developing and implementing a strategic outlook to optimize, among others, our contribution to the sustainable development goals.

Our focus, in collaboration with our partners, continues to tackle major issues, such as reducing the trade of illegally harvested wood products, increasing the contribution of tropical wood to climate change mitigation, increasing local wood processing, professional training programmes, working on the renewal of forest management plans, developing new products and markets, particularly the inter-African markets, adapting to new forestry legislations and looking for a conducive environment for additional investments in further processing.

**If you are not already part of these exiting trends, we cordially invite you to join us.**



# EDITORIAL

BENOÎT JOBBÉ-DUVAL - DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

“ *ATIBT has many ongoing, externally funded actions that are still aligned with the association's strategic missions.* ”

There is no shortage of discussions at ATIBT regarding our association's missions. Some of them are supported by our donors, who come to support us on specific issues, and help us to build "projects" that are directly linked to our association's strategic direction.

As many people know, an audit of ATIBT began at the end of 2020, and its results will be the subject of interesting discussions in 2021. This audit should provide the association with the organisational means to address its three main objectives, namely (1) the sustainable management of tropical forests, (2) the further processing of timber to achieve greater added value, and (3) improved conditions for access to global markets, the promotion and market development of legal and/or certified tropical timber products, as well as lesser known timber species products.

The external funding provided by ATIBT's technical and financial partners covers each of these three main areas. These funded "projects" are therefore an extension of the actions that ATIBT has a duty to carry out. All of the projects ultimately enable ATIBT to reinforce its missions. When reporting on the results of projects, their relevance to the association and its members must always be highlighted.

As a reminder, the commissions are the key instrument that ensures that ATIBT's actions are consistent with the wishes of its members. In 2020, seven commission

meetings took place, to which we must add the work that was done in the Forest-Industry Commission and in the Scientific Council. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of our association who, through their selfless contributions, have enabled substantial progress to be achieved on various issues. These meetings have allowed many members to express themselves and to define priorities. Our objective in 2021 is to increase the number of these working sessions, with the support of all.

The principle stated in our association's rules of procedure is that projects should be set up "at the request of the members". The systematic and structured practice of consulting members must continue, and we want to take the opportunity of this editorial to remind you that ATIBT members have the right to join the commissions of their choice.

2020 will have been a year of closure for several long-term actions undertaken by ATIBT. This is the case of the DynAfFor project, launched in 2012, which aimed to understand the structure and dynamics of Central Africa's forests. This was also the case for various components of the FLEGT-REDD-Certification project, launched in 2013. We will later elaborate on the results that were obtained, but first we must thank the many individuals who were involved in these activities as well as the technical and financial partners who placed their trust in us.



# ATIBT'S GOVERNANCE

ATIBT consists of a board of directors, a general assembly and an executive Bureau. ATIBT's objectives and strategy are decided by the board of directors and approved by its assembly.

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

\*EXECUTIVE BUREAU MEMBERS

name	ORGANISATION	EMAIL	WEBSITE
SERRANO Olman*	<b>ATIBT President</b>	olman.serrano@atibt.org	
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Rivain Stéphane*	<b>OREADE BRECHE</b>	sriv.oreade-breche@orange.fr	<a href="http://www.oreade-breche.fr/">http://www.oreade-breche.fr/</a>
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# ATIBT MEMBERS | IN 2020

## JOINED US IN 2020 :

- INVOICE GREEN
- GLOBAL FORESTRY PRODUCTS
- GFEC
- SOLICAZ
- FRANCISCO MOURAO
- RIFFEAC
- PROBOS
- SEFECCAM
- SOPHIE DIROU
- BAPTISTE MARQUANT

## EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

- AFD
- UE
- FAO
- OIBT
- REP. CENTRAFRICAINE
- REP. DU CONGO
- REP. DE COTE D'IVOIRE
- FONDATION P. A. DE MONACO
- WCS
- WRI
- WWF

## HONORARY MEMBERS

- 1986 - M. LATHAM (UK)
- 1996 - M. GARDINO (Italie)
- 1998 - M. Dr STOLL (Allemagne)
- 2001 - M. LANDROT (France)
- 2006 - M. DELVINGT (Belgique)
- 2011 - M. CRETI (France)
- 2012 - M. LOYER (France)
- 2015 - M. HUNINK (Pays-Bas)
- 2019 - M. SERRANO (Costa Rica)

## DONORS & FUNDERS

- AFD- AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DEVELOPPEMENT
- COMMISSION EUROPEENNE
- FAO - ORGANISATION DES NATIONS-UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE
- OIBT - ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DES BOIS TROPICAUX

## STATES

- RÉPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE
- RÉPUBLIQUE DU CONGO
- RÉPUBLIQUE DE CÔTE D'IVOIRE

## PRODUCERS / SUPPLIERS / TRADE

- ALPICAM
- BAILLIE LUMBER
- BASSO LEGNAMI
- CABD- COMPAGNIE ATLANTIQUE DES BOIS ET DERIVES
- CID
- COMPAGNIE FORESTIERE DE TRANSFORMATION (CFT)
- CORA DOMENICO O & FIGLI SPA
- CORÀ WOOD GABON
- CROSS TRADE
- DENDERWOOD
- DESIGN PARQUET
- DMBP DISPANO
- DUURZAAM HOUT BV
- ETS. PIERRE HENRY & FILS
- EXOTT
- FIBRES INDUSTRIES BOIS SAS
- GIESELMANN GMBH & CO KG
- GLOBAL FORESTRY PRODUCTS DWC-LLC
- GLOBAL TIMBER
- HARDWOODS SPECIALITY PRODUCTS
- HERMPAC
- HUKPES HOUTHANDEL DIEREN B.V.
- IMPEXO INTERNATIONAL GMBH
- INDUSTRIE FORESTIÈRE DE OUESSO (IFO)
- INTERHOLCO AG
- INVOICEGREEN
- JAF GROUP
- JAMMES
- LATHAM
- LUMBER UNIPRESSOAL LDA
- MINH CUONG
- MOKABI SA (GROUPE ROUGIER)
- MOURAO WOOD UNIPRESSOAL LDA
- NHG TIMBER
- OLAM INTERNATIONAL LTD
- PALLISCO CIFM
- PASQUET MENUISERIES
- PELTIER BOIS
- PRECIOUS WOODS HOLDING AG
- RAIL EUROPE
- REGALIS
- ROUGIER AFRIQUE • INTERNATIONAL
- ROUGIER GABON
- SCBT - SOCIÉTÉ DE COMMERCIALISATION DES BOIS TROPICAUX
- SEFECCAM
- SFM - SOCIÉTÉ FORESTIÈRE DU MAINE
- SOMIVAB
- SORIEL S.L.
- SYLVACO GROUPE MALVAUX
- THE PENROD COMPANY
- TIMBER SEA

- TIMTRADE SRL
- TRANCHIVOIRE
- TROPICA BOIS
- VANDECASTEELE HOUTIMPORT
- VASTO LEGNO
- WIJMA KAMPEN B.V.

## SERVICE COMPANIES AND RESEARCH FIRMS

- BOCS
- BUREAU VERITAS
- DUBAI WOODSHOW
- FORÉZIENNE MFLS
- FORM INTERNATIONAL
- FRM INGÉNIERIE ENVIRONMENT CONSULTING (GFEC)
- GSEZ
- KINOMÉ
- NATURE +
- ONF INTERNATIONAL
- ORÉADE-BRÈCHE
- PREFERRED BY NATURE
- SNCF RÉSEAU
- SOLICAZ
- STIHL
- STRATEMARK
- TEREA
- TERMOLEGNO SRL

## ASSOCIATIONS & TRADE UNIONS

- ETTF - EUROPEAN TIMBER TRADE FEDERATION
- FEDERLEGNOARREDO - FEDECOMLEGNO
- FEDUSTRIA
- FIB - FÉDÉRATION DES INDUSTRIELS DU BOIS
- GD HOLZ - GESAMTVERBAND DEUTSCHER HOLZHANDEL E.V.
- GFBC - GROUPEMENT DE LA FILIÈRE BOIS DU CAMEROUN
- LCB - LE COMMERCE DU BOIS
- SPIB - SYNDICAT DES PRODUCTEURS INDUSTRIELS DE BOIS
- TTF - TIMBER TRADE FEDERATION
- UFIGA - UNION DES FORESTIERS ET INDUSTRIELS DU BOIS DU GABON
- UNICONGO (UNION PATRONALE ET INTERPROFESSIONNELLE DU CONGO)

## NGO

- BVRIO
- FSC INTERNATIONAL
- IUCN - UNION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA CONSERVATION DE LA NATURE
- PEFC COUNCIL
- FONDATION PRINCE ALBERT II DE MONACO
- PROBOS
- WCS - WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY
- WRI - WORLD RESSOURCES INSTITUTE
- WWF - WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE

## RESEARCH / TRAINING

- CIRAD - CENTRE DE COOPÉRATION INTERNATIONALE EN RECHERCHE AGRONOMIQUE POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT
- ENSTIB - ECOLE NATIONALE SUPÉRIEURE DES TECHNOLOGIES ET INDUSTRIES DU BOIS
- ÉRAIFT - ÉCOLE REGIONALE POSTUNIVERSITAIRE D'AMÉNAGEMENT ET DE GESTION INTÉGRÉS DES FORÊTS
- RIFFEAC
- UNIVERSITÉ DE LIÈGE / GEMBLoux AGRO-BIO TECH

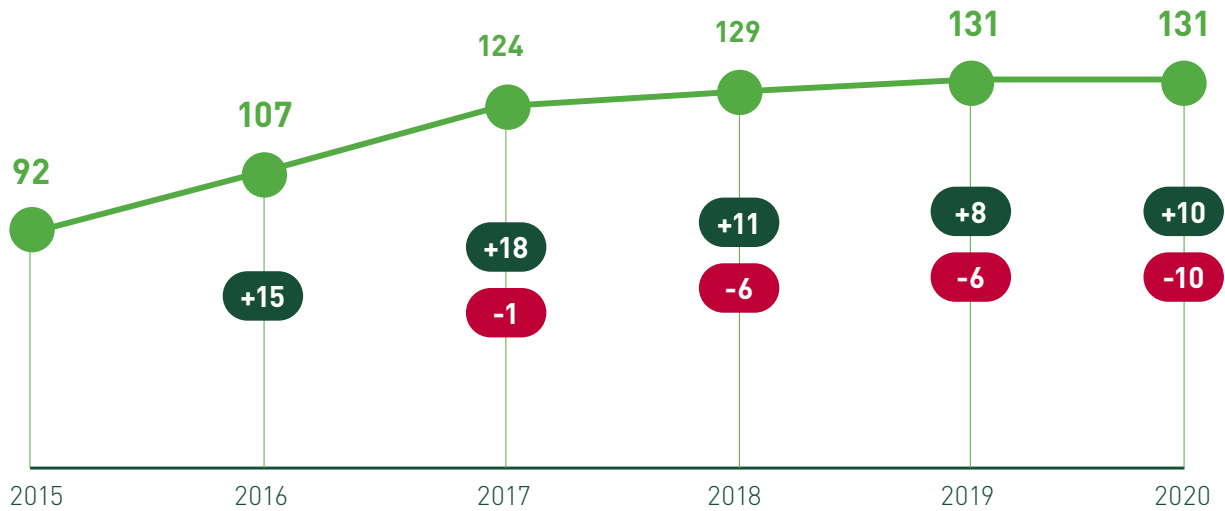
## INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

- ANTOINE DE LA ROCHE-FORDIERE
- BAPTISTE MARQUANT
- BENOÎT GOMMET - FRANCE TIMBER
- BÉRÉNICE CASTADOT - TFM CONSULTING
- CHRISTIAN MORASSO
- EDOARDO GIVONE
- EMMANUEL GROUDEL - WALE
- ETICWOOD
- FRÉDÉRIC ANQUETIL - A.F BOIS
- ISIDORO BLANCHI - FERIMEX
- JULIE BERTILLE LANDRY
- MARCIN MAKOCKI - TERRATIMBER
- NICOLAS DUBART - BOIS FORÊT CONSULTANCES
- NICOLAS JAMET
- NICOLAS PERTHUISOT
- OLIVIER BONNEAU - OBBOIS
- OLIVIER DEVILLARD
- OLIVIER MEGARD
- PIERRE-YVES LE FLECHER
- RICHARD FAYS - FAYSWOOD
- SOPHIE DIROU
- SOTOMAR
- VINCENT PELÉ - EKWATO

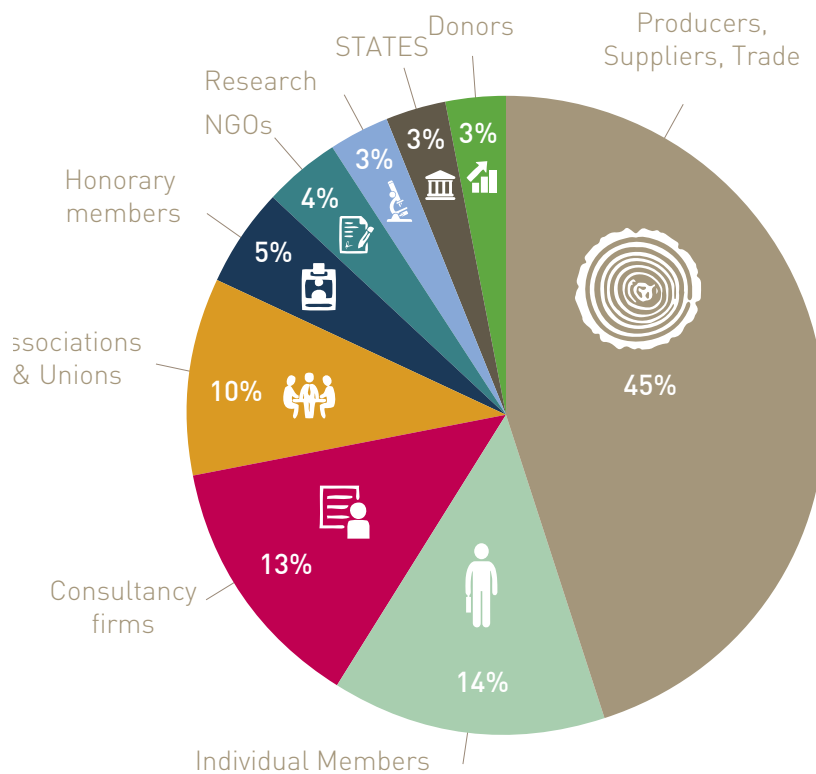
## EVOLUTION OF THE MEMBERSHIP BASE:

At the end of 2020, ATIBT had 131 members from around 30 different countries. 10 members left ATIBT in 2020 and their departure was offset by the arrival of

10 new members. Among the members, nine honorary members (former presidents) should also be added, which brings ATIBT's current membership to 140.



## TYPES OF MEMBERS



# ATIBT'S REPRESENTATIVENESS IN THE TROPICAL TIMBER SECTOR

In accordance with the 2016 statutes, ATIBT's Board of Directors reflects all of the association's stakeholders. Indeed, ATIBT brings together players from the entire sector, with producers primarily from Central and West Africa and importers and processors from Europe, America and Asia. Also included are service companies, research firms, trade unions, research centres, states (Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Central African Republic), individual members, associations and NGOs.

ATIBT members are sector stakeholders who are committed to the legal and sustainable management of tropical forests,

and must demonstrate their commitment through third-party verified sustainable management certification if they are concessionaires, or chain of custody certification if they are merchants or distributors.

ATIBT also has members which are established as associations themselves. This is the case of producer unions in Central and West Africa, and of European associations of timber importers and merchants.

ATIBT's representativeness is thus genuine, and the association is therefore often called upon to debate on the sector's leading issues and the future of sustainable tropical forest management.

## A TEAM DEDICATED TO THE SECTOR

The ATIBT team is made up of permanent staff in charge of managing the association, as well as experts in charge of specific actions. These experts often have long-term links with the association, through actions that are part of a sustainable relationship. A few others collaborate on more specific actions, in the context of expertise reports or targeted studies.

Here, we will only present the permanent team and the long-term experts. Whether salaried or contracted experts, the entire team shares the same values of commitment and cooperation, and acts above all in the interests of the association's members and partners, and of the sector.



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## **BENOÎT JOBBÉ-DUVAL**

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Benoît Jobbé-Duval has 15 years of experience in both research and development in tropical environments, having worked in Cambodia, Guatemala, Mexico and especially in Africa, where he spent eight years in both Gabon and Côte d'Ivoire. Prior to joining ATIBT, Benoît worked for 13 years in Spain's timber industry. Benoît is an agronomist engineer with a Master's degree from Bordeaux Sciences Agro and from Ecole Supérieur d'Agronomie Tropicale de Montpellier



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## **JACQUELINE LARDIT-VAN DE POL**

COORDINATOR OF FOREST GOVERNANCE, SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING ACTIONS

Jacqueline Lardit-Van de Pol joined ATIBT in early 2016, taking of the FLEGT-IP project. She is currently in charge of the ADEFAC project. Her twenty years of experience in the sub-region, notably in Cameroon and Gabon, and her successive positions as coordinator of an independent observer pilot project for an NGO, as a forest management and legality certification manager for private companies, or as a consultant in the evaluation of the VPA-FLEGT process for donors, have enabled her to understand the interests, the challenges and the capabilities of the various stakeholders. Jacqueline, based in Gabon, is the secretary of the forestry-Industry commission. She has a Master's degree in Tropical Nature Resource Management for the University of Wageningen.



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## **CAROLINE DUHESME**

COORDINATOR OF FOREST GOVERNANCE, SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND CERTIFICATION ACTIONS

Caroline Duhesme has a technical university degree in agronomy and is also a graduate of the École Supérieure du Bois of Nantes (France). She was in charge of the development of legality and forest management certifications in the Congo Basin and internationally for Bureau Veritas Certification for 8 years. She was then involved in several projects and studies related to the implementation of FLEGT and certification processes and the improvement of forest governance. Caroline joined the ATIBT team in Nogent-sur-Marne at the beginning of January 2017 as deputy coordinator of the FLEGT-REDD projects, in particular the REDD+, FLEGT (EUTR and VPA) and certification components, then took on the lead role in May 2020. Caroline is also secretary of the Certification Commission.



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**CAMILLE RENARD**  
PROJECT COORDINATOR

Camille holds an MBA and a Master's degree in international financial analysis from Laval University in Quebec City. She has over 10 years of experience in both private and humanitarian sectors. Given her cross-disciplinary profile and her sensitivity to development and environmental issues, Camille Renard joined the ATIBT team for a first mission from April 2015 to March 2016. She joined the team again in August 2017 for new missions with ATIBT that draw on her experience for the benefit of the association, both for the financial management of the entire association and to coordinate various and specific missions focusing on communications and the setting up and management of projects.



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**GERMAIN YENE**  
PROJECT MANAGER

Germain Yene is a water and forests engineer. He has been working on forestry and agro-industrial management issues in Central and Western Africa for the past 20 years, and has also conducted certification audits. Germain is currently the coordinator of the PAFC project for the Congo Basin, which is led by ATIBT pending the creation of the PAFC Congo Basin entity.



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**ALAIN TIOTSOP**  
ATIBT MANAGER CONGO

Alain Tiotsop is a forestry engineer. He is based in Brazzaville and joined the team in 2018. He coordinates the various project activities implemented in the Republic of Congo and represents ATIBT there. In this capacity, he is in charge of ATIBT's office in Congo. He has solid experience in various fields: forest mapping, forest inventories, the processing of forest inventory data, forest legislation, the drafting and implementation of forest management plans, among others. Alain also has extensive experience in the private sector.



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**MANISSA TANCHALEUN**  
HEAD OF CHINA AND COVID IMPACT ACTIONS

Manissa Tanchaleun holds a Master's degree in international solidarity and social action from IRCOM (Angers, France). She was in charge in 2019 of the organisation of the ATIBT Forum in China and in 2020 of the coordination of an FAO project and a project in partnership with BVRIO on the impacts of COVID on the Congo Basin's forest/timber sector. Prior to joining ATIBT, Manissa was in charge of programme coordination for the Enfants du Mékong (Children of Mekong) NGO. In this capacity, she was responsible for the operational management and interface between the field and the head office, the administrative and financial monitoring of the programmes, the supervision of multicultural teams and the educational training of the local network.



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**MAYLIS BORELLI**  
COORDONATRICE ADJOINTE DES ACTIONS DE GOUVERNANCE  
FORESTIERE ET DE GESTION DURABLE

Maylis Borelli is an engineer specialised in agriculture, forestry and environment, and a graduate of the Purpan engineering school in Toulouse (advanced Masters programme). Maylis also obtained Natura-Dis training in "Management of natural areas". Before joining the ATIBT team in September 2019 as deputy coordinator of the FLEGT-REDD projects, Maylis was a consultant in climate change adaptation for the World Food Programme. She was in charge of forest, agriculture, climate and NGO monitoring projects with the French Development Agency in the Republic of Congo and she also headed community conservation actions for ESI Congo.



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**HORTENSE ELLA-MENYE BATINDEK**  
COMMUNICATION AND MONITORING-EVALUATION  
MANAGER FOR THE ADEFAC PROJECT

Hortense is a sociologist and an expert in project management, gender issues and training engineering. She is also a member of the Cameroonian Development Evaluation Association (CaDEA). Currently working on the ADEFAC project, she joined the team in May 2020 and is in charge of both internal and external communications as well as their monitoring and evaluation.



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**ELISE MAZEYRAC**  
HEAD OFFICE COORDINATOR  
OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING ACTIONS

Elise Mazeyrac has a degree in Education Sciences and in Political Sciences. She is specialised in training project management and training engineering. Elise joined ATIBT as ADEFAC project manager at the association's headquarters in France in May 2020.



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**ALESSANDRA NEGRI**  
COORDINATOR OF TIMBER PROMOTION ACTIONS

Alessandra has a degree in political science and one from Agro-ParisTech and has a solid knowledge of environmental issues at both the political and technical levels. She specialises in both environmental strategy and negotiation. Within the framework of a partnership between LCB and ATIBT, Alessandra's missions focus on the promotion of all timber materials. She will be involved in the ATIBT marketing project, and in some key projects, in particular the "Dryades" project (creation of EPD-FDES technical sheets for tropical timber materials).



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**JOSEPHA COACHE**  
MARKETING PROGRAMME ASSISTANT

Josépha Coache holds a master's degree in "Agricultural Development and Economic Policies" from the Sorbonne University's *Institut d'Études du Développement*. She is currently ATIBT's marketing programme assistant as well as that of the Themis project, since February 2020.



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**HAYAT HOUMA**  
ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

Hayat holds a DUT in law from the University of Paris XIII, and an accounting assistant degree from the same university. Hayat joined ATIBT in May 2020, as the association's administrative and accounting assistant.





## TEAM DEPARTURES EARLY IN 2020

Patrick Martin, ATIBT's Technical Director, and Nancy M'Changama, Accounting Assistant, left our association at the beginning of 2020. Manissa Tanchaleun left our association in September 2020.



# SIGNATURE OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN CIRAD AND ATIBT IN 2020 TO STRENGTHEN THE TECHNICAL COMPONENT OF ATIBT

This agreement, signed by the two organisations, relates to the implementation of technical activities relating to tropical timber, its processing and its uses.

CIRAD's **Tropical Timber** team, which belongs to the Biomass, Timber, Energy, [Bioproducts Unit \(BioWooEB\)](#), is involved in research and value-adding efforts pertaining to the improvement and development of processing activities and the use of timber from hot regions. These activities simultaneously focus on the raw timber material, the processing and implementation processes, and the marketing of both timber and timber products.

A collaborative framework has thus been defined to reinforce the coordination of actions related to wood knowledge and to rationalise ATIBT's interventions in its technical activities at the downstream level of the sector.



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## Within the framework of this agreement, several areas of cooperation have been defined:

- Joint participation in both current and future projects and training sessions.
- Direct support from CIRAD's **Tropical Timber** team to help ATIBT members answer specific technical questions in all areas relating to the expertise, the implementation and the use of tropical timber.
- Participation in the work conducted by the AFNOR standardisation commissions in relation to tropical timber.
- Contribution to the ongoing efforts of ATIBT's Materials and Standardisation commission, and occasional interaction with the other commissions, in particular the Marketing commission, the Forestry Industry commission and the Training commission.
- Participation in the LKTS (Lesser Known Timber Species) working group which is currently managed by FSC.
- Publication of articles and technical documents in ATIBT's newsletter, and brief contributions to ATIBT's annual report.

Improved synergies between the two organisations are likely possible via ATIBT's Training commission, as well as through ATIBT's ability to establish a link between the sector's players and CIRAD's training initiatives.

# ATIBT, ITS MEMBERS AND ITS PARTNERS

ATIBT's numerous actions are the result of the growing involvement of many of its members, particularly through the commission meetings or the projects in which they are often quite involved, following the example of forest companies, processing companies, engineering research firms or research centres such as the CIRAD or Gembloux, with which interactions are almost constant, at one level or another. The FSC, PEFC and Preferred By Nature organisations, among others, also contribute a great deal to the Association's work. There have also been ongoing exchanges with STTC, the Sustainable Tropical Timber Coalition.

Mention should be made of the Chinese organisations GGSC and CTWPDA, with whom close contact has been maintained following the October 2019 Shanghai Forum, due to monthly videoconferences.

We also have very frequent discussions with the **FAO**, in particular with the SW4SW initiative, and also the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries, the **ITTO**, the **CBFP** (of which ATIBT runs the "Private Sector" college), **EFI**, the producers' unions in Africa, the European federations and **ETTF** in particular. These exchanges often benefit from the support of donors such as **AFD**, **FFEM**, **KFW-PPECF**, the **European Union**, not to mention **IDH**.

# 2020

## AT A GLANCE

The year 2020 was marked by an unexpected event that had a profound impact on international interactions and events: the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Many major events have been either cancelled or postponed, while others have been held in a different fashion. The ATIBT community has adapted and both developed and broadened its digital skills. The year 2020 was therefore marked by a new type of international meeting on a more or less large scale: webinars.

### JANUARY

- Amendment to China's forestry law now includes a ban on illegal timber
- Publication of forest sector inventory studies (Congo, DRC, Gabon, Cameroon) – ATIBT
- Signature of a cooperation agreement between the Gabonese government and FSC International
- ATIBT mission in Côte d'Ivoire as part of the FLEGT – REDD+ projects
- Marketing Commission and Timber Standardisation Commission
- Presentation of the Africa 2020 "Web-TV" project to AFD
- ATIBT and RIFFEAC study trip to the "Great East" timber trade centre and ADEFAC project preparation workshop.

### FEBRUARY

- FLEGT projects steering committee in Brussels.
- Signing of the delegation agreement with the RIFFEAC for the Project supporting the development of continuing education in Central Africa's forestry and timber sector – ADEFAC
- ATIBT mission in the Republic of Congo

## MARCH

- Deployment of the computerised legality verification system in the Republic of Congo
- Launch of ATIBT's agroforestry and plantation studies
- Presentation by ONFI of the FORLAND project in Nogent-sur-Marne
- 61<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Timber Industry (ACSFII)

## APRIL

- Distribution of the Guide for the establishment of agroforestry projects for forestry companies in the framework of ATIBT's actions
- Steering committee of the ATIBT marketing programme
- Launch of the Dryades project

## MAY

- Web meeting of the agroforestry group of the *Cité du Développement Durable* (Sustainable Development Society)
- Launch of the ADEFAC project
- PAFC – Congo Basin stakeholders meeting

## JUNE

- ATIBT certification commission launch meeting
- 2<sup>nd</sup> public consultation on the PAFC Congo Basin forest management certification standard
- Adoption of measures to combat illegal artisanal timber in the DRC
- ATIBT Board of Directors and General Assembly meetings

## JULY

- FFEM celebrates its 25th anniversary
- Partnership between the FIB and the CNCEIB
- Publication of the book "*Sentiers de suivi de la croissance, de la mortalité et de la phénologie des arbres tropicaux: Guide méthodologique*" ("Pathways to monitor the growth, mortality and phenology of tropical trees: Methodological guide") by the DYNAFAC collective
- Enactment of law num. 33-2020 of the Republic of Congo Forestry Code

## AUGUST

- Publication of the study on the impact of COVID-19 on the Republic of Congo's forestry sector by ATIBT

## SEPTEMBER

- ATIBT mission in Côte d'Ivoire
- ATIBT mission to Cameroon as part of the ADEFAC project
- First steering committee of the ADEFAC project
- FAO ACSFI Committee meeting
- Presidential decree in Equatorial Guinea banning logging
- SPIB-ATIBT workshop on "Traceability and forest certification of timber" in Côte d'Ivoire

## OCTOBER

- FIB-ATIBT workshop on "Traceability and forest certification of timber" in DRC
- FSC publishes the revised national forest management standard for Cameroon
- ATIBT mission in DRC
- Publication of the Guide for the establishment of timber plantation projects, for forestry companies and within the framework of ATIBT actions
- Webinar entitled "Plantation and agroforestry: innovative opportunities for the private forestry sector – Congo Basin and Côte d'Ivoire" organised by ATIBT
- Publication of the study on the state of affairs regarding forestry and timber sector stakeholders in Côte d'Ivoire – ATIBT
- Equatorial Guinea – log exports are once again allowed
- STTC Conference

## NOVEMBER

- 3<sup>rd</sup> ATIBT Think Tank
- Validation of the proposed procedures manual for the approval of private certification schemes in the context of the FLEGT Congo VPA's LVS and its roadmap at the national CCM12 conference
- Validation of the PAFC Congo Basin forest management certification standard (PAFC BC) by the regional working group (Forum)
- ATIBT mission to Cameroon as part of the ADEFAC project
- The Timber Trade Portal has been updated and is now available in French
- ATIBT reading guide for the Republic of Congo's new forestry code

## DECEMBER

- National Strategy to combat Imported Deforestation (SNDI - *Stratégie Nationale de lutte contre la Déforestation Importée*): France's government presents its public procurement guide
- "Living with Tropical Forests", a new book by the CIRAD
- Publication of the first short films to raise awareness among forest and timber sector stakeholders within the framework of ATIBT and its partners' actions (FIB, SPIB, UFIGA)
- STTC videoconference
- Partnership agreement between ATIBT and the CIRAD's tropical timber team
- ATIBT Board of Directors meeting



2

# ATIBT'S SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL AND ITS COMMISSIONS, AT THE HEART OF THE ASSOCIATION

# THE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL



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Formed in 2017, the Scientific Council is chaired by Professor Jean-Louis Doucet. He brings together scientific partners specialised in issues related to the sustainable management of tropical forests.

The Council can be called on by ATIBT or it can address the Association to issue an opinion on a scientific problem in a well-defined theme deemed a priority by ATIBT. The composition of the Council ensures a neutral and independent diagnosis.

The Scientific Council is very similar in its composition to that of the DynAffFor and P3FAC projects' scientific and technical committees, and in a way contributes to

the sustainability of these bodies. In addition to ATIBT's scientific council, relations between the CIRAD, Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, research organisations and Central African universities have led to collaboration on numerous studies that can also be capitalised on via the Scientific Council.

ATIBT's STC also works in close collaboration with the R2FAC "Central African Forest Research Network", a network that includes 10 of the region's research and higher education institutions as well as four northern and international institutions such as the CIRAD and Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech.

# THE COMMISSIONS

Throughout 2020, the commissions continued to be a platform for both thinking and orientation for ATIBT. These commissions are one of the most popular settings for the association's members, as they can request to join them in a rather flexible way. The committees consist of between 10 and 25 members. As of the end of 2020, ATIBT had the following commissions: Training, Certification, Marketing, Timber – Standardisation, Forest-Industry. A specific number of actions are directly linked to these commissions. At the beginning of 2021, a highly active working group focusing on agroforestry issues became a formal ATIBT commission, which it will be appropriate to include in ATIBT's next statutes.

## MARKETING COMMISSION:

The marketing commission is chaired by Mr. Olman Serrano, ATIBT's President, and secretary Benoit Jobbé-Duval, with the backing of Bertrand Faucon, acting as Project Management Support for the programme.

Since the beginning of this programme in 2015, the Marketing Commission meetings have always been essential and the source of both information and decision making. In 2020, 3 meetings were held, on 15 January, 16 April and 16 December. Two other meetings were held, but mainly with loggers, on 28 July and 1 December, on the topic of LKTS.

The minutes of these meetings are available upon request, but we summarise the main topics discussed below:

- Covid-19: crisis marketing, press releases and targeted company support.
- Recruitment of the first official Fair&Precious brand partners. Continued recruitment.
- "Media and Social network" actions and proposal to reinforce the editorial team.
- Discussions with important organisations related to the F&P marketing

programme: SW4SW, STTC, IHC, Malaysian Timber Council.

- Numerous discussions on technical projects related to the marketing programme.
- Preparation and organisation of ATIBT's 3<sup>rd</sup> Think Tank session.
- Work on certified purchases by importing companies.
- Definition of marketing programme indicators and how information will be gathered.
- Combating illegal timber and strengthening of the EUTR.
- Dialogue with Chinese organisations.

It should be noted that there is a division of tasks between the marketing commission, the certification commission and the timber-material-standardisation commission, as there are many certification and technical issues which are linked to the marketing programme.

A complete annual report of ATIBT's marketing programme was elaborated with the Stratemark company, which acted as support for the programme's project managers.





## CERTIFICATION COMMISSION

Under the leadership of its co-chair, the certification committee took off in 2020 to become a platform for information, discussion and reflection on topics related to certification. It is made up of about fifteen participants, representing the sector (producers, donors, professional associations, various experts, anthropologists, certification scheme managers and certification bodies). It is co-chaired by Sophie Dirou and Nicolas Perthuisot, and the secretary is Caroline Duhesme.

### **Its objectives are as follows:**

- Monitor forest certification in the Congo Basin and disseminate relevant information in a transparent manner to ATIBT members, partners and stakeholders;
- Answer questions from ATIBT members on the implementation of their certification process and advise them;
- To be involved in the consultation and decision processes of the new reference systems and/or requirements of the certification systems and to support the members in these changes;
- Participate, when possible, in various events related to forest certification;
- Identify and follow initiatives and processes that may be complementary or in resonance with forest certification (FLEGT, REDD+, PES, SDGs, certification of other sectors, etc.);
- To feed the reflections that can be conducted within the other ATIBT commissions (forest-industry, marketing and scientific)

The first meeting of the certification commission was held on June 16, 2020, and a second was held on December 16, 2020.

### **The topics followed by the commission in 2020 are:**

- Monitoring of certified areas;
- Monitoring of the PPECF coaching process;
- Monitoring of FSC, and in particular of the IFL theme (follow-up of the study on the impacts of the application of IFL requirements according to motion 34, follow-up of the Focus Forest or High Value Forest work, update on the validation of FSC national standards) and the preparation of the FSC GA in Bali;
- Monitoring of the Congo Basin PAFC project, and in particular the development and validation of the forest management standard;
- Reflections on legal, fiscal and political incentives for certification;
- Monitoring of the French strategy to fight deforestation (SNDI) and the work of the Scientific and Technical Council on Forest (realization of a study on certifications with the objective of zero deforestation);
- Monitoring of the initiatives in progress to feed the reflection on the possible articulations between the FLEGT and the private certification schemes;
- Involvement in the evaluation study of the certification systems initiated by the EU and carried out by Preferred by Nature (ex-Nepcon);
- Reflection on the theme of Payments for Ecosystem Services.



## TRAINING COMMISSION

Due to its role as a technical reference point for the entire "tropical timber" sector, and as it is aware of changes in the sector, ATIBT is a strategic player in terms of raising awareness, training and informing the various forestry sector stakeholders. ATIBT has thus made training a strong focus of its strategy, which contributes to the profitability of the sector, its flexibility and the development of people.

Indeed, training is now more necessary than ever to accompany the implementation of the Congo Basin's current leading priorities in terms of the industrialisation of the sector and the development of local added value. ATIBT has thus adopted a training strategy that is backed by the Association's Training Commission, chaired by Mr. Patrick Charpentier, and which focuses on seven primary areas:

1. Anticipating and adopting a comprehensive vision by improving the link between training and employment;
2. Applying project management principles;
3. Backing effective training practices;
4. Developing a partnership approach to training engineering;
5. Innovating in terms of pedagogical engineering;
6. Progressively mastering financial engineering;
7. And encouraging the commitment of all stakeholders involved and impacted by training through communication efforts.

In 2020, the RIFFEAC (*Réseau des Institutions de Formation Forestière et Environnementale d'Afrique Centrale* - Network of Central Africa's Forestry and Environmental Training Institutions), a partner and member of ATIBT, signed a funding agreement with the French Development Agency (AFD) for the implementation of the project entitled ADEFAC (*Appui au Développement de la Formation continue pour la filière forêt-bois en Afrique Centrale* - Support for the Development of Continuing Education for Central Africa's Forestry and Timber Sector), of which ATIBT is the delegated project manager. The objectives of this project (below) are in line with ATIBT's training strategy:

1. The private stakeholders of the forestry-timber sector are better equipped to identify and structure their continuous training needs and they develop a training process within the company and/or within the professional groups or unions they are a part of;
2. A durable system for the implementation and certification of the continuing education offer is developed, in response to the needs of forestry and timber sector stakeholders;
3. The conditions for the institutional and financial sustainability of continuing education for Central Africa's forestry and timber sector are explored, in connection with both regional and national dynamics.

The year 2020 saw the launch of the ADEFAC project, the establishment by ATIBT and RIFFEAC of a technical implementation team for the project, and the start of activities, despite the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In 2021, ATIBT's Training Commission initiatives will be re-launched, focusing on actions chosen and carried out by its members, and linked to the activities of the ADEFAC project, whose implementation will be accelerated.

## TIMBER & STANDARDISATION COMMISSION



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The commission had a new chairman in 2020, as Emmanuel Groutel replaced Guillaume de la Peschardière, with Patrick Martin acting as secretary.

The subjects dealt with in 2020 were as follows:

- **Validation of the "Levels of Timber Processing" document.**
- **Addition of modifications to the Nomenclature**, with various clarifications such as:
  - Validation within the Afzelia genus of the distinction between Doussié, Pachy and Lingué.
  - Validation within the Pterocarpus genus of the distinction between Padouk and tinctorius.

These changes will be presented in the form of an erratum of the 2016 General Nomenclature of Tropical Timber, which is posted on the ATIBT website, and will be the subject of an article to be published in the newsletter.

- **In terms of the timber classification rules**, the commission decided to not recommend the use of the SATA rules (as mentioned in its preface). The SATA rules remain professional rules whose use is voluntary. The committee would like to see the ATIBT classification rules revised and broadened (with the inclusion, in particular, of the definitions outlined in the SATA rules) in relation to the two most commercially used grading designations: FAS and AIC. The members of the commission are invited to participate in the discussions that will be carried out and to propose any modifications of the working documents that they consider necessary. The objective of this work is to submit the text to the next technical commission meeting for validation.
- **The ATIBT documents entitled "Contracts and Practices" and "Litigation and Claims"** contain data on trade practices and the handling of possible disputes. Unfortunately, these documents are quite outdated (1988) and describe practices that are totally obsolete. A summary document needs to be developed that aggregates key information, such as claim timeframes, tolerances regarding the objects of claims, damage assessment, and communication for the handling of disputes.
- **The Dryades project.** European regulatory constraints on environmental aspects will evolve this year with the obligation to carry out life cycle assessments (LCA) of new buildings and the display on products of references to environmental product declarations (EPD) such as CE (European Compliance) marking. This environmental data will therefore be mandatory for the sale of products on the European market as of 1 January 2022.

## AGROFORESTRY COMMISSION



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The Forestry & Industry commission was re-launched in 2018. Nicolas Bayol chairs the commission and Jacqueline Lardit-van de Pol acts as secretary. Members were identified from among representatives of companies based in Africa, research firms and professional associations that are ATIBT members. It strengthens the ties between the ATIBT team and Central and Western Africa's forestry and timber companies through the following missions:

- To conduct a critical analysis with field stakeholders in order to actively contribute to international debates on the tropical forest-timber sector, by pragmatically addressing the requirements advocated on the international scene in terms of the sustainable management of forests and the evolutions of markets;
- To unite the various players of producer countries around the major issues relating to the tropical forest and timber sector, to participate in debates, to adopt and defend shared positions by leading an "Africa" network to carry out studies, to enable the sharing of both experiences and investments and to tackle technical issues;
- To maintain a link between producer and consumer countries, communicating on the measures implemented in producer countries and contributing to improved visibility of the sector.

The Commission also issues opinions on which it is called upon by ATIBT.

Given the physical distances between the members of the commission, historically most of the exchanges were done through a mailing group. Currently, and due to growing adoption of video-conferencing tools, the commission has met by video-conference. The activities of the 2020 commission focused on 2 themes:

1. The preparation of a strategy to facilitate the elaboration of management plans for a 2<sup>nd</sup> rotation;
2. The final summary of the DynAfFor project on the impact of logging on forest timber varieties.

A third theme linked to these two themes addressed in 2020 involves the development of local timber processing. The regional Central Africa decisions to stop exporting logs as of 2022, and to further develop the industrial timber sector in order to increase added value in the countries of origin, require the involvement of members to:

- Establish support for discussions with state institutions on accompanying measures, in particular to facilitate investments and strengthen training in order to have access to qualified workers and managers;
- Develop new industries.

The forestry-industry commission is actively seeking members who are more specialised in timber processing and processed product markets to accompany discussions in 2021 on the further development of the timber industry in connection with:

- The diversification of harvested tree varieties;
- The elaboration of management plans for a 2<sup>nd</sup> rotation.

## AGROFORESTRY COMMISSION



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Within the framework of the actions carried out by ATIBT and the entities of the *Cité du Développement Durable* (Sustainable Development Society) in Nogent-sur-Marne, an agroforestry working group has been active since 2018. ATIBT has validated this forum for discussions and exchanges by creating an Agroforestry Commission which will complete the panel [of ATIBT commissions](#).

This new Commission will be open to ATIBT members and to partners of the *Cité du Développement Durable* of Nogent-sur-Marne.

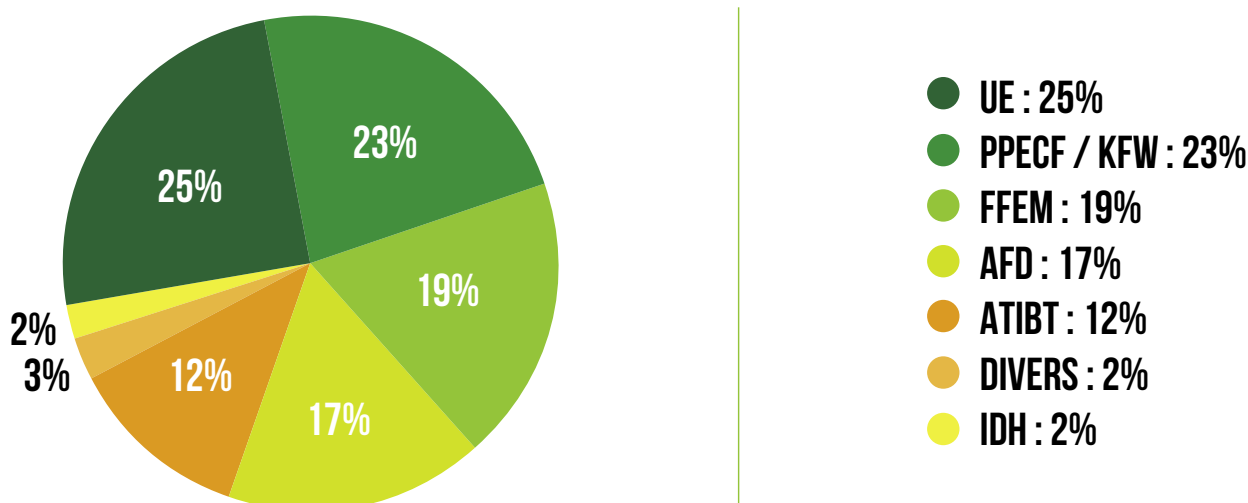


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# KEY FIGURES RELATING TO ATIBT AND THE SECTOR



# THE ORIGIN OF ATIBT'S RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR 2020



## ATIBT'S FINANCIAL SITUATION AT THE END OF 2020

Resources in K€	2020	2019	Variation	Variation %
Contributions and private partnerships	203	219,9	-17	-8 %
Subsidies	1 481	1 038	443	43 %
Miscellaneous and Exceptional	25	44	-19	-43 %
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1 709</b>	<b>1302</b>	<b>407</b>	

Expenses in K€	2020	2019	Variation	Variation %
Project implementation and consultancy	989	571	418	73 %
Missions for project implementation	60	195	-135	-69 %
Salary expenses	456	397	59	15 %
Operating expenses/miscellaneous	201	133	68	51 %
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1 707</b>	<b>1 296</b>	<b>411</b>	

Operating result in K€	2020	2019	Variation	Variation %
	2	6	-4	-66 %

# A FEW FIGURES ON THE SECTOR IN THE CONGO BASIN

## ATIBT summary table about the main data of the forest-wood sector in the Congo Basin

Update May 2021 with the contribution of OFAC and COMIFAC

Points of comparison	Cameroon	Gabon	Congo	DRC	CAR
Forest and exploitation					
<b>Area of accessible dense rainforest (% of country)<sup>1</sup></b>	18,6 millions ha	23,7 millions ha (98%)	21,3 millions ha (EDF 2010)	114 millions ha (EDF 2010)	22,2 millions ha (48%)
<b>Area allocated to industrial operations<sup>1</sup></b>	6,4 millions ha	14,7 millions ha	15,2 millions ha	14,8 millions ha	3,7 millions ha (OFAC 2018)
<b>Total certified areas</b>	<b>3,596 millions ha</b>	<b>2,728 millions ha</b>	<b>4,952 millions ha</b>	<b>0,750 million ha</b>	<b>0 ha</b>
FSC PAFC/PEFC	0,341 million ha	2,061 millions ha	2,989 millions ha	0 ha	0 ha
Legality+ (certif legality+FSC CW)	3,255 millions ha	0,667 million ha	1,963 millions ha	0,750 million ha	0 ha
<b>Number of large companies</b>	About 60	About 40	About 30	About 10	About 10
<b>Number of small businesses and artisans<sup>2</sup></b>	ND	More than 100	15 SME and more than 600 artisans	In 2014 <sup>3</sup> : 105 artisanal licenses granted in Oriental Province 70 in Equateur Province and 47 in Bandundu In 2018: More than 1,400 operators members of ACEFA <sup>4</sup>	
Formal log production (m <sup>3</sup> ) <sup>5</sup>	2,5 Millions (2018)	2,1 Millions (2019)	1,8 Millions (2019)	0,3 Million (2019)	0,6 Million (2019)
Estimated informal production (in roundwood equivalent) <sup>6</sup>	2,4 Millions	0,3 Million	0,3 Million	3,4 Million	0,1 Million
Share of the first 4 producers on the production <sup>7</sup>	29% (part d'exportation 2018)	40% (2018)	46% (2017)	82% (2019)	70% (2019)
<b>Main species used by the industry</b>	Tali, Okan, Béli, Azobé, Naga, Dabéma, Bilinga, Nieuuk, Ayous,	Okoumé (about 57%), Azobé, Béli, Tali, Padouk,	Sapelli, Okoumé, Okan, Tali, Kosipo, Padouk, Wenge, Iroko	Wenge, Afromosia, Tali, Sapelli, Acajou	Sapelli, Mukulungu, Ayous, Iroko, Doussié, Tali

1. Data from BAD / FRMi report Strategic vision and industrialization of the timber sector in Central Africa, 2018

2. Companies operating semi-industrially and/or selling their products firstly on the local market

3. ITIE, 2015 - Report on the scoping study of the forest sector in DRC

4. Source : ACEFA

5. BAD / FRMi report Strategic vision and industrialization of the timber sector in Central Africa, 2018; Except Congo: MEF 2018.

6. Various CIFOR reports

7. BAD / FRMi report Strategic vision and industrialization of the timber sector in Central Africa, 2018, except Cameroon and CAR: OFAC 2018

## ATIBT summary table about the main data of the forest-wood sector in the Congo Basin

Update May 2021 with the contribution of OFAC and COMIFAC

Points of comparison	Cameroon	Gabon	Congo	DRC	CAR
<b>Part des 3 premières essences sur la production</b>	19% (OFAC, 2018)	70% (OFAC, 2018)	57% (OFAC, 2018)	36% (OFAC, 2018)	68% (OFAC, 2019)
<b>Artisanally used species</b>	Ayous, Movingui, Iroko, Sapelli, Bilinga, Moabi	Okoumé, Bilinga, Izombé	Okoumé, Limba (Sud) Sapelli, Sipo (Nord)	Afrormosia, Wenge, Sapelli	
<b>Log export (m<sup>3</sup>)<sup>8</sup></b>	554,520 (2019)	0	798,905 (2018)	139,754 (2019)	310,497 (2019)
<b>Log export to China (m<sup>3</sup>)<sup>9</sup></b>	583,600	0	462,200	ND	ND
<b>Contribution of the sector to GDP<sup>10</sup></b>	4,7% (2018)	3,3% (2018)	2,67% (EITI-2018)	0,15% (2016)	2,8% (2018)
Wood processing					
<b>Number of industrial processing plants (1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> transformation)<sup>11</sup></b>	150	166	29	5	5
<b>Exportations (m<sup>3</sup>)<sup>12</sup></b>					
- of sawnwood	81,3521	51,5215	104,202	18,424	8,142
- of plywood	8,373	32,484	25,868	0	0
- of venner	83,129	393,660	28,206	312	0
<b>Sawnwood exportations to China (m<sup>3</sup>)<sup>13</sup></b>	134,300	524,700	38,600	ND	ND
Artisanal processing (sawnwood) <sup>14</sup>	715,000 m <sup>3</sup> (2010)	50,000 m <sup>3</sup> (2010)	About 100,000 m <sup>3</sup> (2011)	About 1 million m <sup>3</sup> (2014)	ND
<b>Other information</b>	Existence of an internal wood market that is slow to develop	SEZ of Nkok 40 companies 900,000 m <sup>3</sup> processed/year	Reflection about the creation of a SEZ and the planned implementation of a production sharing mechanism	Resources still largely undervalued	
Public markets	Decree signed on 15/12/2020: obligation to use wood of legal origin in public procurement	ND	Reflection in progress	ND	

8. OFAC 2018 and 2019

9. CTWPDA 2018 data. Note that Equatorial Guinea's log export to China was 1,114,700 m<sup>3</sup> in 2018.

10. OFAC data

11. OFAC 2018 data, for some countries, only for 1st processing

12. OFAC 2018 data in yellow, OFAC 2019 in white

13. CTWPDA data, 2018

14. Various CIFOR reports

## ATIBT summary table about the main data of the forest-wood sector in the Congo Basin

Update May 2021 with the contribution of OFAC and COMIFAC

Points of comparison	Cameroon	Gabon	Congo	DRC	CAR
Socio-economic data					
<b>Number of jobs in the industrial forest sector</b>	13,000 <sup>15</sup>	3,000 forest companies 10,000 wood industries <sup>16</sup> including Nkok SEZ 3,000 jobs In total 22% of non-oil jobs	7,500	4,523 <sup>17</sup>	ND
<b>Number of jobs in artisanal sawmilling</b>	40,000	ND	2,000	9,000 à 15,000 <sup>18</sup> but probably much more (50,000 jobs according to Lescuyer in 2014)	ND
<b>Indirect jobs</b>	150,000 <sup>16</sup>	Between 2,000 and 5,000 <sup>16</sup>	5,000 <sup>16</sup>	ND	ND
<b>Unions and potential partners<sup>19</sup></b>	GFBC (12 companies), FECAPROBOIS (200 companies and more than 1000 employees), ANCOVA (450 members in Yaoundé)  ntersyndicale encountering implementation difficulties.	UFIGA (15 companies), SIAG (6 companies), UFIAG (11 companies), FGBSP (about 70 companies), UAMEES (25 companies).  UFIGA is the permanent secretariat of the Intersyndicale.	UNICONGO (6 companies), UNIBOIS (15 SME, including 6 active), ACM (about 100 companies, including 15 active), AMC (500 companies, including 300 in Pointe Noire), FBET (17 companies)	FIB (5 companies) ACEFA (1,400 companies)  Many SMEs and VSEs are not registered in unions.  Huge role and potential for FIB.	
<b>Commitment to FLEGT</b>	VPA signed in 2010  Slow implementation  Preparatory phase for national deployment of SIGIF II and improvement of the regulatory framework by the Cameroonian side in progress	VPA not signed, Negotiation in progress since September 2010, re-launch under consideration in 2020	VPA signed in 2010  Currently being implemented  Some progress in terms of transparency, civil society involvement, traceability (SIVL) and improvement of the regulatory framework	VPA not signed  Negotiations slowed down since September 2011	VPA signed on November 28, 2011  Slow implementation since 2012

15. State of forests, 2013

16. FRM, 2017 – Impact of the log export ban on the forest-wood industry and economy of Gabon

17. Source : FIB

18. Nguingiri et al., 2006

19. GFBC, UFIGA, UNICONGO and FIB are the 4 major unions of industrial wood exporting companies in the region. Almost all certified areas in the Congo Basin are owned by members of these unions.



4

# THE MAIN ACTIONS CARRIED OUT IN 2020

# ADVOCACY ACTIONS

In addition to following up on the interests of its members, sharing all types of information (technical, regulatory, legal, etc.) and the work carried out through the various projects, ATIBT has backed several advocacy actions on behalf of the sector's stakeholders. These actions were designed to inform institutions, economic stakeholders, as well as the general public regarding the importance of maintaining and encouraging best practices in the tropical forestry sector, a sector which - one mustn't forget - remains a bulwark against deforestation linked to agricultu-

ral practices.

It is by giving value to the forest that we can protect it.

These advocacy actions have been carried out both in Europe and in the Congo Basin, notably with the help of COMIFAC (*Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale* - Central African Forest Commission) and the CBFP (*Partenariat pour les Forêts du Bassin du Congo* - Congo Basin Forest Partnership), organisations with which ATIBT maintains close ties.

Below, we detail some of the advocacy actions carried out in 2020.

## ACTIONS TO COMBAT ILLEGAL TIMBER



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The legality of the timber trade at the global level is essential. Combating illegal timber is one of our association's activities, through our messages, our forums and our interactions with European authorities.

Illegal timber undermines the rules of the market, endangers certified loggers and projects a highly negative image of our profession even though there are many exemplary loggers operating. Generally speaking, ATIBT and the European fede-

rations constitute a "safety zone" within which producers, timber processors and merchants are clearly committed to combating illegality, and willing to be third-party certified.

A letter was sent to the European Commission to alert them of illegal timber trade in Europe and to demand a better application of the European Union Timber Regulation in trade because of the systemic failures that have been observed and the need to encourage best practices. The guarantees provided by third party certification were also reiterated, pointing out the role the latter can play in due diligence to reduce the risk of illegality.

ATIBT and the federations cannot act beyond their respective prerogatives, as these acts are part of organised crime, and therefore fall within the domain of both INTERPOL and the EU.

## ACTIONS PROMOTING THE RECOGNITION OF CERTIFICATION IN THE FLEGT PROCESS

These advocacy efforts were made possible thanks to funding from the FLEGT-REDD (FFEM), FLEGT-IP (EU) and FLEGT-certification (PPECF) projects. The main actions that were undertaken for the recognition of certification are as follows:

### THE CONDUCTING OF TWO WORKSHOPS IN THE DRC AND CÔTE D'IVOIRE:



The general objective of the Côte d'Ivoire workshop was to improve Ivorian FLEGT VPA stakeholders' knowledge of both third-party verified certification and computerised traceability systems, in a clear and simple manner to improve forest governance in Côte d'Ivoire and to facilitate the implementation of the Ivorian LVS, a key component of the future FLEGT VPA.

#### The two specific objectives were:

- To demonstrate the benefits of third-party verified forest certification as part of a legality verification system (LVS), a key feature of a VPA;
- To facilitate the implementation of the future national timber traceability system.

[Read an account of the workshop on the ATIBT website.](#)



The national workshop on certification in the DRC, organised between ATIBT and the FIB, addressed the same issues and came to the following conclusions:

- The interest and curiosity of the participants regarding the themes developed as a result of the discussions that were held;
- The lack or insufficiency of awareness expressed by several participants: a lack of knowledge of certain certification schemes and poor knowledge of the standards' requirements.

[Read an account of the workshop on the ATIBT website.](#)

## ADVOCACY REGARDING A DRAFT MANUAL FOR THE RECOGNITION OF CERTIFICATION IN CONGO'S LVS:



Based on the recommendation of the FLEGT Congo VPA's Joint Implementation Committee, ATIBT has developed a procedures manual in a participatory manner for the recognition of certification.

On the basis of a first draft, several meetings on the draft Certification Manual were held with stakeholders. All stakeholders were consulted: certification bodies, the PEFC/PAFC and FSC certification systems, CLFT and MEF, the private sector (certified companies and companies invol-

ved in the PPECF coaching process), the EU (DUE, DEVCO and DGENV) and EFI.

A stakeholder validation workshop was held on 22 October 2020, in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo and resulted in the validation of the draft manual and the development of a draft roadmap, as these documents must be validated by the VPA signatory parties. The CLFT validated the manual following the CEVP's (Comité d'Elaboration et de Validation des Procédures - Procedure Development and Validation Committee) validation workshop held on 12 November 2020. The CCM held on 25 and 26 November 2020 reviewed this activity and presented the manual and the roadmap. One formal recommendation was retained: to implement the roadmap in order to obtain formal and joint validation of this manual before the end of 2021.

## IN GABON, MONITORING OF THE FLEGT PROCESS AND MANDATORY CERTIFICATION:

In 2020, and with the backing of ATIBT, UFIGA commissioned a first study [on the state of the FLEGT VPA in Gabon](#), which presents, among other things, **recommendations for the recognition of private certification within a FLEGT VPA**. This study should be presented at the forest conference, whose date has been pending for almost half a year. This presentation will be an opportunity to defend the arguments in favour of the recognition of private certification in Gabon's future VPA and to give some guidance on the terms of this recognition. This will enable genuine simplification in terms of the steps required by certified companies to verify the legality of their activities in the framework of the LVS (by obtaining a legality certificate if this provision is adopted in Gabon's draft VPA).

UFIGA has also commissioned Probos to carry out a study entitled "[Overview of Sustainable Forest Management Certification Schemes in Gabon](#)" **which helps support the two pillars of certification advocacy**. UFIGA indeed offers objective support, which it shares with the administration and stakeholders in order to:

- guide choices in terms of certification obligations by explaining how the FSC and PAFC Gabon sustainable management certification systems work,
- and support the recognition of third-party verified certification in the FLEGT VPA documents that exist between Gabon and the European Union.

This study was also to be presented at the forestry conference, the date of which has not yet been set as of the closing date of this report.



## ACTIONS AIMED AT IMPROVING THE TROPICAL TIMBER MARKET



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### A 2020 MARKET THAT PROVED TO BE RESILIENT

Unsurprisingly, 2020 marks a decline in imports of tropical timber into Europe, including both primary and secondary processing output. For example, for tropical plywood, there was a drop of around -14% in imports (in cumulative volumes) from January to September 2020. The third quarter of 2020 recorded a less marked decline of -7% compared to the third quarter of 2019. It should be noted that sales rose by 20% following the first lockdown.

Nevertheless, this decline is less than what could have been feared, as demonstrated in particular by the case of sawn timber.

The sector is resilient in light of the crisis, with tropical timber weathering this sanitary storm rather well, for the same general reasons that timber does as a material (boom in do-it-yourself and interior design activities, growing awareness of timber as a sustainable material, etc.).

## ADDING VALUE TO CERTIFIED TROPICAL TIMBER IN EUROPEAN MARKETS



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The main objective of the marketing programme that ATIBT has now been conducting for seven years is to better communicate about certified tropical timber on the markets.

The Fair&Precious brand is an important component of this programme. A chapter is devoted to this brand, below.

This marketing programme includes many meetings and events that could not be held in 2020. These include the Steering Committee in Douala, the Carrefour du Bois trade fair and the Gabon Wood Show.

However, most of the technical meetings were able to be held thanks to video-conferencing tools, the flexibility of all partners and the availability of the teams.

The marketing programme, which relies heavily on digital media, websites, social networks, newsletters and press relations, was not penalised by travel restrictions or the lack of physical meetings. On

the contrary, the overall audience of these tools continued to grow.

The Fair&Precious brand had 36 partners by the end of 2020 and collaborations continued with certification bodies, professional associations in both Europe and Asia, institutional organisations, NGOs and many other stakeholders who share the values of this collective in favour of sustainable forest management in the Congo Basin.

More than ever, we need to act simultaneously on both the supply and demand side of tropical timber.

On the supply side: by encouraging the development of forest areas that are harvested according to the sustainable management model (with third-party assessment). On the demand side: by promoting certified timber, from the importer to the user, via manufacturers, influencers and distributors.

Timber is a material for the future, because it is natural, visually appealing and suitable for many different uses. Sustainable forest management is gradually becoming the last apparent line of defence against deforestation. The challenge of the marketing programme is to facilitate the link between these two observations in order to organise a virtuous market - one that is respectful of ecosystems and generates a responsible economic model in Africa.

The Marketing Commission sessions are among ATIBT's most dynamic meetings. Three meetings were held in 2020, completed by two specific meetings on LKTS. It was through this Commission that the bulk of the undertaken actions were validated (see the above chapter on the commissions).

**A significant portion of ATIBT's marketing programme is implemented through the following activities, which were described in the programme's report (available upon request):**

- Updating of the Fair&Precious website
- Social networks;
- The YouTube channel;
- Press releases, testimonials and editorials;
- Meetings organised to discuss certification, including the Think Tank;
- Marketing investigations, which include:
  - A survey of both importers and retailers
  - Arguments in support of the 10 commitments
  - Marketing programme indicators

**Moreover, additional specific projects and studies reinforce the marketing programme:**

- Life Cycle Analysis: Dryades
- Bai TV
- Monitoring of certified supplies: Thémis
- LKTS
- Payments for Ecosystem Services

### **CONSIDERATION TO BE GIVEN TO THE PLANNED LOG EXPORT BAN IN CAMEROON, CONGO AND DRC**

Following the September 2020 CEMAC decision, the halt of log exports, or the reduction of export quotas to a minimum level, is expected to be confirmed in the coming months, although it is doubtful that this decision can be fully effective by January 2022, given its impact on the industry.

Indeed, the industry needs time to implement the necessary measures: the provision of funding, large investments for which shareholders must prepare; improvement of processing equipment, the cash flow required for companies to cope with increased working capital needs.

Unlike the transport of logs, which remain a raw material, the delivery of processed products is not trivial. Very often, the logistical conditions in the Congo Basin countries do not enable manufactured products to be exported within a reasonable timeframe. Secondary and tertiary processing imply more demanding clients in terms of delivery dates. Countries therefore need to invest in order to support an industry that

has to produce products with higher added value, but which are also more fragile and have shorter delivery timeframes.

Legislation needs to be adjusted in the various countries in order to facilitate investments. Banning the export of logs and maintaining existing taxation, introducing new taxes, all create an unfavourable climate.

It is important that we understand the industry and analyse in detail the financial impact of the legislative framework in relation to a log export ban, otherwise we will see some companies disappear. A sound legal framework that offers both long term stability and appropriate support is extremely important.

It should be noted that ATIBT's participation in CBFP's (Congo Basin Forest Partnership) private sector college will help to further the debate in the context of this forum.

## SUPPORT FOR CERTIFIED TROPICAL TIMBER IN THE FACE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS IN CONSUMER COUNTRIES

# OBJECTIFS DE DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE



With the support of the PPECF, the **Dryades** project (*in Greek mythology, the Dryads are divinities linked to trees*) has been launched in response to the Environmental Regulation 2020, which will follow the Thermal Regulation (TR 2012) and will come into force in the summer of 2021. If the new guidelines promote wood materials in construction, ATIBT calls for vigilance on the progressiveness of the requi-

rements for reducing carbon emissions. To prepare for the life cycle analysis method, ATIBT has initiated the "DRYADES" project, which aims to create environmental and health declaration sheets for tropical wood construction products. The data from these sheets will be used to calculate the environmental impact of new buildings throughout their life cycle.

## ACTIONS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CONGO FORESTRY CODE

ATIBT has been following the process of revising the forestry law since 2014, which was finally adopted this year. This draft law was first adopted by the National Assembly in the December 2019 session, then by the upper house of parliament (Senate) in the April 2020 session, and was definitively adopted on July 8, 2020 as Law N°33-2020 on the Forestry Code.

**Several consultation and advocacy actions were carried out by the private sector prior to the promulgation of the law. The main ones are the following:**

- 2 joint letters from UNICONGO, UNIBOIS and ATIBT
- A consultation meeting with the entire private sector on March 7

- Meetings with parliamentarians
- Carrying out a fiscal impact study of the draft Forestry Code and meeting with parliamentarians to present the results.

**Following the promulgation of the forestry code, the key measures that have an impact on the forestry and wood sector are**

- The introduction of the principle of production sharing regime (Art 102 and following);
- The obligation for forest companies to "certify the management of their managed concessions or the legality of the products that are exploited and processed there" (Art 72);
- The introduction of simplified management for medium-sized forest management units (art. 77);
- The obligation to process forest products essentially within the national territory, leading to a ban on the export of logs, with the exception of "logs of heavy and hard timber species whose processing requires a specific technology" (art. 97);
- The introduction of the timber plantation valuation agreement (art 118);
- The introduction of two new taxes: the occupancy tax and the residue tax (art 110 and following);
- The concepts and modalities of the FLEGT VPA are distilled throughout the text (verification of legality, certificate of legality, SIVL, etc.).

**It is in this context, in order to know the implications of the current law in the short and medium term for forest and industrial companies, that work has been launched by ATIBT. It is divided into two parts:**

- A comparative analysis of the former and new forestry codes: this identifies (i) stable elements, (ii) changes, (iii) new elements, (iv) elements requiring additional implementing legislation, and (v) elements interpretation issues.
- A reading guide to the new forestry code of the Republic of Congo for the private sector that gives companies a key to better understand the impacts of the new law, in order to allow companies to contribute to the development of application texts.

This work enables the popularization of this new code to the private sector, so that the actors of the private sectors can better understand the stakes for the sector.

## TAXATION AND SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

### SITUATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

With the assistance of the NGO Juristes pour l'Environnement au Congo, JUREC conseil (DR Congo), a study was carried out for the FIB and as part of its collaboration the ATIBT to support the forestry sector. In an article published by ATIBT on February 6, 2020, entitled: "[Taxation, a](#)

[specific principle of the legality grid in the framework of the FLEGT VPA](#)" the Federation of Timber Industries (FIB) deemed it appropriate to make **an assessment of the taxation and parafiscality of the DRC forestry sector** in order to observe its evolution to date. Overall, the study

mentions the various changes observed around the taxation/parafiscal system of the Congolese forestry sector in light of the ordinances of 2018. This concerns in particular the creation or not of taxes, duties and fees, the evolution of applicable rates, the modalities of application as well as the responsibilities in the payment procedures (commitment, authorization, liquidation and acquittal). Finally, the study made specific recommendations for the logging, cross-border trade (export and import), tax and transport sub-sectors. A list of taxes, duties and fees in the Congolese forestry sector for 2020, listing the different levies by sub-sector, indica-

ting the rate and schedule, and the taxing and collecting service, has been drafted for the use of the various stakeholders. For more details, [see the study here](#).

This study has allowed the FIB to have a strong argument in its advocacy on taxation for forest companies. The corporation was able to submit this report to the Government: President of the Republic, Prime Minister, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and Finance, Secretary General so that they can be inspired by the conclusions and recommendations of the study.

## TAX INCENTIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

ATIBT is very attentive to the work carried out by CIRAD on incentive taxation, and intends to support this initiative as a representative of the private sector. Forestry operators in the Congo Basin have a heterogeneous level of commitment to legality and sustainable resource management. A significant proportion of forest companies are not into management processes and, contrary to what might have been expected in the early 2000s, the number of companies certified as "sustainable forest management" has not increased. Thus, a gap is growing between the levels of commitment of some and others, and the less committed actors are in a way competing more or less unfairly with those who have the best practices, which are costly and unfortunately not sufficiently well rewarded on the markets.

Moreover, in the context of the current health and economic crisis, African states need, more than ever, to mobilize their potential tax revenues, but without increasing the tax pressure on formal businesses that are in compliance with their various legal obligations. ATIBT supports the reflections carried out on the fact that innovative solutions can be developed to offer incentives for economic actors to respect legal, social and environmental obligations and sustainable forest management. These are "bonus-malus" type mechanisms, adapted to different levels of commitment in terms of sustainable management and allowing "virtuous" companies to improve their competitiveness without negative effects for the States.

# THE BRAND FAIR&PRECIOUS AT THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNICATION ON SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT



## FAIR&PRECIOUS

Fair&Precious is a collective brand that draws on international forest management certifications and regulations to direct buyers to companies of the tropical timber sector that are committed to sustainable management and the preservation of forest resources.

Before being a brand, Fair&Precious is also a communication program that supports the work done by the certification schemes themselves, also aiming to give a good image of tropical timber to European consumers:

- Because consumers and the industry need to better identify products from responsible forest management.
- Because it is necessary to encourage good practices and to develop the surfaces resulting from this responsible forest management.

Created by ATIBT and its forest management members involved in certification processes, Fair&Precious is a mechanism to encourage and promote certification itself, in order to encourage companies to commit to responsible and sustainable forest management.

### **The Fair&Precious collective brand aims to:**

- Raise awareness among European buyers and consumers of the importance of certified forest management,
- Make certified tropical timber recognized as remarkable and responsible materials.

Through this approach, ATIBT and forest managers aim to ensure economic viability, social equity and conservation of forest ecosystems. They stimulate the whole sector through the development and promotion of good practices.

# FAIR & PRECIOUS' 10 COMMITMENTS



01

**MANAGING AND PROTECTING FORESTS TO COMBAT GLOBAL WARMING**



02

**PRESERVING FOREST RESOURCES BY HARVESTING LESS THAN IS NATURALLY GROWN**



03

**DEVELOPING KNOWLEDGE ON BIODIVERSITY TO FACILITATE THE RENEWAL OF THE SPECIES**



04

**ENSURING THE PRESERVATION OF THE LIVING SPACE OF WILDLIFE**



05

**IMPLEMENTING PROGRAMMES THAT COMBAT POACHING**



06

**CONTRIBUTING TO THE WELL-BEING OF POPULATIONS BY FACILITATING ACCESS TO EDUCATION, MEDICAL CARE AND HOUSING**



07

**STIMULATING THE ECONOMIES OF PRODUCER COUNTRIES BY ENHANCING THE VALUE OF THE FOREST AND FAVOURING THE LOCAL PROCESSING OF TIMBER**



08

**SETTING UP TRAINING COURSES FOR THE FOREST AND TIMBER TRADES**



09

**PROVIDING TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE ON THE DIVERSITY OF TROPICAL TIMBER SPECIES AND THEIR USES**



10

**PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE PURCHASES OF THIS EXCEPTIONAL MATERIAL**





## FAIR&PRECIOUS, A SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT PERSPECTIVE

Hyper-consumption must be progressively replaced by more qualitative and participative logics. Fair&Precious forest managers want to shape a new way of acting. With Fair&Precious, they create

a collective that allows them to promote their values and federate their actions. They develop a "positive activism" and propose models that respect people and the planet.

## 3<sup>RD</sup> ATIBT THINK TANK IN VIDEOCONFERENCE ON 2-3 NOVEMBER 2020



The 3<sup>rd</sup> ATIBT Think Tank on the theme "What future for certified companies in the Congo Basin?" took place on November 2 and 3, 2020, in videoconference.

Conceived as an international "Think Tank", simultaneous translation allowed the participation of various English-speaking partners of ATIBT. In total, about 80 people were connected to the meeting, 34 speakers spoke during 35 presentations over the different sessions.

**The meeting was built around 4 webinars of 2.5 hours each, focusing on the following topics:**

- Improvement of the tropical wood image.
- Give back value to forests. Environmental services and certification.
- Working with Asian operators.
- Exploring new tropical wood markets.

[The report of this meeting is available here.](#)

# ADEFAC, A MAJOR PROJECT FOR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING



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The ADEFAC project, which is financed by the French Development Agency (AFD), is intended to contribute to the sustainable management of the forests of the Congo Basin through the development of a continuous training program.

The project is aimed at training institutions, whether or not they are members of RIFFEAC (MO), as well as at the private forestry and environmental sector, which is the main user of the personnel trained by these institutions. ATIBT ensures the MOD of the project, which is declined in three components:

- The improvement and the perpetuation of the system of continuous training of the forest-wood sector in Central Africa, by (i) the structuring and the update of the needs in training of the professional circles; (ii) the reinforcement of a certified offer of trainers and (iii) the
- research of a perennial and institutionalized regional system, in coherence with the national systems.
- The deployment of continuing education actions, according to a detailed organization, implementation and evaluation system.
- The implementation of a complementary technical assistance system, to ensure the capitalization of results and the enrichment of the mapping of the sector's trades.

ADEFAC also aims to develop quality processed products on local markets, consistent with the principles of sustainable management and traceability, while relying on the existing network of SMEs and VSEs.

2021 will be the year of concrete operationalization of the project, after the contracting of the main operator following a call for tender launched in December 2020.

# RESEARCH ACTIONS ON PAYMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Ecosystems provide numerous services known as environmental services. They are generally classified as common goods and/or public goods.

ATIBT wishes to highlight the contributions of the timber sector in tropical regions to the realization of some of these services, in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) defined by the United Nations in 2015.

The ultimate goal of this research is to improve the ecosystem service performance of forest companies in Africa through payments to companies for creating and/or protecting these services.

In this way, the model of certified forest enterprises will be strengthened and their sustainability improved through revenue diversification.

A reflection on the mechanisms of remuneration or payment for environmental and social services (PESS) was initiated in April 2020 by ATIBT with the help of the financial expert firm Venturexpert whose main activity is the research and development of cognitive and financial technologies to develop an innovative approach for the financing of Ecosystem Services.

At the 3<sup>rd</sup> ATIBT Think Tank, the PES mechanism was the subject of various presentations, with a fundamental question: who can pay for the environmental and social services that forest companies provide? Many mechanisms are under consideration, but few are active and operational.

There is some difficulty at the moment in seeing what will actually work. **The Vert-deep platform** that has been presented will ensure the exchange and "liquidity" of certificates by creating a real financial market for positive impact. This platform would be based (1) on the contractual relationship between investors/sponsors who finance and forest companies capable of implementing actions with positive impacts and (2) on the valuation of the image of a company (which can represent 25% of its value). This relationship takes the form of a contract that settles the question of ownership.

The need to continue this reflection, **to value the services provided by certified forest managers in a different way than only through wood**, and to deepen the ideas discussed, while working on the blocking points and the limits/risks, in particular the profitability of environmental and well-being services, the cost of verification, the verification tools, the question of the additionality of the services, the image of foresters, etc.

In order to deepen these topics, three opportunity studies are underway as part of the FLEGT-REDD project (FFEM), dealing with the following subjects: diagnosis and technical feasibility, matching/consistency of forestry and financial reference systems, gathering of investors' interest, formulation of strategic recommendations, development of a Proof of Concept (POC) and implementation proposal. These studies will be available in 2021.

# ACTIONS CONCERNING REFORESTATION AND AGROFORESTRY



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To varying degrees, forest cover of countries of West and Central Africa are decreasing, often due to demographic pressure, sometimes due to unsustainable practices. Timber plantations, but also agroforestry techniques are models to be implemented to meet the needs of a growing African market, both for timber and firewood. The challenge today is to implement inclusive projects that meet the needs of (i) the populations, as well as (ii) the environmental and (iii) economic needs of companies and countries. This raises the issue of the technical and economic feasibility of such projects, hence the importance today of developing complex (and multi-product) projects. Partnerships between all the actors of the territory, whether private-private, private-public, private-population or multi-actor, are essential and take several possible forms.

## Two meetings took place in 2020:

- [On April 30, 2020](#), the agroforestry group of the Cité du Développement durable (Nogent sur Marne) met by videoconference in order to share together the differ-

ent actions carried out by its members and create synergies between them.

- [On October 28, 2020](#), in order to gather information about the work undertaken in the environment of ATIBT, an important webinar took place at the initiative of the Group "Agroforestry ATIBT – *Cité du Développement Durable*" (composed of ATIBT, Kinomé, Fair Trade,...)

The studies conducted between 2018 and today with the support of ATIBT as part of the FLEGT-REDD project (FEEM) lay a first foundation for reflection. This allows to have the first bases for future discussions. ATIBT wishes to continue to bring these topics to the forefront and encourages its members to consult each other and to propose initiatives in the continuity of its first orientations. Different documents produced on agroforestry and timber production are available in the list of publications presented below.

**Finally, a technical sheet on the quality of plantation species is being prepared through our close collaboration with CIRAD.**

# SUPPORT TO CERTIFICATION SCHEMES - THE PAFC CONGO BASIN



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Among the actions to support certification schemes carried out in 2020, we would mainly mention the development and institutionalization of a PAFC certification system for the Congo Basin (PAFC CB).

**As a reminder, the objectives of this project, conducted since 2019, are:**

- Developing a PAFC Congo Basin certification scheme (Cameroon, Congo, Gabon);
- Ensuring that PEFC accepts the scheme;
- Operationalizing the certification scheme.

It should be noted that three PAFC initiatives exist at the national level, in Cameroon, Gabon and the Republic of Congo. In the absence of a "Congo Basin PAFC" body, ATIBT role in this project has been to be the

"carrier" and also to be the "standardization body".

During the December 2020 Board meeting, and after the validation of the standard by the working group created between the stakeholders, the standard documents were submitted to the ATIBT administrators, who ensured their coherence (with regard to the standard development procedure), and who validated them, before transmitting them to PEFC International for examination of the request for acceptance - the results should be available in the 2nd half of 2021. In the meantime, the project will allow the implementation of institutionalization and operationalization activities of the scheme.

# DIALOGUE WITH CHINESE ACTORS



After the Shanghai Forum in October 2019 and the decision to consolidate relations between ATIBT and Chinese organizations, an updated presentation of the Global Green Supply Chain (GGSC) initiative took place during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Think Tank in November 2020.

A project to finance sustainable wood imports to China was also presented with financial incentives (better loan conditions) to reward operators who respect legality. This Green Supply Chain Facility (GSC Facility) project is likely to be an opportunity for Fair&Precious companies, as it targets legal timber purchases. ATIBT has decided to promote certified timber through this facility.

The implementation of Article 65 of the new Forest Law in China has been discussed many times during 2020. It has often been pointed out that China, because of its large market, can be a decisive factor in shaping the legality and sustainability of the industry. The implementation of this new forestry law will be fundamental.

It is too early to know how Article 65 will be implemented. The NFGA (Chinese Ministry of Forestry) needs support, which is currently underway through a UK funded program.

The CTWPDA association has asked ATIBT for support to better understand the definition of "legal timber" in different countries of the Congo Basin. A first work was delivered by ATIBT in November. For the future, the translation of the Timber Trade Portal (TTP) into Chinese was also discussed. This translation will be initiated in early 2021 through a project funded by ITTO.

It was also decided to link Chinese companies with forestry companies committed to sustainable practices, and at the end of December, a B2B meeting was held between CTWPDA companies and ATIBT members.

Finally, discussions are in progress within the PPECF to develop a certification guide translated into Mandarin for Congo Basin forest operators.

# CREATION OF THE DYNAFAC COLLECTIVE



## DYNAFAC

AMÉLIORER LA GESTION FORESTIÈRE  
EN AFRIQUE CENTRALE

The DYNAFAC Collective was born from the will of a group of structures to combine their efforts for a more sustainable management of Central African production forests through the monitoring of forest dynamics, based on a network of sites and permanent devices installed in the forests of Central Africa.

Two projects, in which ATIBT has been strongly involved, constitute two "pillars" of the DYNAFAC collective

- **The DynAfFor project**, which ends in 2020, and aims to increase knowledge on the structure and dynamics of Central African forests;
- **The P3FAC project**, a public-private partnership to sustainably manage Central African forests.

**The goal of DYNAFAC** is to communicate with others on the development of activities that will ultimately improve management plans while respecting forest dynamics and thus ensure better management of Central African production forests.

The DYNAFAC Collective relies on the diversity of its membership, and especially its close collaboration with national administrations, to ensure that new research results are taken into account in public policies. Specifically, the collective aims to :

- **provide** new scientific knowledge on forest dynamics and the parameters influencing them;
- **improve** management plans and their implementation for a more sustainable management of Central African forests;
- **contribute** to the evolution of legislation in Central African countries based on recent and reliable scientific knowledge;
- **develop** research and teaching capacities on forest management in Central Africa;
- **strengthen** the technical capacities of forestry administrations in Central Africa.

**On the occasion of the closure of the DynAfFor project, a brochure was produced for the attention of policy makers. We have chosen to fully reproduce it in our annual report.**



## POUR UNE AMÉLIORATION DE LA DURABILITÉ DES PLANS D'AMÉNAGEMENT FORESTIERS EN AFRIQUE CENTRALE

### Recommandations pour les décideurs politiques

La gestion forestière doit aujourd'hui plus que jamais, répondre à différentes exigences : préserver la biodiversité, répondre aux besoins des populations humaines, rencontrer les objectifs fixés par les États et assurer la rentabilité des acteurs de la filière.

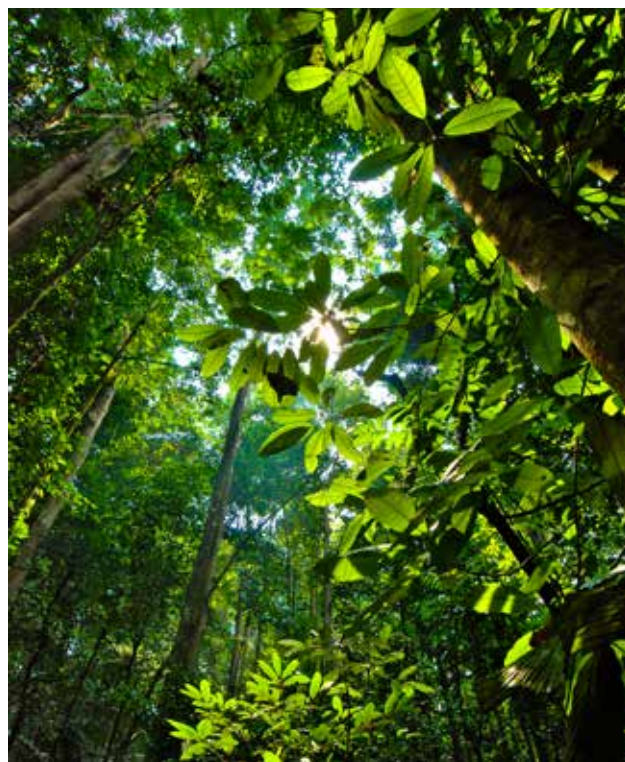
Le plan d'aménagement est l'outil permettant de trouver le meilleur équilibre entre ces objectifs. Aujourd'hui, en Afrique centrale, la plupart des plans d'aménagement entre en phase de révision, ce qui offre l'occasion de repenser et de renforcer la durabilité de l'aménagement forestier.

### I VERS UNE ÉVOLUTION NÉCESSAIRE DES PLANS D'AMÉNAGEMENT

L'exploitation forestière dans les pays de la COMIFAC est encadrée par un système législatif, au cœur duquel se situe le plan d'aménagement. Si l'intention d'assurer la durabilité de l'exploitation est réelle, les limites de ce système sont devenues évidentes au fur et à mesure de l'accumulation des résultats de la recherche forestière.

Afin d'améliorer la durabilité de l'aménagement, la mutualisation des résultats des recherches menées sur les forêts de la région peut fournir une aide précieuse à la décision. Ce constat est à l'origine du collectif DYNAFAC<sup>2</sup>. Récemment, ce collectif a synthétisé dans un rapport technique des recommandations fortes en vue de pérenniser les ressources ligneuses exploitées dans les forêts de production d'Afrique centrale. Celles-ci sont issues de quarante années de collecte et d'analyse de données scientifiques sur la dynamique forestière.

**La présente note synthétise ces recommandations. Il est prioritairement, mais pas exclusivement, destiné aux décideurs politiques et aux administrations forestières.**



1. Commission des forêts d'Afrique centrale (COMIFAC)

2. Le collectif DYNAFAC regroupe des institutions de recherche, associations, administrations forestières nationales et entreprises forestières autour de la thématique « Dynamique des forêts d'Afrique centrale » (d'où l'acronyme DYNAFAC). Site web : <https://www.dynafac.org/fr>

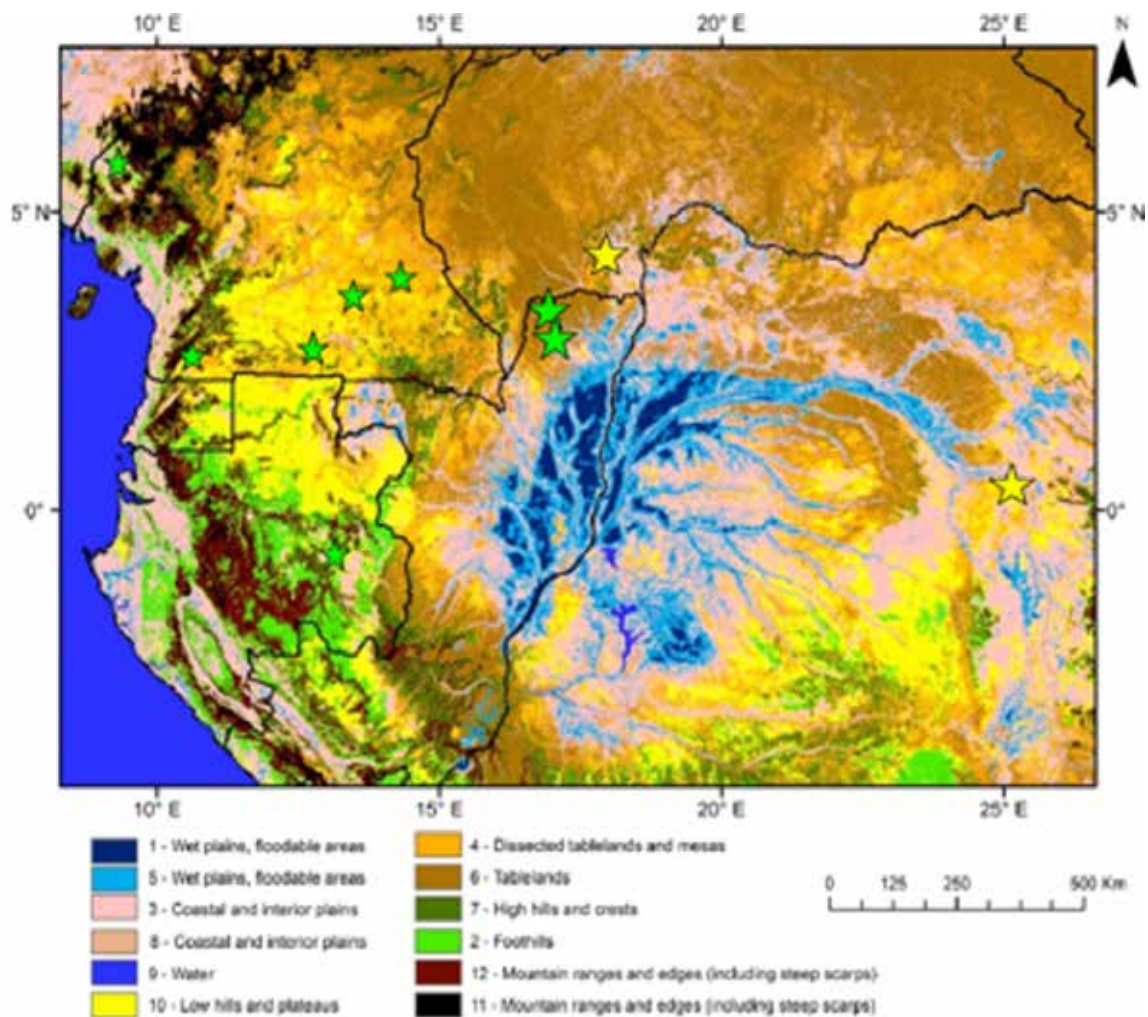


### 1. Adapter l'aménagement aux 10 grands types forestiers présents en Afrique centrale

Autant que possible, les paramètres d'aménagement et les règles d'exploitation appliquées aux espèces commerciales doivent tenir compte de l'hétérogénéité des types forestiers. Dix grands types de forêts ont été identifiés en Afrique centrale. Aujourd'hui, des données fiables de dynamique forestière sont

disponibles et utilisables pour environ la moitié de ces types forestiers.

Les décideurs politiques, relayés par les administrations forestières nationales et régionales, devraient œuvrer afin d'étendre le réseau de dispositifs de recherche à l'ensemble de ces types forestiers.



### 2. Uniformiser les durées de rotation à 30 ans

Une forêt exploitée nécessite un temps de repos, nommé « rotation ». Cette rotation doit permettre la reconstitution des effectifs exploités, avant que ne survienne une autre phase d'exploitation. Actuellement, en Afrique centrale, la rotation varie entre 20 et 30 ans. Les simulations effectuées montrent toutefois qu'une rotation de 30 ans constitue un délai minimum et le meilleur compromis entre reconstitution des stocks prélevés et viabilité économique de l'entreprise. Dans certaines forêts particulières, une rotation de 20 à 25 ans est tolérable du fait d'une dynamique plus rapide ; c'est notamment le cas des jeunes forêts à Okoumé.



### 3. Reconstituer les stocks à 100% pour le groupe des espèces commerciales et au minimum à 50% pour chacune de ces espèces, en tenant compte des prélèvements

Le taux de reconstitution est le ratio entre le nombre d'arbres exploitables à la fin d'une rotation et le nombre d'arbres réellement exploités. Un ratio de 100% représente logiquement le taux de reconstitution minimum idéal : chaque arbre abattu devrait être « reconstitué », après 30 ans.

Cette valeur seuil doit devenir la norme pour le groupe des espèces exploitées de chaque entreprise forestière. Ce seuil de 100% étant difficilement atteignable pour certaines espèces prises individuellement, un taux de reconstitution minimum de 50% est recommandé pour chaque espèce exploitée.



### 4. Réviser et uniformiser les diamètres minima d'exploitabilité à l'échelle régionale

L'actuelle variabilité, entre les pays de la sous-région, des diamètres minima d'exploitabilité (DME) d'une même espèce, n'est pas pertinente. La valeur du DME d'une espèce doit être basée sur des considérations biologiques et permettre, entre autres, le maintien d'un effectif représentatif de semenciers. Les études génétiques et écologiques accumulées ont aujourd'hui abouti à la proposition de DME régionaux, par espèce exploitée :



- 50 cm : Ebène noir, Eyang, Niové ;
- 60 cm : Bété, Fraké (Limba), Lotofa, Ossabel, Ozigo, Padouk, Wengé ;
- 70 cm : Aniégré, Azobé, Bossé clair, Ilomba, Iroko, Movingui, Okoumé, Ovengkol, Sorro ;
- 80 cm : Acajou d'Afrique, Afrormosia (Assamela), Niangon, Okan, Tali, Tiama, Tola ;
- 90 cm : Sapelli ;
- 100 cm : Ayous, Kosipo, Moabi, Sipo.

Ces minima sont à augmenter éventuellement au sein de chaque concession forestière, en tenant compte de la dynamique forestière locale (voir point 5).

### 5. Installer des dispositifs de suivi de la dynamique forestière dans toutes les grandes concessions

Les paramètres d'aménagement (entrant dans le calcul du taux de reconstitution et dans la fixation du diamètre minimum d'exploitabilité) varient entre types forestiers, mais parfois aussi, entre les forêts d'un même type forestier. Il est donc important que

les concessionnaires gérant plus de 50 000 ha installent des dispositifs de suivi en partenariat avec les institutions de recherche nationales pour appréhender localement les paramètres à utiliser dans leur plan d'aménagement.

A ce titre, le collectif DYNAFAC a publié un guide pratique d'installation et de suivi de tels dispositifs librement accessible à l'adresse :  
<https://www.dynafac.org/fr/media-categories/15/guides>

Le collectif DYNAFAC préconise également des initiatives pour favoriser la régénération des espèces exploitées. Elles sont présentées dans deux documents de capitalisation : l'un, sur l'appui à la régénération naturelle des espèces exploitées et l'autre, sur la préservation de la faune intervenant dans la dispersion des graines.

### 1. Appuyer la régénération naturelle des espèces exploitées



Indépendamment de l'exploitation, un grand nombre de populations d'espèces exploitées affiche une structure démographique défavorable, avec un faible taux de régénération naturelle. Seules des interventions humaines peuvent contribuer au maintien sur le long terme de telles populations. Les plantations d'enrichissement forestier à l'aide d'espèces locales de bois d'œuvre doivent être généralisées dans les forêts d'Afrique centrale.

Un guide destiné à faciliter les choix et démarches techniques des sylviculteurs a été produit par le collectif DYNAFAC. Il compile les expériences accumulées en plantation forestière d'espèces locales d'Afrique occidentale et centrale. Ce guide est en libre accès à l'adresse : <https://www.dynafac.org/fr/media-categories/15/guides>

### 2. Mieux préserver la faune



Selon le type forestier, 70 à 90% des espèces ligneuses ont besoin d'animaux pour la dispersion de leurs graines, et donc, pour garantir leur régénération naturelle. La protection de la faune, notamment la moyenne et grande faune (éléphants, grands singes, céphalophes, etc.) dans les concessions exploitées est donc fondamentale.

C'est dans ce cadre que le collectif DYNAFAC a publié un guide opérationnel expliquant la démarche d'élaboration et de mise en œuvre des plans de gestion de la faune. Il est disponible via le lien suivant : <https://www.dynafac.org/fr/media-categories/15/guides>

Ces différentes mesures, essentielles à la préservation de la ressource forestière, auront inévitablement un impact sur la rentabilité économique des gestionnaires forestiers, dans la mesure où elles réduiront globalement les volumes prélevés tout en générant des charges financières additionnelles. Il est donc préconisé d'adapter les mécanismes économiques légaux affectant l'industrie d'explo-

tation du bois en instaurant par exemple des systèmes différentiels de taxation et en développant divers incitatifs compensatoires des efforts de gestion durable. Les décideurs devraient, par ailleurs, appuyer les entreprises forestières dans l'obtention d'autres sources de revenus indépendants telles que les paiements pour services écosystémiques.

# ATIBT WEBSITES

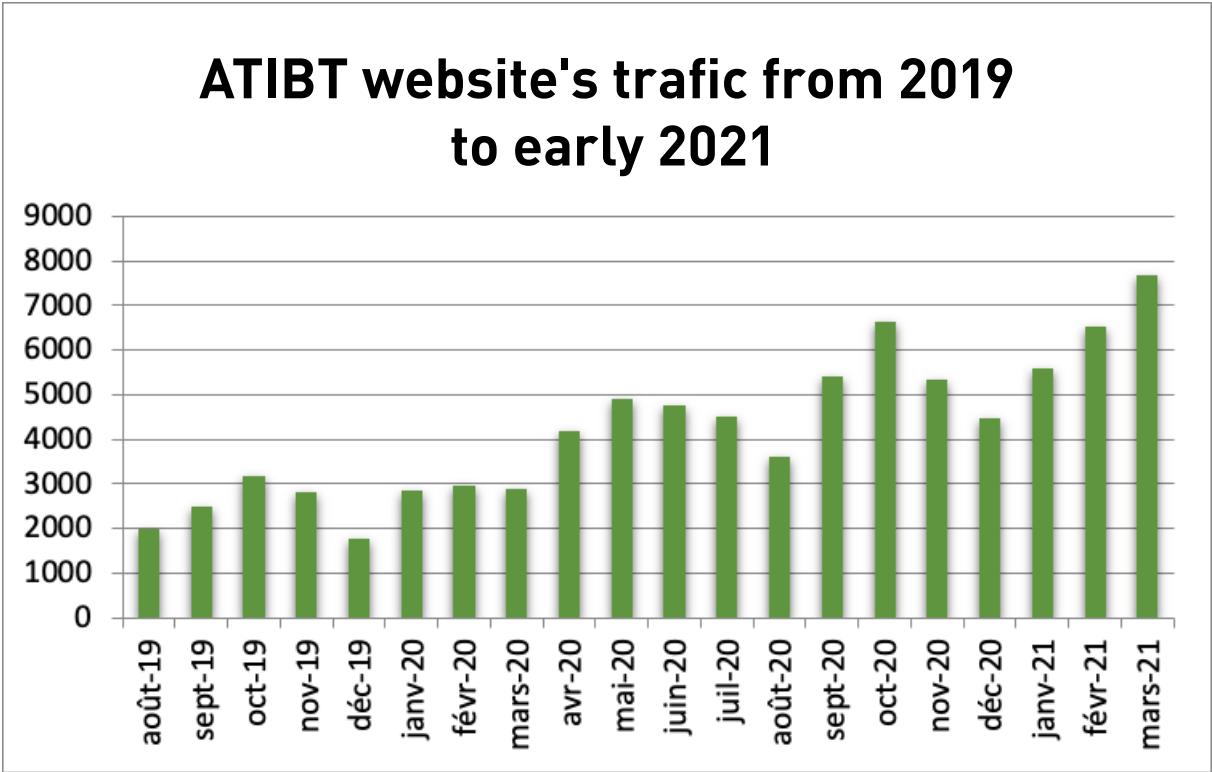
## ATIBT.ORG, A NEW WEBSITE FOR OUR ASSOCIATION

Among the actions carried out in 2020, it is necessary to mention the new ATIBT website. This action, financed within the framework of the marketing program funded by the PPECF, was carried out as part of the actions of redesigning the digital ecosystem.

With this redesign, ATIBT sought to develop a more contemporary, friendly design and improved ergonomics, among other things, by;

- A navigation with a clearer main menu ;
- Easy access to content pages and articles / resources;
- New content pages;
- A transversality of contents, new section "Tags" allowing to link related pages
- A focus on topical issues;
- A strong highlight on ATIBT members.

**During the months that followed, the website's traffic was improved:**

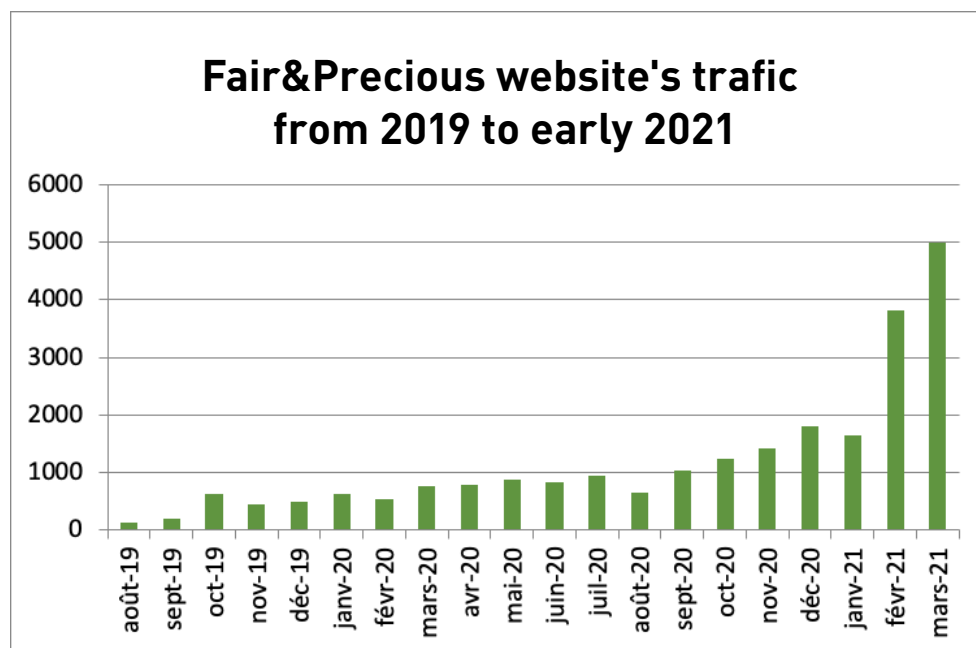


## FAIR-AND-PRECIOUS.ORG, A WEBSITE FOR THE BRAND FAIR&PRECIOUS



As mentioned above, the Fair&Precious brand enables ATIBT to conduct a solid and argued communication on sustainably managed wood products for consumers. During the year 2020, this site has been considerably enriched with information on

timber species. These new pages, added to communication on social networks, have greatly contributed to increasing awareness of the site, and its audience has grown in recent months.



In 2021, the website [mytropicaltimber.org](http://mytropicaltimber.org) (promoting committed marketers and traders) will also provide visibility for Fair&Precious trading partners.

## TIMBERTRADEPORTAL.COM, THE WEBSITE ABOUT LEGALITY



For the second time since its launch in 2016, Timber Trade Portal [www.timbertradeportal.com](http://www.timbertradeportal.com) has been updated. As a reminder, this site is one of the main tools to enforce due diligence. All available country profiles have been revised and some information pages added. Moreover, the portal is now available in French for our French-speaking readers.

The country profiles provide useful information for national and international timber traders and other actors in the timber value chain who are implementing due diligence on the origin and legality of timber. Indeed, reliable and specific country information, as well as an understanding of timber trade procedures, are essential for due diligence.

Timber Trade Portal contains country profiles from three parts of the world: Africa (8 profiles), North and South America (6 profiles), Eastern Europe and Asia (9 profiles). All country profiles were developed and reviewed with input from local and country-specific experts.

The review process was based on an analysis of recent and significant developments in terms of countries' progress in establishing national timber traceability systems and timber legality assurance systems or other related legislative measures. Some of these countries (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia, Republic of Congo and Vietnam) are implementing measures under an existing FLEGT VPA with the European Union.

This year, there were 33,102 visits to the website and the most viewed country files are: India, Ghana, Brazil, Indonesia, Guyana, Vietnam, Russia, New Guinea, Cameroon and DRC.

In 2021, thanks to an ITTO-funded project, the TTP will be updated and improved (new design, translation into Mandarin, addition of 6 new countries).

# THE ATIBT NEWSLETTERS

The ATIBT newsletter has become, over the last 3 years, a weekly meeting point appreciated by our members and partners. Every Friday, this newsletter summarizes the main news of the week, allows the sharing of important information and to make known the essential published documents. It also a platform for the members

of the association to express themselves or to share announcements.

In addition to this weekly newsletter, a bimonthly newsletter is written jointly with STTC. This newsletter includes documents and studies that specifically target issues related to certification.

## European Sustainable Tropical Timber Coalition and Fair&Precious newsletter

2020#6 | [Subscribe to this newsletter](#)



The [European Sustainable Tropical Timber Coalition \(STTC\)](#) is an alliance of industry, business, government and NGOs dedicated to increasing European demand for verified sustainable tropical timber. The STTC provides technical detail and trade data on sustainable tropical timber and forest management to inform procurement policy and market development.

[Fair&Precious](#), a brand campaign created by [ATIBT](#) members, explains how using verified sustainable tropical timber supports forest maintenance and promotes the benefits to the wider market/face. Both aim to develop the market in order to stimulate growth and spread of responsible forest management in tropical countries.

### STTC Conference explores tropical timber's bioeconomic role



One focus of the 2020 online Sustainable Tropical Timber Coalition Conference was the need to halt tropical forest loss and consequent adverse climatic impacts by growing sustainable tropical timber demand. The associated theme was that, to tackle the environmental crisis more broadly, society globally must switch to a circular bioeconomy.

[Read more](#)

### Growing secondary wood product demand to support tropical forests



In 2019, 33% of secondary tropical wood products imported by the EU and UK were certified sustainable, positively impacting 763,000-925,000 ha of tropical forest, according to a new report from IDH – the Sustainable Trade Initiative. If importers sourced 100% certified sustainable, it concludes, this figure would rise to over 2 million ha.

# PUBLISHED BOOKS AND STUDIES

## INVOLVEMENT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE FLEGT, REDD+ AND CERTIFICATION PROCESSES

As part of the closure of the FLEGT-REDD (FFEM funding), FLEGT-IP (EU funding) and FLEGT-Certification (PPECF funding) projects, a large number of activities were completed and resulted in the publication of useful tools and books for the sector, some of which are presented in this section; the end-of-project brochure is available here: [See the end-of-project brochure.](#)

**In short, the results and major achievements of these projects are presented in the following figures:**

- 32 companies willing to commit to certification;
- 13 coaching agreements signed with [PPECF](#) ;
- More than 30 structured and committed advocacy by the private forestry sector;
- 23 country profiles updated on the [Timber Trade Portal TTP](#) and translated into French;
- More than 80 participants in Plantation-Agroforestry webinars;
- 7 short films;
- More than 20 studies on various topics (carbon certification, PES, agroforestry, planting, national taxation, etc.);
- Project activities relayed through 184 articles in the ATIBT newsletter

## STATE OF PLAY STUDIES OF PRIVATE SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS



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These studies provide an overview of the private sector players in the forestry sector in the following countries (in French):

- [Gabon](#)
- [Cameroun](#)
- [Congo](#)
- [RDC](#)
- [Côte d'Ivoire](#)

They were conducted in partnership with the unions: GFBC (Cameroon), FIB (DRC), SPIB (Ivory Coast) and UFIGA (Gabon).



# PRACTICAL GUIDE ON AGROFORESTRY AND TIMBER PLANTATIONS



© JL\_Doucet

**ATIBT has conducted several studies since 2018 on this topic, with financial support from the FFEM through the FLEGT REDD project. You can find in the ATIBT media library all these studies, here are those conducted in 2020.**

The general objective of these studies was to contribute to **the evolution of the forest concession model** in order to make the tropical forest a sustainable lever for the territories. The aim is to diversify activities in order to secure wood resources, restore degraded forests and protect permanent forests. Several documents have been produced:

## **Forestry companies and timber plantations**

- a "[guide for setting up plantation projects for forestry companies](#)" (French), [published](#) in October 2020;
- feasibility studies on projects carried out by two forestry companies, presented during the webinar of October 28, 2020 - [see replay](#) (FR)

## **Forestry companies and agroforestry**

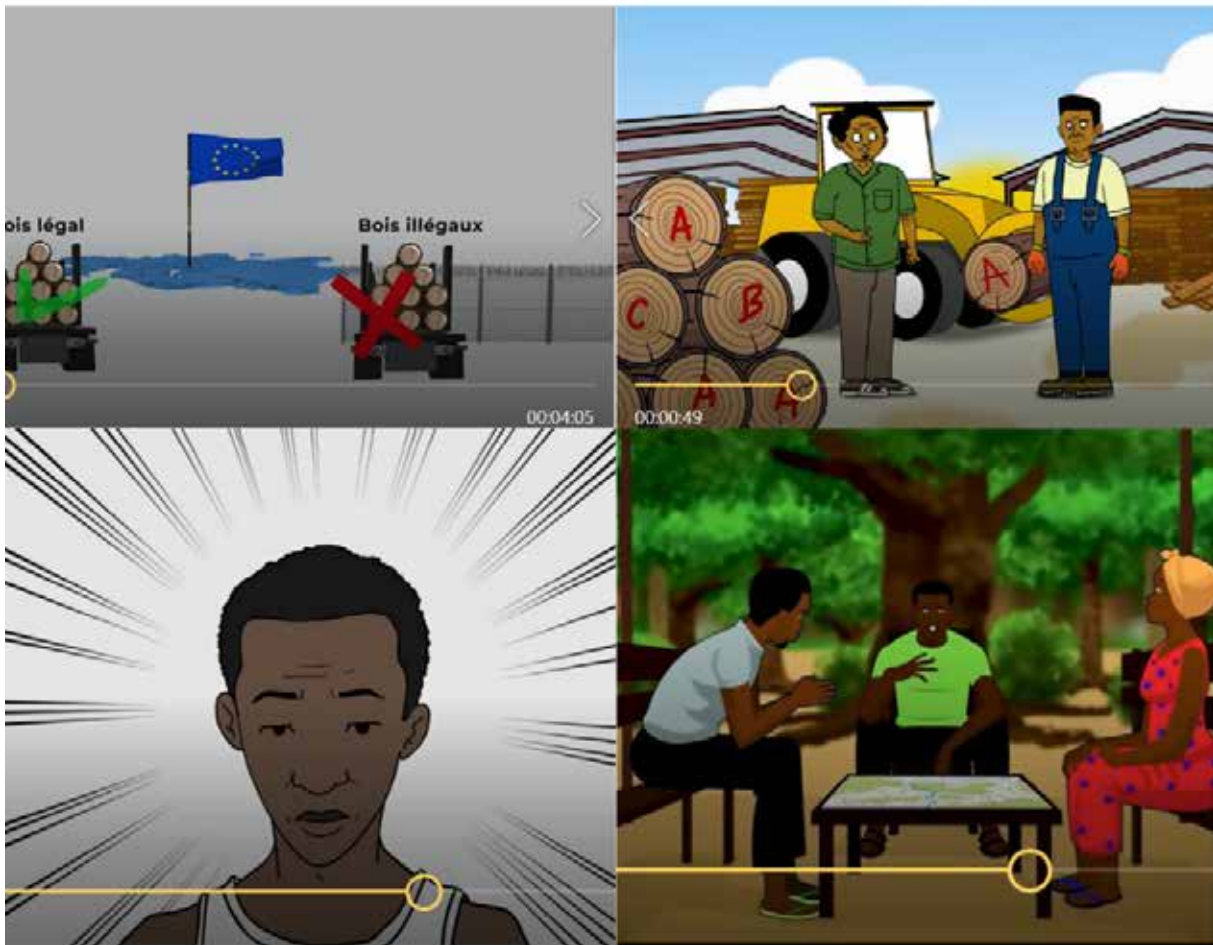
- a "[guide for setting up agroforestry projects for forestry companies](#)", [published](#) in April 2020;
- feasibility studies on agroforestry projects - Cocoa carried out by two forestry companies, presented during the webinar of October 28, 2020 - [see replay](#) (FR)

The studies have provided lessons that complement the guides and help to define guidelines for forestry companies: see the [agroforestry brochure](#) (FR) and [the plantation brochure](#) (FR).

## SHORT FILMS TO RAISE AWARENESS AMONG FORESTRY AND TIMBER SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS

Within the framework of the FLEGT-REDD, FLEGT-IP and FLEGT certification projects (financed respectively by the FFEM, the European Union and the PPECF), the Syndicat des Producteurs Industriels du Bois en Côte d'Ivoire (SPIB), the Union des Forestier et Industriels du Bois du Gabon

(UFIGA) and ATIBT commissioned the production of short films to raise awareness of the forestry and timber industry on the major issues involving the private sector. These short films can be broadcasted in all the countries targeted by the ATIBT projects.



**How does forest certification work in the company? Why is safety at work is important? What is FLEGT? When should I develop a management plan? How can I set up wood traceability in my company? The answers in pictures.**

## THE MAJOR CONCEPTS COLLECTION

- [The principles of FLEGT \(VPA-EUTR\)](#) and the link to forest certification: The message is embodied by two employees in a forestry company.
- [Forest certification](#): This video is a cartoon presenting the basic principles for a company wishing to commit to third-party verified forest certification.
- [Good forest governance as experienced today and its evolution](#): Yesterday's operator is not today's operator thanks to the evolution of the political, legal, institutional and regulatory framework, the planning and decision-making process in the sector, as well as the implementation, enforcement and respect of regulations. The message is embodied through people from the administration, the profession and a forestry company.

## THE BEST PRACTICES COLLECTION



© PALLISCO

- [The forest management plan and its implementation](#). The message is embodied by the characters through different shots. This short film discusses the basics of the management plan, its understanding, taking into account the needs of local communities, and the responsibilities of everyone in its implementation.
- [The traceability](#) of wood in the supply and manufacturing chain. This is a short film to raise **awareness among stakeholders at each stage of forest management**: from harvesting to processing through transportation.
- [Workplace safety](#) - Through a fictional story, it explains the importance of wearing protective equipment at work but also the importance of using quality equipment.
- Anti-poaching - Through a fictional story, this video features employees of a forestry operation asking questions about hunting, regulations and alternatives to meat consumption.



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# 2020

## THE YEAR OF COVID

The new coronavirus, first discovered in the Wuhan region of China in November 2019, staggered us and changed our lives for many months. It has sometimes caused the premature death of people we care about. Let's hope that 2021 will be more favorable, especially with the massive arrival of vaccines.

We need to evaluate the impact of this pandemic on the industry and on the life of our association.

## IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON AFRICA'S TIMBER SECTOR

The forestry sector has suffered a slowdown due to the closure of borders and the imposition of general population lockdown by governments. This epidemic has disrupted the international timber and forest products value chain with direct repercussions on the economic and social environment of forestry companies, jeopardizing the production and trade of forest products as well as the livelihoods of local populations.

The impact of the pandemic control measures hit timber producers in West and Central Africa meanwhile demand in traditional markets, particularly in Europe, was already under pressure due to declining consumption, changes in other materials and overproduction of certain timber species.

The forestry companies that are members of ATIBT have taken action to counter, at their level, the development of Covid-19 in Africa. Their objectives: to protect their employees and local populations, but also to continue the activity of a responsible and essential sector to the economic balance of these countries, where wood is one of the most important contributors to employment and the public purse.

Thus, companies based in Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, DRC and Côte d'Ivoire have all implemented measures to sustain the human, social and economic ecosystem of entire regions. The main objective has been to maintain their activities, and to minimize the impact of the pandemic on their workers and subcontractors.

In parallel, within our members, several prevention and care programs have been supported by the German Cooperation Bank KfW, through Fair&Precious. Thus, FSC-certified companies, such as CIB-OLAM, IFO-INTERHOLCO, PALLISCO, ROUGIER and PRECIOUS WOODS have implemented from the very beginning of the pandemic, the following actions

- Training in shielding measures in the concessions and processing centers;
- The implementation of measures to restrict access to the various workplaces and living areas;
- The provision of individual protective equipment in industrial and medical facilities (masks, hand washing devices, disposable clothing, etc.);

- Systematically taking the temperature of each employee on arrival at the sites using a thermal camera;
- The implementation of quarantine areas for confirmed cases and reception areas for suspected cases adjacent to hospitals or clinics;
- The prohibition of all employees to move to the risk areas;
- The implementation of an ambulance evacuation plan;
- Equipping laboratories with an immunoassay system and COVID-19 detection kits to perform large-scale tests on all employees, as was done very early on in the case of CIB-Olam, CEB-Precious-Woods, IFO, Pallisco and Rougier;
- Maintaining permanent contact with governmental, local, departmental and national structures on the new directives.

In this context of international health crisis, the timber industry has resisted the spread of Covid-19 and has organized itself to limit its economic impact in countries where the industry employs thousands of workers who have feared losing their livelihood.

## HOME WORKING AND VIDEOCONFERENCING: HABITS THAT HAVE CLEARLY CHANGED!

Between March and April 2020, faced with the extent and spread of the coronavirus, the authorities of the different countries decided lockdown to varying degrees, but which affected us all. These traffic restrictions, which were intended to slow down the spread of the pandemic, have created new habits.

Home working and videoconferencing have become the norm. The big question today is whether this will change our way of living and working in the long term.

**As for the strong points of home working,** and despite changes in habits for many, it is the learning of new communication practices, flexibility in terms of organiza-

tion of working time, and also paradoxically a certain professional proximity with colleagues who are often far away and usually work in the field.

Some members of the team emphasize the greater productivity that home working allows, especially due to the reduction in travel time and the facilitation of the organization of schedules. Our manager in Congo, for his part, looks at the impact of home working on projects. He underlines the reduction of costs of certain activities, including travel, and thus the possibility of adjusting budgets by proposing other relevant complementary actions, as the measures to fight the pandemic have allowed savings.

Some technical meetings were globally satisfactory in webinar format. For example, the Think Tank or the webinar on agroforestry were appreciated and allowed for constructive exchanges.

All of this also had repercussions on our carbon emissions, which we will have to take into account.

**Among the difficulties linked to home working,** we mention the quality of the internet connections and of course the reduction of physical contacts and therefore of human relations. Stimulation between colleagues is much less and is a real limitation of home working. In the same logic, some mention the tendency to work more and to mix private/work life. The absence of informal and spontaneous exchanges that allow for sharing, creating links, finding out about projects, with a risk of isolation are also mentioned. Creativity

was certainly less for some people, and the fact that they did not see each other to work on different projects was also regretted, hence the need to reinforce the holding regular team meetings.

Regarding the recommendations, it was emphasized to provide training/capacity building (online) on new communication tools and also to review the budget lines allocated to the internet connection, to invest in equipment and the acquisition of a better internet connection in certain cases.

Finally, it is obvious that by getting used to it, the risk of naturalization and internalization of the new cannot be ruled out. Thus, it is important to alternate the two so that home working does not become the norm. At the time of writing, much remains to be said about the evolution of our habits.



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# THANKS

Most of the projects managed by ATIBT in 2019 received ongoing financial support from our main donors: the EU (European Community), the AFD (French Development Agency), the FFEM (French Facility for Global Environment), the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation), the KfW (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau - German Development Agency), through the PPECF programme managed by COMIFAC and IDH (Sustainable Trade Initiative).



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