



LA RÉFÉRENCE EN MATIÈRE DE BOIS TROPICAL

## ATIBT at the Carrefour International du Bois 2024

May 28, 29 and 30, 2024

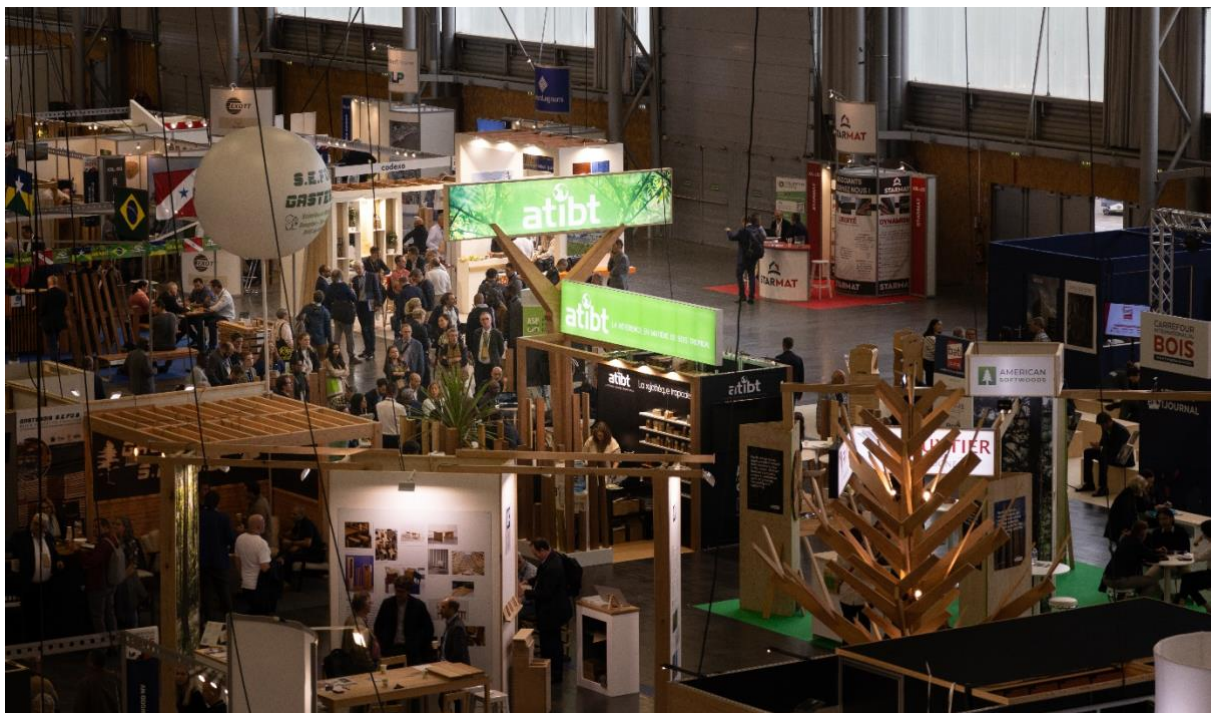


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Context

As it does every two years, the Carrefour International du Bois, the leading international trade show for the wood industry, was held in Nantes (France). For three days, from May 28 to 30, 2024, 637 exhibitors and 13,500 visitors gathered at the Parc des Expositions de la Beaujoire. ATIBT was present, with a 54 m<sup>2</sup> stand in Hall XXL.

As a reminder, the CIB is a business show organized every two years in Nantes by professionals from the Pays de la Loire region, and by the Grand Port Maritime de Nantes St Nazaire. The CIB brings together exhibitors and visitors over three days. Sawn timber, panels, parquet flooring, specialized trade, constructive wood solutions .... All products and novelties are available in one place.

The presence of tropical wood and the value of certification are relatively low-profile topics at the CIB, hence ATIBT's aim to raise its profile there in a context of rapidly changing regulations (EUDR, CITES, etc.) and to reach buyers and principals by emphasizing sustainable management.

EUDR was one of the key topics of our presence at the CIB this year: several demonstration sessions of due diligence tools developed by our members to support the private sector within the framework of EUDR took place on the ATIBT stand, and two conferences were organized in dedicated rooms in collaboration with the American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC) and the Fédération Nationale du Bois (FNB).

In addition to the EUDR, a wide range of topics were discussed at round tables organized on the stand throughout the three days of the CIB.

## Themes

The stand's activities focused on Cameroon, as part of the ASP Green Deal Cameroun project financed by the European Union. ATIBT's activities were made possible in large part thanks to financial support from the European Union. A delegation from Cameroon, including the ASP Green Deal Cameroun project manager, representatives of the Cameroon Ministry of Water and Forests (MINFOF) and representatives of the private sector (companies and trade unions) were present to take part in the round tables and address issues specific to Cameroon.

Nevertheless, other topics were addressed through round tables on the stand: the timber market in Congo, with the presence of the representative of ATIBT Congo and representatives of the Ministry of Forest Economy of the Republic of Congo (MEF), regulatory developments (EUDR, CITES, contracts and uses), promotion of lesser-known species, ATIBT's activities in Latin America, the FAO's Grow the solution campaign, ...

All these themes echo the commitments made by the Fair&Precious collective over the past 8 years. The collective's member forest operators (Pallisco CIFM, Rougier Gabon, Precious Woods, Mil Madeiras Preciosa, CIB Olam, IFO Interholco, Maderacre and Alpicam-Grumcam) were all present in Nantes. The actions on the stand were a good opportunity to highlight Fair&Precious and its ten commitments to sustainable tropical forest management: as the

collective's aim is to raise awareness of best practices among importers, Fair&Precious' presence at the Carrefour International du Bois was particularly timely.

The program was particularly rich and varied.

## Content and sessions

The ATIBT was mobilized on its stand in Hall XXL on all three days of the CIB. The stand was divided into 3 sections:

- An "agora" section where the round tables were held;
- The xylotheque was a great success, with participants showing great interest in the samples;
- A "B to B" section for professional meetings of ATIBT members.

16 round tables were held on the ATIBT stand on May 28, 29 and 30. Participants were able to benefit from translation thanks to the presence of our two regular translators and a headset system. Speakers spoke in English or French, and sometimes in Spanish.



## Participants

The ATIBT stand activities attracted a total of around one hundred participants (not forgetting the many CIB visitors who attended round tables while visiting the stands!), drawn from the private sector, civil society, public administrations and research. We benefited from the presence of a large number of members and partners from Congo Basin countries, in particular those involved in the ASP Green Deal Cameroun project. We were also pleased to welcome participants from Congo, Mexico, the United States, Guatemala and many European countries.



The FSC and PEFC/PAFC sustainable management certification bodies were of course on hand for discussions.

We would like to highlight the official participation of Mr Djogo Toumouksala and Eric Kaffo from Cameroon's Ministry of Water and Forests, Mr Pierre Taty and Mrs Paulette Ebina from the Republic of Congo's Ministry of Forest Economy, and Mr Pedro Chargoy, Minister of Economic Development for the State of Quintana Roo (Mexico).

We would also like to thank Ms Thais Linhares of the FAO and Dr Nurudeen Iddrisu of ITTO for their many contributions.

They all honored us with their presence.

## Feedback

### *Day 1 - Tuesday, May 28 - Stand ATIBT*

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE SURVEY OF EUROPEAN IMPORTERS OF CERTIFIED TIMBER FROM CAMEROON

Alessandra Negri (Le Commerce du Bois)

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The survey carried out by Le Commerce du Bois as part of the ASP - Green Deal Cameroon project, led by ATIBT and funded by the European Union, aimed to assess the potential of trade relations for certified tropical wood from Cameroon. The survey, conducted between the end of March and the end of April 2024 among 13 European timber companies, revealed that 10 of them had already imported certified tropical timber from Cameroon. The most commonly imported timber species include Sipo, Sapelli, Iroko, Ayous, Padouk and Doussié, with minimum legality certification requirements and a growing desire for sustainable management certifications, not least due to the entry into force of the EU's Regulation against Deforestation and Forest Degradation (EUDR) next December.

Despite significant interest in LKTS, challenges such as certification, reliability of the production chain and lack of technical testing were identified. Companies suggested improvements such as making the production chain more reliable, improving certification processes and carrying out more trials to encourage the use of Cameroonian LKTS. The second phase of the ASP – Green Deal Cameroon project will focus on the marketing of LKTS.

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#### OPENING SPEECH AT THE ATIBT STAND

MINFOF (Cameroon), MEF (Republic of Congo), Secretariat of Economic Development of the State of Quintana Roo (Mexico), ITTO, Dr Nurudeen Iddrisu (ITTO)

[Watch the video](#)

Discussions at CIB 2024 covered global themes in the tropical timber industry. This year, the ATIBT stand featured Cameroon, through the European Union-funded ASP Green Deal Cameroun project, with representatives from the Cameroon Ministry of Forests and Wildlife in attendance. The timber market in the Republic of Congo was also discussed. ATIBT activities in Mexico were presented by the Secretary of Economic Development of the State of Quintana Roo. Dr Nurudeen Iddrisu, Director of ITTO's Trade and Industry Division, also took part in the inauguration.

The round-table sessions were officially launched by the Director of Forests at Congo's Ministry of Forest Economy, Mrs. Paulette Ebina, and the project manager of ASP Green Deal Cameroun, Mr. Germain Yéné Yéné.



#### **FURTHER WOOD PROCESSING IN CAMEROON: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES**

Djogo Toumouksala (MINFOF Cameroun), Eric Kaffo (MINFOF Cameroun), Pierre Taty (MEF Republic of Congo), Paulette Ebina (MEF Republic of Congo), Justin Talom (Dino et Fils), Martin Nkié (SYNEFOR)

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[Find the presentation](#)

This round table took place against the backdrop of CEMAC's decision to halt the export of logs. The discussions were introduced by a presentation (the title of which corresponded to the theme of the round table) by the Director of the Promotion and Processing of Forest Products of the Cameroonian Ministry in charge of forests, who outlined the current state of advanced wood processing, the measures taken to develop wood processing and the difficulties encountered.

From the discussions that followed this presentation, it emerged that work to promote lesser-known species (LKTS) is imperative and serious. This work needs to be carried out in synergy between the various players in producing and importing countries, and in collaboration between the relevant organizations in producing and importing countries, including the market (domestic and foreign) and consumer habits, which remain key triggers for going further in the exploitation and valorization of lesser-known species. Representatives from Cameroon and Congo believe that the political will is there, and action is being taken, but financing difficulties are a major constraint for them. Some panellists suggested that joint projects could help make this a reality.

It was also pointed out that further processing of wood in producing countries can not only increase the sector's contribution to the national GDP by helping to boost local employment and value added in the countries concerned, but also improve forest yields by improving harvesting practices in a context where the export of logs has come to a halt. However, panelists and participants pointed out that certain factors such as the availability of energy, improved governance in the sector and the facilitation of the necessary investments by companies and others need to be addressed effectively to achieve this.



## **FAO - COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP OF FORESTS**

Thais Linhares (FAO)



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[Find the presentation](#)

Collaborative Partnership of Forests (CPF) and FAO initiatives to promote sustainable timber have been the focus of FAO and CPF actions since the signing of the Ministerial Declaration for Sustainable Timber in 2022 in Seoul, Korea.

Thais Linhares' presentation highlighted IUFRO's membership of the SW4SW (Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World) initiative, and FAO's collaboration with IUFRO and the Center for Bioeconomics at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna, the WOOD for GLOBE project, supported by Austria, as well as CPF's membership of the Grow the Solution campaign.

As part of the WOOD for GLOBE project, the main conclusions of the assessment on sustainable wood policies, the communication profile to raise public awareness, and the results of scientific investigations were presented. The Grow the Solution campaign, announced for 2022 at the XVth World Forestry Congress, was launched by the international organizations participating in the CPF at the XIXth Session of the UNFF in New York last May.

The presentation ended with an invitation to stakeholders to participate in the Ministerial Dialogue "WOOD for GLOBE: Leading pathways to carbon neutrality and resilience", on July 19, 2024, at the FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, where the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions, and Water Management of Autrice will chair a ministerial segment.



**RENEWAL OF DEVELOPMENT PLANS**

Elise Cambier (ATIBT), Paulette Ebina (MEF Congo), Martin Nkie (SYNEFOR), Plinio Sist (CIRAD), Frédéric Priser (TEREA)

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[Find the presentation](#)

At the round table on forest management, a participatory introduction helped to bring out the diversity of perspectives held by the players involved in forest management. This was followed by a brief presentation of the future ATIBT project. The aim is to take stock of the technical, social, environmental and economic aspects of previous developments. This project proposes to explore the prospects in order to develop and implement a strategy based on consultation workshops. The aim is to strengthen synergies between tropical basins, and to enable the creation of a fund to support scientific research on this subject.

The floor was also given to various stakeholders to share their lessons learned from existing development plans. Each speaker shed light on his or her specific challenges and opportunities. These included the need to secure the concession system, the importance of inventories and reliable indicators, and the need to think beyond the forest concession...

In conclusion, all the players present were invited to take part in future consultation activities, underlining the importance of continued dialogue and cooperation in tackling this crucial topical issue.

### *Day 2 - Wednesday, May 29 - ATIBT stand*

#### **EUDR DUE DILIGENCE TOOLS: EKWATO**

Vincent Pelé (Ekwato)

[Watch the video](#)

After introducing the Ekwato team and its partners in innovation, the founder briefly recalled the main technical constraints to be resolved by companies in the timber industry affected by the new EUDR regulations:

- 1) The wood product and its supply chain evolve over time,
- 2) Risk analysis (its decision tree, criteria and limits) evolves over time.
- 3) The risk level of a wood product (analysis result) evolves over time,
- 4) The origin of the forests uses changes over time.

The first 3 constraints were already known from the previous EUTR regulation since 2013, but without a compulsory declaration of a quantity, a new point (EUDR) to be linked directly to the declared product with its associated level of risk. The 4th constraint appeared with the EUDR, not forgetting the notion of "deforestation and forest degradation", which may also evolve over time.

The Ekwato digital solution takes into account all these constraints, which "move" over time, in order to manage and control the application of a wood products purchasing policy; in other words, to respond effectively to internal requirements (selection of suppliers and their wood products), normative requirements (FSC, PEFC, and legality standards), as well as regulatory requirements (EUTR, EUDR, and other regulations), while remaining flexible and resilient.

The founder presented the 5 modules of the Ekwato solution:

- the "Collect" module (automated, optimized collection of documents from suppliers),
- the "Risk" module (automated real-time risk analysis, risk reduction measures),
- the "Share" module (designed for exporters, this secure platform enables documents to be distributed to importing customers, who must produce their own DDS for imported wood products).
- the "Source" module (geolocation of forests used and link with wood products; edition of the Declaration of Reasoned Diligence according to EUDR requirements, including all geographical coordinates).
- the "Tag" module (a telephone application that communicates information about a wood product to consumers by reading its barcode).

To clarify his remarks, the founder then showed several examples of risk management for wood products using the Ekwato tool's dashboard (a graph showing changes in the level of product risk over time). This graph allows the user to visually observe changes in the risk level (low, medium, high) of a wood product over time (history); using this method, it is then easy for the user to check the response time of a risk reduction measure to ensure that the risk level is low when the product is imported (marketed or exported, depending on the cases set by the EUDR), information that is essential for any company concerned by the EUDR (in particular for the edition of the DDR). The example of the graph for all wood products provides very useful information on the overall risk situation, so that you can anticipate the actions to be taken or check that they are being applied.

The geolocation of the forests used (EUDR requirements) was then demonstrated through the presentation of a real-life example created by importing ShapeFiles (GIS), enabling forest parcels to be displayed on screen on a map with all their geographical coordinates. A concrete case was then presented concerning a complex finished product (several components from different countries of origin and different forests), which demonstrated the full effectiveness of the tool by displaying all the forest parcels used in connection with the wood product and its declaration (DDR) on an on-screen map.

The presentation concluded with the advantages of the Ekwato tool (security, comfort, customization, anticipation, ergonomics, accessibility) and its associated services (EUTR/EUDR diagnostics, internal audits, supplier audits, FSC/PEFC/legality certification advice).

For further information, please contact Vincent Pelé (vincent.pele@ekwato.com / 06 50 35 06 35)

Website: [www.ekwato.com](http://www.ekwato.com)

## PAFC CERTIFICATION CONGO BASIN

Thomas Seyvet (PEFC International)

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[Find the presentation](#)

Since the creation of the PAFC Congo Basin regional initiative bringing together the three PEFC members, PAFC Gabon, PAFC Congo and PAFC Cameroon, PAFC sustainable management certification has gained considerable momentum. By working with a working group of local stakeholders to create a pragmatic, operational, reliable and internationally recognized certification scheme, the number of certified hectares has increased 4-fold in 5 years. But PAFC didn't stop at developing the scheme; it also developed practical, operational tools such as the greenhouse gas emissions assessment tool and the carbon stock mapping methodology. As these tools have been greatly appreciated by companies, PAFC is continuing the development of tools in 2024 with the elaboration of thematic training courses on the specificities of the PAFC Congo Basin standard.

Finally, a regional office will be set up in early 2025 to coordinate the development and administration of PAFC certification across the three countries.

EUDR update: PEFC International is looking to update its standard to meet EUDR requirements. The aim is to propose a revision of the reference standard (PEFC ST 1003) by the end of the year. The PAFC Congo Basin standard will also be updated to meet all EUDR requirements.

For more information please visit: [pafc-certification.org](http://pafc-certification.org) or contact us directly [coordination@pafc-certification.org](mailto:coordination@pafc-certification.org)

## RAINFOREST ALLIANCE'S COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

Santiago Machado (Rainforest Alliance), Jose Roman Carrera (Rainforest Alliance), Emmanuelle Berenger (Rainforest Alliance), Mark van Benthem (Stichting Probos), Scott Francisco (Pilot Projects), Byron Hernández (Carmelita Forest Concession), Pedro Citlac Chargoy, (Minister of Economic Development, Mexico), Juliana Mutis (Minka Dev), Celso Chan Rivas (Community Forest Member)

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[Find the presentation 1](#)

[find the catalog of tropical timber species](#)

Panel discussion on the challenges and opportunities associated with tropical timber from community-managed forests in the Selva Maya, particularly in Mexico and Guatemala. Lesser-known wood species from the Selva Maya, commercial opportunities and experiences with conservation timber on the European market were discussed.

All the community forest concessions in Guatemala (around 400,000 ha) are FSC-certified. In Mexico, some Ejidos (communities owning forests or land in Mexico) are also FSC certified. This offers opportunities for European buyers, particularly in the context of the EUDR. We sought to find new opportunities for lesser-known tropical timber species from Selva Maya,



including Chicozapote (*Manilkara zapota*), Manchiche (*Lonchocarpus castilloi*), Tzalam (*Lysiloma latisiliquum*), and Pucte (*Bucida buceras*).

## EUDR DUE DILIGENCE TOOLS: 11FOUNDRY

Katharina Schneider (11Foundry)

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Due diligence legislation, such as the Lacey Act, the EUTR and the EUDR, share common requirements: understanding and mapping supply chains, collecting information, assessing due diligence and making declarations.

11Foundry has developed technologies in its Command Center software to meet these needs. The building block approach breaks down supply chains into elements such as countries, forests, companies and species, enabling a comprehensive risk assessment. The Accelerator tool facilitates data collection by allowing suppliers to easily upload the required information.

Command Center includes a mapping tool that automatically generates a geographical footprint of the supply chain, offering a rapid visualization of product sources. The assessment engine centralizes due diligence procedures, asking relevant questions, documenting information sources and risk mitigation measures to ensure rigorous compliance with regulations.

Finally, an API under development will enable direct integration with EU information systems to simplify the sharing of due diligence data. 11Foundry's cooperative approach enables integration with numerous partners, making Command Center indispensable for EUDR compliance and facilitating due diligence management and reporting.

## PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (PES) IN CAMEROON: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Germain Yéné Yéné (ATIBT), Caroline Duhesme (ATIBT), Richard Feteke (Pallisco), Nana Darko Cobbina (FSC International), Felix von Eynern (FSC International)

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This round table brought together various experts to discuss the importance and challenges of valuing the ecosystem services (ES) provided by certified forestry companies. Here is a summary of the main points discussed at the meeting.

**Background and introduction:** It is widely recognized that certified forest enterprises play a crucial role in providing environmental and social services. Given their importance, it is necessary to consider ways of valuing these services to support the efforts of these companies and strengthen the forest concession model.

**Testimonial from Pallisco: Commitment to PES**

**Mr. Richard Feteke of Pallisco** presented the company's journey towards the PES commitment, stressing that it represents a logical extension of their commitment to sustainable forest management. Pallisco seeks to leverage its actions in favor of ecosystem services, notably biodiversity and carbon sequestration, as a complement to their sustainable management.

### **FSC intervention**

Since February 2022, **FSC has been** implementing a project in three Congo Basin countries aimed at improving the economic viability and attractiveness of FSC certification for forest managers. The aim is to demonstrate the applicability of the FSC ecosystem services (ES) procedure and open up new sources of income for certificate holders.

The main points of this intervention included:

- **Testing the FSC PRO-30-006 procedure:** This procedure is currently being tested in three concessions in two different countries in the Congo Basin, covering ecosystem services linked to carbon and biodiversity.
- **Preparation of ecosystem services certification documents:** Four documents have been prepared to date, including one verified by a certification body, another assessed, and two awaiting audit.
- **Assessment of opportunities and constraints:** Regulatory frameworks and operating contracts in the sub-region are not yet adapted to the commercialization of ecosystem services by concessionaires.

### **Speech by Germain Yéné: Issues of ownership of environmental and social services**

**Mr. Germain Yéné (ATIBT)** addressed critical points concerning the ownership of environmental and social services in FSC-certified concessions. He stressed the importance of clarifying this ownership to facilitate their valorization. He also highlighted the challenges of working with stakeholders to ensure equitable sharing of the revenues generated by PES.

**Conclusion:** the round table highlighted the importance of the ecosystem services provided by certified forestry companies, and the challenges to be overcome in valuing them. Discussions highlighted the need to adapt regulatory frameworks, clarify ownership of ecosystem services and ensure equitable revenue sharing. Stakeholders also reaffirmed their commitment to sustainable forest management, which is essential for the sustainability of ecosystem services and support for local communities and indigenous peoples.



### THE TIMBER MARKET IN THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Paulette Ebina (MEF Congo), Pierre Taty (MEF Congo) Alain Tiotsop (ATIBT), Vincent Istace (CIB Olam), Tullia Baldassarri (Interholco), Eric Kaffo (MINFOF Cameroun)

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This round table focused on the domestic timber market in the countries of the Central African sub-region, with particular emphasis on the Republic of Congo.

Taking the floor first, Ms. Paulette Ebina presented the context of the Interior Timber Market (Marché Intérieur du Bois – MIB) in the Republic of Congo (forest area, level of structuring, source of supply...). She then outlined some of the difficulties and obstacles facing MIB, including poor structuring, difficulties accessing legal timber, and a shortage of skilled labor. She ended her talk with a few perspectives, including the key reforms of Law 33-2020 of July 08, 2020 on the forestry code: domestic logging permits, the log export ban, the production sharing regime.

Tullia Baldassarri thanked the ATIBT for the initiative and the opportunity, and indicated that IINTERHOLCO is available to make its contribution to the development of the domestic wood market, based on the guidelines and vision of the MEF, in order to meet the needs of CLPAs (Local communities and indigenous people).

Mr. Vincent Istace emphasized the value of FSC-certified products (impossible to sell on the domestic market) and the low consumer rate (total number of inhabitants in the Republic of Congo relatively low).

With regard to experience sharing, the Director of Promotion and Processing of Forest Products, representing MINFOF (Cameroon), recalled some of the recommendations of the

COMIFAC Forest Governance Working Group Workshop held from February 20 to 22, 2024 in Douala, Cameroon. Specifically, these were:

- Encourage governments to adopt tax incentives to boost the local industrial ecosystem towards further processing by applying degressive customs duty rates according to the level of processing of exported wood products;
- Facilitate the search for niche African markets for wood products.

The Republic of Cameroon's private sector also supported the latest CEMAC decision to halt log exports (postponed until January 2028), as the issue of energy and skilled labor must first be resolved if we are to move towards more advanced wood processing.

Taking the floor, the Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Forest Economy of the Republic of Congo first appreciated the sharing of experience with Cameroon, before presenting the specificities of the Republic of Congo, which had already provided for a log export ban in Law 16-2000 on the Forestry Code. The key reforms contained in Law 33-2020 of July 08 on the Forestry Code (log export ban and production sharing scheme) should help to improve the domestic timber market, particularly the supply of legal timber. The log export ban is now effective in the Republic of the Congo since August 2023 and Mr. Pierre TATY urged all stakeholders to be optimistic, in order to move forward.

In conclusion, it was noted that there is a need to improve the domestic timber market in the countries of the sub-region, in response to the problem of the cessation of log exports and the further processing of timber, with the main current difficulties being the level of structuring, access to legal timber, the lack of skilled manpower, the low level of industrialization and low energy capacity. In terms of prospects, as explained above, several actions are underway in the Republic of Congo and Cameroon.





## EUDR DUE DILIGENCE TOOLS: SUPPLY LOGICA

Olivier Bonneau and Marco Gardin (OBBOIS)

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The result of over 10 years' experience with OBBOIS in implementing the EUDR, Supply Logica is a service for verifying product compliance with the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), and for drawing up due diligence declarations.

It is a secure platform for collecting information in supply chains, managing the risks of marketing products derived from illegal activities or linked to deforestation, and enabling this information to be transferred while ensuring security and confidentiality. Supply Logica is a balanced tool, accessible to all players in the supply chain, developed by experts in due diligence, who will be able to provide pragmatic solutions to the problems faced by the various players.

Supply Logica offers a supply chain approach, adapting to the ability of different links in the supply chain to physically separate products. This flexibility enables each player, whatever their resources, to ensure compliant traceability.

Companies enter basic information about their supplies, and the platform then cascades this information down to suppliers to identify the origin of products, recording each origin with geolocation information. This approach makes it possible to assess risks upstream of commercial relations, making a clear distinction between deforestation and legal practices.

Supply Logica offers a risk assessment for each origin, based on the criteria defined in the regulation. Depending on the level of risk, more precise assessments can be carried out, ranging from mapping analysis to third-party verification.

Supply Logica ensures the secure transfer of information within the supply chain, thanks to a secure platform. Each user can also manage the confidentiality of the information entered, enabling controlled sharing of sensitive data. In the case of sensitive information, Supply Logica can act as an agent to make the necessary declarations to the European information system.

Supply Logica's presentation highlighted the platform's advanced functionalities for ensuring company compliance with the EUDR, covering traceability, information gathering, risk management and confidentiality. The solution, developed on the basis of over ten years' experience with OBBOIS, offers pragmatic tools accessible to all players in the timber industry, responding to the challenges and opportunities of the new European regulation on deforestation.

As the implementation of the EUDR and European Commission directives evolves, regular increments are made to the platform. Specially deployed for the CIB, the beta version of the Supply Logica platform is available online ([app.supplylogica.com](http://app.supplylogica.com)), so don't hesitate to try it out and give your feedback to help improve it!

## *Day 2 - Wednesday, May 29 - Other highlights*

### **EUDR ROUND TABLE ORGANIZED BY THE TIMBER TRADE**

As part of the General Meeting of the Timber Trade, a round table discussion led by **Arnaud HETROIT** (LCB Director) provided an opportunity to discuss the challenges of the EUDR.

**Xavier Rossi** ([Transitions DD](#)) presented an analysis of LCB's due diligence system (SDR). Although the current SDR provides a solid foundation, the study revealed the need for updates to meet the new requirements of the EUDR. Xavier Rossi made recommendations to strengthen supply chain reliability and clarify merchant obligations. Next steps include updating LCB's due diligence system and updating the repository by country origin, with a particular focus on tracking and managing complaints for effective due diligence.

**Caroline Duhesme (ATIBT)** then detailed the EUDR, which will come into force in December 2024, with deferred application to June 2025 for SMEs. This regulation imposes strict obligations, including the implementation of due diligence systems and the submission of due diligence declarations. To meet traceability and legality requirements, Caroline emphasized the importance of sustainable forest management and certification. Products must be traceable, legal and comply with strict environmental standards.

**Aurélien Sautière**, Director of [FSC France](#), presented the integration of an EUDR-specific regulatory module into the FSC standard, including technological solutions such as blockchain to ensure traceability and transparency of certified products from 2025. **Paul-Emmanuel Huet**, Director of [PEFC France](#), detailed PEFC's roadmap for alignment with the EUDR, highlighting the challenges involved in defining degradation, with implementation scheduled for the end of 2024 and application for SMEs in June 2025.

Finally, **Robin Fisher** ([American Hardwood Export Council \(AHEC\)](#)), described a compliance system for US hardwoods, including a database and independent assessments to ensure that shipments to the EU meet legality and no-deforestation requirements. Provenance technologies based on geolocation at county level are key to minimizing costs while ensuring compliance.

This roundtable provided a valuable overview of the efforts and strategies deployed by various players to prepare for EUDR implementation, underlining the collective commitment to sustainability and legality of forest products.

### **AHEC-ATIBT CONFERENCE: "AMERICAN AND TROPICAL HARDWOODS: MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF EUDR".**

This conference, co-organized by ATIBT and AHEC, aimed to explore how two major wood supply regions - smallholder-managed forests in the USA and tropical forests - are preparing to meet the requirements of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

Caroline Duhesme (ATIBT) opened the conference with a presentation of the EUDR's main requirements, its state of implementation, and the associated challenges. She emphasized the

importance of EUDR compliance in guaranteeing the sustainability and legality of forest products.

Then Mike Snow, Executive Director of AHEC, presented the context of non-industrial private forests in the United States and the Sustainable Hardwood Coalition (SHC) certification initiative, aimed at complying with the EUDR. Then Mr. Pierre Taty, Director of Forests at the Ministry of Forest Economy of the Republic of Congo, described the forestry context of the Congo Basin, focusing on forest concessions, regulation and certification.

Moderated by Mike Jeffrey, the first session addressed how to guarantee zero deforestation and the legality of forest products. Rupert Oliver (AHEC) first explained the US regulatory framework, the assessment and quantification of deforestation according to EUDR definitions, as well as legality requirements and verification according to the SHC initiative. Vincent Istace (CSR Director, CIB - Olam Agri, Congo) then presented the principles of sustainable forest management (SFM) in the tropics, which meets the EUDR's zero deforestation/degradation target, and which is based on management plans. He also explained the role of SFM certification in supporting the implementation of sustainable management and regulations in the Congo Basin.

The second session, also moderated by Mike Jeffrey, focused on geolocation requirements, value chain traceability, and data transfer. Rupert Oliver (AHEC) addressed the traceability of AHEC members, the transfer of geolocation data across the supply chain, and the SHC system. Emmanuel Bon (General Manager of Alpica, Cameroon) explained the principles of traceability in the Congo Basin, the management of legal documents linked to traceability, and the operation of certification chains of custody, the pillars for transmitting the geolocation data required by the EUDR.

The session concluded with a final 20-minute question-and-answer session, enabling participants to ask specific questions and share best practices.



*Day 3 - Thursday, May 30 - ATIBT stand*

### **CITES AND WOOD PRODUCTS FROM CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA**

Franck Monthe and Germain Yéné Yéné (ATIBT), Jean-Faustin Nguéyep

[Watch the video](#)

[Find the presentation](#)

The CITES round table focused on a detailed presentation of CITES and wood products from Central and West Africa. It highlighted existing gaps and provided an overview of the context of CITES and its timber products. The discussion also covered the conclusions of the latest CITES COP 19 in Panama, where new species, such as padouk, were added to CITES Appendix II. Yet this species is not threatened. The specifics of CITES implementation in these regions, the main activities of the ATIBT's CITES program, and the outlook, including the preparation of the necessary data for the next CITES COP in 2025, were also discussed.



## PRESENTATION OF UPDATED FACTSHEETS ON TROPICAL TIMBER CONTRACTS AND USES

Emmanuel Groutel (Wale), Jean Gérard (CIRAD), Nurudeen Iddrisu (ITTO)

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In view of the obsolete nature of the two former ATIBT documents, Contracts and Practices (1988) and Litigation and Claims (2001), it was felt necessary to define new recommendations for contract wording, and to draw up one or more documents that would serve as reference tools for operators in the industry.

The aim is to formalize and redefine the rules in force in the international tropical timber trade, and to define guidelines and recommendations for contract wording. These recommendations are intended to cover the framework of the contract and the proposal of a common language that takes into account the differences in practices in the target markets, as well as the evolution of these practices.



It was therefore decided to produce a series of 12 practical, educational and progressive booklets on the following 12 themes:

1. Wood names and designations
2. Terminology applied to wood and wood products
6. Main grading rules for tropical sawn timber
4. Wood moisture content and drying levels
5. Measurement, dimensions and oversize of tropical sawn timber
6. Ecocertifications, legality certifications and international timber trade regulations
7. Recommendations for the marketing of CITES-listed species

8. Containerization, container specifications and the SOLAS convention
9. Incoterms 2020
10. Marine insurance
11. Document bundle
12. General recommendations on contract terms

### LESSER-KNOWN TIMBER SPECIES IN CAMEROON: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES FOR RESEARCH, PROCESSING AND MARKETING

Robin Doucet (Gembloux), Eric Kaffo (MINFOF), Jean Gérard (CIRAD), Emmanuel Groutel (Wale), Richard Feteke (Pallisco)

[Watch the video](#)

[Find the presentation](#)

Faced with the declining economic potential of some of Central Africa's flagship forest species, diversification of production species appears to be an essential solution. Using a multidisciplinary approach focusing on seven secondary species, Robin Doucet's doctoral thesis identified four concrete recommendations for the sustainable development of these new species. According to the author, these recommendations should be integrated into the revision of future management plans: (a) The management unit of forest stands should be the botanical species, not a commercial name grouping together several species. (b) The trade names of secondary species must be updated to truly reflect their wood properties and conservation status. (c) The quality of standing trees must be taken into account when calculating the reconstitution of forest resources. (d) Incentives or compensation must be put in place to encourage operators to diversify their production while guaranteeing the capitalization of quality tree volumes, thus ensuring better medium-term management.

With regard to the processing of LKTS, a "Gluing" initiative was launched in response to questions received by the ATIBT concerning the quality marks and certification systems applied to finger-jointed glued laminated squares (what exists in France, Europe and internationally, comparative advantages of available systems, particularly for tropical woods, etc.). The first, relatively fragmentary, answers have been provided.

A number of phase ideas emerged:

- when it comes to "glued wood", product-related issues are more important than species-related issues ("product" approach, not "species" approach),
- it is closely linked to the issue of LKTS valorization,
- the development of solid wood gluing has a direct impact on the diversification of supplies

We're not starting from scratch when it comes to blending wood species for glued solid wood products. These products are already being produced, and some successful experiments from the more or less distant past have set the standard. The gluing of mixed species works, provided that certain rules of the art are respected, e.g. assembly of species with similar properties, pieces with the same orientation for finger-joints, and if possible for laminations.

## THE MADERA CERO DEFORESTACION PROJECT IN MEXICO'S SELVA MAYA REGION

Juliana Mutis and Rosa Cisneros (Minka Dev), Celso Chan Rivas, Pedro Chargoy

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[Find the presentation](#)

For the last round table of the CIB, a new project supported by ATIBT with links to Latin America was presented. The "Madera Cero Deforestación" project, financed by the European Union as part of the AL-INVEST Verde program, aims to strengthen the production system of the timber sector in the states of Campeche and Quintana Roo, adapting it to the requirements of the European market in terms of deforestation-free sustainability.

The main objectives of the project are as follows:

- Development of traceability and training: Creation of digital tools and training to guarantee traceability and demonstrate deforestation-free production, in line with the guidelines of EU regulation 2023/1115.
- Innovation in production systems: Promote innovation in the production systems of SMEs in the wood sector to adapt them to legal requirements and European and international markets.
- Business growth and consolidation: Generating growth and consolidating businesses in the wood sector in Campeche and Quintana Roo.
- Sustainable development: Ensure the social, economic and sustainable development of forest communities in both states.

The project is structured around several components:

- Design and implementation of a deforestation-free traceability pilot model: Development of a traceability system using advanced technologies such as blockchain for greater transparency and accuracy.
- Knowledge transfer: Organization of seminars, workshops and information sessions to transfer knowledge on traceability and the transformations required for nearshoring.
- Business meetings and B2B events: facilitating meetings between companies to promote business opportunities.
- Definition and monitoring of social and environmental safeguard indicators: Identify and monitor safeguard indicators for appropriate management of social and environmental risks.

Key consortium partners include ATIBT, the Quintana Roo Economic Development Secretariat, the Campeche Ministry of the Environment, and Conservation International. The project also incorporates a strong community participation component, working with the "ejidos" to appropriate digital tools and ensure their autonomy and self-management.

In short, the "Madera Cero Deforestación" project aims to transform and modernize the timber sector in Campeche and Quintana Roo, while guaranteeing sustainable production that

complies with European standards, thus contributing to the economic and social development of local communities.

### *Day 3 - Thursday, May 30 - Other highlights*

#### **CONFERENCE FNB-ATIBT: "FRENCH TIMBER, EUROPEAN TIMBER, TROPICAL TIMBER » EUDR: WHAT ARE THE SOLUTIONS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION?"**

Organized by the Fédération Nationale du Bois (FNB) and the ATIBT, this conference aimed to explore solutions for preparing for the implementation of the EUDR (EU deforestation regulation). After a presentation of the regulation's main requirements and the issues at stake, two round-table panels were proposed: the first addressing the regulation's impact on companies and the means they plan to implement to meet it, and the second presenting tools and solutions to assist implementation of the requirements, as part of the due diligence that companies will have to demonstrate.

The first round table brought together Romain Daniel Barillet (Barillet), Guillaume Jammes (SEEF Cameroon) and Eric Le Mière (Arbor Group). Romain Daniel spoke about the challenges of forest fragmentation in France, and Guillaume Jammes about sustainable forest management in Cameroon. Eric Le Mière noted a growing demand for transparency on the part of customers. The three speakers outlined the types of information to be collected, such as geolocation and legality data, which are essential. They stressed the need for suppliers to provide detailed information and guarantee traceability.

The second round table brought together various service providers and tool suppliers: Olivier Bonneau (Supply Logica), Vincent Pele (Ekwato), Loic Plauche Gillon (Timbtrack) and Anne Jacquin (Airbus Defence and Space) presented their technological solutions. These include the use of GPS and RFID, and satellite images to ensure traceability and detect deforestation, and tools and solutions to implement due diligence and analyze the risks of deforestation and illegality.

The conference highlighted discussions on zero deforestation verification, legality, geolocation information collection, supply chain analysis and data transmission. It offered professionals practical information and strategies to prepare for upcoming regulatory changes and to strengthen the wood sector's commitment to sustainability and the protection of the world's forests. A question-and-answer session followed to deepen the discussions.



### CITIES4FORESTS CONFERENCE: "CONSERVATION TIMBER"

Mr Scott Francisco, Ms Thais Linhares, Mr Benoit Jobbé-Duval, Mr Claude Garcia, Mr Stephane Glannaz, Mr Mark Van Benthem, Mr Mikkel Jenssen, Ms Sarah Laroussi, Mr Carlos Estrada, Ms Juliana Mutis, Ville de Paris, PEFC, FSC

It was a meeting of experts on the future of wood as a forest conservation tool. Pilots Projects and Cities4Forests organized a brainstorming session on the concept of "conservation wood" as a crucial wood category in future wood production and supply. The event aimed to explore the importance and implications of "Conservation Wood" in addressing the pressing needs and perspectives of stakeholders across the value system, from forest owners to consumers and end-users.

### Report on ATIBT's participation in this edition of CIB 2024

The CIB 2024 was an opportunity for ATIBT to meet many of its members, present at their respective stands or as visitors, and to exchange views with its partners in the field in producer countries. We're delighted to have been able to discuss such a wide range of fascinating topics, and to have contributed together to raising the profile of the tropical timber industry and sustainable management at an internationally renowned event with little focus on tropical timber.

**CIB 2024 was also a milestone for the ASP Green Deal Cameroun project**, marking the end of its first phase. The coming months look promising, albeit fraught with pitfalls: we remain mobilized to promote access to wood products from well-managed sources in Cameroon.



Discussions, roundtables and conferences were of course also an opportunity to meet our new members, strengthen our ties, and reach out to new organizations with whom to build the future of the industry!

## Thanks

ATIBT would particularly like to thank the following people and organizations:

- **Djogo Toumouksala and Eric Kaffo of the Cameroon Ministry of Forests and Fauna**, who took an active part in numerous meetings;
- **Mr. Pierre Taty, Director of the Cabinet of the Ministry of Forest Economy of the Republic of Congo**, who has contributed to numerous reflections;
- **Mrs Paulette Ebina, Director of Forests at the Ministry of Forest Economy of the Republic of Congo**, who took part in numerous discussions and round tables;
- **Mr Pedro Chargoy, Minister of Economic Development** for the State of Quintana Roo (Mexico), and **Ms Veronica Garcia**.
- **Dr Nurudeen Iddrisu, Director of ITTO's Trade and Industry Division**, for his valuable contributions;
- **Thais Linhares, FAO Sustainable Wood for Sustainable World (SW4SW) Programme Manager**, for her active participation;
- **The European Union**, which, through the ASP Green Deal Cameroun project, provided substantial funding for ATIBT's activities at the CIB and made it possible for a delegation from Cameroon to attend;
- **ITTO** for its financial support;
- **PEFC International** for its financial support;
- **The Fair&Precious operators**, including **Pallisco, Alpicam, Precious Woods, Rougier, IFO-Interholco, CIB Olam and Maderacre**, who helped bring the stand to life;
- **The LCB association and Alessandra Negri**, to present the first results of the European survey of certified wood importers;
- **Mr Emmanuel Groutel (Wale) and Jean Gérard (Cirad)** for their presentation of the "contracts and uses" sheets and their technical reflections on the future;
- **Rainforest Alliance, Probos, Gembloux, Cities4Forests, Minkadev, 11 Foundry, Ekwato, Obbois and many others**;
- **The Pasquet company**, which supplied the wood needed to build the stand, and the **Pub Volume** company, which designed and built it;
- **Last but not least, all the speakers who contributed to the richness of these round tables and discussions!**



Thanks to all of you!

The ATIBT team