

Meeting Summary Report

*“Sustainable Wood for a
Sustainable World” (SW4SW)
dialogue
for Francophone countries in
Africa*

Douala, Cameroon

28-30 May 2019



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



WORLD BANK GROUP



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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACSI	Advisory Committee of Sustainable Forest-based Industries
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
WB	The World Bank
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
CPF	Collaborative Partnership on Forests
MINFOF	Ministry of Forests and Wildlife of Cameroon
GFBC	Cameroon Forestry Industry Group
ATIBT	Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux
COMIFAC	Commission of Central African Forests
REFACOF	The African Women’s Network for Community Management of Forests
FFF	Forest and Farm Facility
FLAG	Field Legality Advisory Group
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
PAFC	Pan-African Forest Certification
MFPP	Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks of Quebec
IFDD	Institut de la francophonie pour le développement durable
OIF	l’Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
UFIAG	Forest Union of Asian Industries in Gabon
UNIK	University of Kibungo
SW4SW	Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SWVC	Sustainable Wood Value Chain
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
REDD+	The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries

Introduction

Financial constraints often undermine efforts to advance sustainable forest management of natural forests as well as to restore and expand forest cover to achieve sustainable landscapes. Global and local schemes for payment for ecosystem services, including carbon, are still at incipient stage, while forest products face numerous market barriers. Sustainable wood products, so far the most or even only fully marketable product from sustainable forest management of natural forests and plantations, count with no price differentiation from wood products produced in an unsustainable fashion. As a result, the economic and financial feasibility of sustainable forest management and sustainable forest value chains is usually not enough to engender a substantive investment cycle in forestry.

Market barriers for sustainable wood products have become more critical due to the persistent unsustainable practices. Negative reporting on the effects of unsustainable practices has damaged the reputation of wood products in general. The general public often perceives wood products as drivers of forest degradation and deforestation, without proper differentiation between sustainable or unsustainable supply sources. Eventually, the supply of sustainable wood products is at risk if consumers cannot be reassured about their impact on the environment and populations.

Evidence shows, however, that sustainable wood products value chains do deliver essential contributions to achieve the SDGs and climate change objectives. Increasing knowledge and information on these contributions as well as clarifying the linkages between sustainable rural and urban landscapes can provide efficient pathways to the achievement of sustainable development.

In 2018, FAO together with the ACSFI, CIFOR, ITTO, the World Bank, and WWF launched the Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World Initiative (SW4SW) as a joint initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). The principal goal of this initiative is to strengthen sustainable wood value chains to enhance their social, economic and environmental benefits from production to consumption. Specifically, the initiative aims to enhance the contribution of sustainable wood value chains for the more efficient achievement of SDGs and climate change objectives. Building on the expertise and programme of work of each of the partner organizations, the SW4SW supports policy frameworks and approaches, as well as market solutions. This work includes using smart incentives to foster sustainable wood sourcing, adopting inclusive business and investment models, facilitating the uptake of sustainable practices across various wood value chains, and promoting increased wood use for reducing material and carbon footprints.

The SW4SW Regional Dialogues aim to raise awareness and build capacity on the contributions of sustainable wood value chains to sustainable development. Through dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders regional priorities to strengthen wood value chains for the achievement of their economic, social and environmental sustainability are identified and consolidated through the formulation of a preliminary roadmap. These dialogues enable cross-sectoral platforms for

coordination at regional and national levels that can result in policies and measures, as well as increased finance, to sustainable wood value chains.

Marking the beginning of SW4SW activities in Africa, the first SW4SW Dialogue took place in Douala, Cameroon, on 28-29 May 2019. The meeting brought together 65 professionals, including 16 women, from governments, private sector, civil society, international organizations, business associations, professional associations, industry experts and communities. It counted with a representation of 12 African Francophone countries, mostly from West and Central Africa.

The first day of the meeting was structured through plenary sessions, short presentations and facilitated discussions to introduce the sustainable value chain approach as well as the four pillars of the initiative. One of the ongoing activities of the initiative, the project to strengthen knowledge and capacity on forest legal frameworks and wood legality, was also introduced to the participants. The second day focused on work in break-out groups, established following geographic criteria (Cameroon-Gabon, Congo-DRC-CAR and other countries). Countries from the Congo Basin could build on the value chains assessment conducted by FAO-WWF-France in 2017.

As a result of the meeting, SW4SW preliminary roadmaps are formulated with a view to future work to remove barriers to advance sustainable forest management and sustainable forest value chains.

FAO and WWF-France thanks the hosting country for its engagement and support, the WWF-Cameroon team for the adequate technical and organizational support, the delegations for their committed participation, the SW4SW leading organizations for the constructive steering of the sessions, the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) for setting the example on the synergies among projects and initiatives, the Institut de la Francophonie pour le Development Durable/Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (IFDD/OIF) and the government of Quebec for their collaboration.

Objectives and outputs

The first SW4SW dialogue in Africa: i) raised awareness about the initiative; ii) disseminated technical knowledge regarding sustainable wood value chains (SWVCs) and sustainable wood products, and iii) presented the potential of the contribution of SWVCs and wood products to the bioeconomy. The event prompted participants to discuss priorities and formulate a preliminary roadmap for achieving SW4SW objectives in the participants' sub-regions. For countries of the Congo Basin, the SW4SW dialogue built on the outcomes of the FAO-WWF collaboration on the assessment of forest value chains in the Congo Basin undertaken in 2017. By the end of the workshop participants were fully aware of the potential of contributions of sustainable wood value chains to achieve sustainable development, were familiar with a value chains approach and the bioeconomy and had elicited priorities and actions to implement the SW4SW objectives.

Agenda

"Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World" (SW4SW) Dialogue for Francophone countries in Africa Douala, Cameroon, 28-29 May 2019

Time	Session	Speakers
1st day (28 May)	"Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World" Initiative Presentation of the framework and discussion of potential SW4SW roadmaps	
8:00 – 9:00	Registration	WWF Cameroon
9:00-9:30	Opening session and installation of the workshop secretariat	MINFOF; FAO, T. Linhares-Juvenal; ITTO, P. Masupa; CIFOR, A. Awono; WWF, N. Sonne; COMIFAC, L. Madzou; Facilitator: Isaac Njifakue
9:30 – 10:00	Keynote speech	MINFOF
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break	
10:30 - 12:00	Presentation of the SW4SW initiative	ITTO, P. Masupa; CIFOR, L. Mbonayem; FAO, T. Linhares-Juvenal; WWF, J. Bakouma
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 15:00	SW4SW and the sustainability of wood value chains	WWF, J. Bakouma; FAO, A. Kraskovska; REFACOF, C. Ndjebet; UFIAG, S. Luo
15:00 – 16:00	SW4SW and bioeconomy	FAO, T. Linhares-Juvenal; CIFOR, A. Awono; Ministry of Forests, Fauna and Parks of Quebec, M.C. Yemele; University of Kibungo, E. Karuranga
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break	
16:30 – 18:00	Tools for legality in sustainable value chains Presentation of the FAO / MAFF Japan Project "Strengthening Knowledge and Capacity in Forest Legislation and Legality"	FAO, Daniele Lenci; FLAG. S.C. Moukouri; FSC. B. Tchikangwa; PAFC, R. Ondo
2nd day (29 May)	Facilitated discussion to identify possible recommendations for national roadmaps and agreement on a program of concrete actions	
8:30 – 9:00	Report of the first day	Moderator: Isaac Njifakue
9:00– 10:00	Potential for subregional collaboration on sustainable forest value chains Format: Round table / plenary session	ITTO, P. Masupa; CIFOR, A. Awono; FAO, T. Linhares-Juvenal; WWF-CM, N. Sonne; COMIFAC, L. Madzou; GFBC, B. Ouoguia; FSC, B. Tchikangwa; IFDD, A. Honfo

Time	Session	Speakers
10:00 – 11:00	Forest Value Chains and SDGs in Africa Promoting Benefits from Sustainable Wood Value Chains in International Policy Dialogues, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategies and National Policy Frameworks Format: focus groups; facilitated discussion	Moderator: FAO Facilitators : C. Ndjebet; A. Awono; L. Nadzou; N. Sonne
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break	
11:30-12:30	Capacity building along forest value chains Forest management capacity in the context of sustainable landscapes (legality and sustainability of production and trade, adoption of sustainable forest management practices, fair business practices and transparent distribution of benefits) Format: focus groups; facilitated discussion	Moderator: OIBT Facilitators : L. Mbonayem; A. Salissou; A. Aihmin; R. Ondo
12:30-13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 14:30	Markets and finance Markets and financing of sustainable timber and sustainable wood products value chains (international trade, domestic markets, trade issues, legal compliance) Format: focus groups; facilitated discussion	Moderator: WWF Facilitators: P. Masupa; A. Issifou; B. Tchikangwa; A. Awono
14:30 – 15:30	Bioeconomy Contributions from sustainable wood value chains to the bioeconomy and the circularity approach (improving knowledge, awareness and promotion) Format: focus groups; Facilitated discussion	Moderator: CIFOR Facilitators: M. Yemele; E. Karuranga; C. Ndjebet ; A. Honfo
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break	
16:00-17:00	Potential Roadmap for the Implementation of SW4SW in Francophone Africa Format: discussion group	Moderator: WWF Facilitators: N. Sonne; P. Masupa; L. Madzou
17:00 – 17:45	<i>Report of the subgroups on the results of the roadmap development</i> Format: plenary session	Moderators and facilitators
17:45 – 18:15	Conclusions and discussion on the roadmaps developed and concrete steps to disseminate the results of the meeting Format: plenary session	Moderators: WWF and FAO
18:15-18:30	Closing speech Format: plenary session	WWF-CM, Government of Cameroon, FAO, ITTO, CIFOR

**"Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World" (SW4SW)
National Dialogue in Cameroon
Douala, Cameroon, 30 May 2019**

Time	Session	Speakers
8:45– 9:00	Registration	WWF Cameroon
9:00-9:30	Opening session and installation of the workshop secretariat, presentation of the agenda	FAO, WWF
9:30 – 9:45	Keynote speech	MINFOF
9:45: 10:00	Coffee break	
10:00 - 11:00	Building on the different results of the sub-regional dialogue: the roadmap. Format: Plenary Session and Round Table	FAO, WWF, MINFOF
11:00 – 12:30	Declination of the sub-regional road map at the national level of Cameroon. Declination of SW4SW missions Declination of the SW4SW vision	FAO, WWF, MINFOF
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
14:00 – 15:00	Definition of members or criteria for participation Identification of actions to put in place	FAO, WWF, MINFOF
15:00 – 16:00	Draft SW4SW governance structure in Cameroon	FAO, WWF, MINFOF
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break	
16:30 – 17:30	Draft roadmap for Cameroon: implementation schedule, participants (leads, contributors)	WWF, MINFOF, FAO
17:30-18:00	Strategy for roadmap dissemination	
18:00 – 18:30	Conclusions, summary and next steps	MINFOF

Session 1 - Opening session and installation of the workshop secretariat

Speakers: WWF, FAO, CIFOR, ITTO, COMIFAC, MINFOF

With participation of 65 participants (full list of participants in the Annex), the meeting was opened by the Norbert Sonne (WWF-Cameroon), Thais Linhares-Juvenal (FAO-HQ), Polycarpe Masupa Kambale (ITTO), Abdon Awono (CIFOR), Gervais Itsoua Madzou (COMIFAC) and Eric Kaffo (Ministry of Forests of Cameroon), who delivered the keynote speech. Opening remarks highlighted that the main objective of the SW4SW initiative is to strengthen the contributions of sustainable forest value chains to sustainable development and climate change mitigation and the context of the UN 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, as follows:

- SDGs make natural resources one of the priorities for the world, and sustainable production and trade should benefit everyone. Availability of resources and access to them was defined as the crucial aspect to ensure the sustainability of forest value chains.
- Advantages of the value chain approach in this context include economic growth, circular bioeconomy, "wood security", additional forest benefits for climate mitigation through the substitution effects of the use of wood products, increased benefits for the environment and biodiversity and World Water Regime.
- There is a need to ensure the sustainability of forests, related livelihoods and future for the generations to come, taking into consideration that forests are universal goods. Wood for furniture and construction, non-wood forest products (NWFPs) and charcoal were defined as main segments of value chains (and wood markets) in the Francophone African countries.
- The "Plan de Convergence" elaborated by COMIFAC offers a basis for work on value chain development, in particular for advancing the processing industry to increase value-added.
- Building regional and national SW4SW roadmaps should be followed up with the multi-stakeholders' platform, as well as with stronger ownership.

The Secretariat of the meeting was established, with the Eric Kaffo as President and Losale Mpunga Chouchou, as rapporteur.

Session 2 - Presentation of the SW4SW initiative

Speakers: FAO, CIFOR, ITTO, WWF

During this session, presentations by all SW4SW partners were delivered, based on their role in the initiative, their scope of work and contribution to the sustainability of forest value chains. Forest value chains comprise a complex array of products, services and the activities of a network of actors. Developing forest value chains affects not only value-added in terms of economic

profitability and employment, but also the provision of ecosystem services and thus the present and future well-being of broad groups in society. Sustainable wood value chains should not jeopardize the other forest value chains, but rather enable them to make forestry sustainable and equitable.

FAO and other SW4SW partners developed communications in social media to address the negative perception of forest management wood products (e.g. media cards). To create stronger market links between producers and consumers is one of the goals of SW4SW initiative, promoting the real benefits delivered by a sustainable wood product based on the SDGs. The main questions discussed in this section focused on how to support governments in further value chains development, supporting mechanisms for wood value chains and the gradual formalization of the informal market.

Presentations during the session addressed the following:

- Markets are crucial for sustainable forest management and forest value chains. There is a need to ensure access to resources and finance for SMEs and producers, as well as communities so that they can better face market challenges;
- Sustainable wood is an essential source of income and employment in the forest sector. However, wood production needs to co-exist with the production of non-wood forest products (NWFPs) and should provide for equitable benefit-sharing;
- Sustainable forest management, as well as plantations, are a necessary part of sustainable landscapes and sustainable wood value chains. However, the perception of forest management of natural forests is often negative, and there are many concerns regarding plantations and the use of wood for energy among civil society.
- Sustainable wood is critical to make urbanization in Africa and Asia more sustainable.
- It is critical to assess the current capacity of tropical forests and renewable resources (plantations) as part of the promotion of wood products contributions to the SDGs and the bioeconomy.
- FAO highlighted the positive impact of wood value chains on the economy through production and labour income. An assessment to be published later this year shows that for each dollar of value-added and employment in the forest sector, at least another 1 dollar is generated in other sectors of the economy through forward linkages.
- ITTO highlighted the importance of international trade of timber and a new initiative with China for legality and sustainability (Global Green Supply Chain - GGSC).
- WWF highlighted the need to align economic, social and environmental issues to stop deforestation, and accelerate forest restoration.
- Key areas of work to harness forest value chains: support to governments on value chains development, institutional mechanisms for value chains, and formalization of the informal market. Most activities carried in the informal sector become non-profitable in the formal sector.

- There is often confusion between informality and illegality. Some stakeholders along the value chain pay taxes but are still in a grey zone. It is important to expand legality requirements beyond exporting.
- Informal wood production, e.g. in Cameroon, can be larger than the formal production. There is a need to work on local consumption.
- Technology transfer is mandatory for sustainable wood value chains in Africa.
- Main issues for the smallholders include, but are not limited to ownership rights, corporate social responsibility (CSR), lack of local market and conflictive local markets regulations.
- Women's participation takes place mostly in the informal sector. The wood energy value chains are of particular importance. There is a need for a strategy to address gender issues.
- Countries should be supported to develop an SW4SW approach and create national mechanisms.

Session 3 - SW4SW and the sustainability of forest value chains

Speakers: FAO, WWF, REFACOF, UFIAG

During this session, various presentations on forest value chains were delivered, including presentations of the forest value chains sustainability assessment framework (FAO), the value chain approach and results of the value chains assessment in the Congo Basin (WWF), the charcoal value chains in Cameroon (REFACOF) and the general value chain approach in Congo Basin (UFIAG).

Sustainable forest value chains were considered vital for the feasibility of sustainable forest management and delivery of socio-economic benefits from forests. Proper analysis of value chain linkages effectively contributes to the formulation of effective policies and leverage of finance.

Sustainability of forest value chains is determined by economic, ecological, technical, political and social factors, and consisting of several interconnected processes, from forest regeneration to the end-of-life scenarios of a wood-based product.

Sustainable forest value chains have a strong potential to harness forest contributions to the SDGs by proposing a framework to reconcile forests' multiple functions through an integrated approach.

The forest value chains sustainability assessment framework developed by FAO looks into forests as a basket of value, assessing sustainability taking into consideration synergies and trade-offs. It builds on the FAO approach to sustainable food systems, as well as on other existing work on value chains and forest governance

FAO introduced sustainable forest value chain (SFVC) as: "The full range of forest stakeholders and their successive coordinated value-adding activities that are empowered by the national policies to produce particular materials and transform them into timber and non-timber products in a profitable manner, have socioeconomic benefits and create minimal or zero environmental damage". The approach proposes to assess four dimensions of value chains' sustainability:

- Economic dimension: Firms throughout the chain are profitable
- Social dimension: Human and labour rights are respected, and socio-cultural values are protected
- Environmental dimension: Landscape and site productivity, and ecological values are sustained
- Institutional dimension: Policies, laws, institutional frameworks and capacity exist and are clear and consistent

The FAO approach also presented the concrete steps to conduct a forest value chain sustainability assessment, including the needed actions for engendering a bioeconomy.

Improved legal frameworks for community forests management, recycling of wood waste and forestry plantations were considered essential for sustainable forest value chains. Participants mentioned some critical interventions: enforcement of technical capacities (capacity building); development of tools for energy efficiency; development of alternative sources of energy; develop forest community enterprises; promotion of intersectoral approach; addressing tenure issues; and development of specific markets with some specific technical characteristics for the processed wood (niche markets).

REFACOF highlighted the importance of wood energy and the growing demand for firewood (particularly in Africa) due to: domestic use; population growth and urbanization; price increase of alternative energy sources (fossil fuels) and commercial use. Urbanization leads to an increase in commercial demand (restaurants, bakeries, dry cleaning, etc.).

Wood energy is one of the main drivers of forest degradation in Cameroon, Togo, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Madagascar, Democratic Republic of Congo, etc. It is directly important for at least six SDGs (SDG 3 - health, SDG 5 - gender, SDG 7 – energy, SDG 8 – sustainable growth, SDG 13 – climate change and SDG 15 – forests). It is a value chain critical for women's rights as they are an essential part of the workforce in different segments of production/commercialization, as well as consumers.

A sustainable wood energy value chain should provide for:

- Improving availability and access to clean technologies, cooking equipment and electricity
- Contributing to reducing energy poverty and increasing access to modern energy especially in rural areas
- Fostering the development of community forest enterprises and the creation of wealth

- Creating important domestic jobs, especially in rural areas
- Increasing opportunities for formal employment

Potential interventions for the improved sustainability of wood energy may include:

- Technical capacity building: nurseries, plantations, reforestation, assisted regeneration, agroforestry, entrepreneurship, market, etc.
- Development of equipment that saves energy: fireplaces, ovens, improved smokers, etc.
- Development of sustainable alternative energy sources.
- Development of community forest enterprises and environmentally friendly income-generating activities
- Create a favourable political and legal environment
- Changing paradigm: wood energy from a domestic energy issue to a commercial or industrial energy source
- Promote the intersectoral approach (environment, energy, health, trade, etc.)
- Address land tenure and forest tenure issues especially for women

UFIAG highlighted the many possibilities of secondary and tertiary processing of wood, providing examples from the Chinese industry in China. It was mentioned the country experience with wood energy, which can provide good examples for improving the sustainability of this value chain in Africa. Main issues discussed during the session, and comments to the presentations:

- Forest policy is where states define how forests are managed and should provide for a value chain approach; forest management policies should involve all stakeholders;
- secondary processing should be further promoted;
- Specific indicators on the legislation and certification standards - the need to work at international and national levels;
- Overall interest on how to put communities ahead in the value chains development.

Session 4 - SW4SW and bioeconomy

Speakers: FAO, CIFOR, Ministry of Forests, Fauna and parks of Quebec, University of Kibungo (Rwanda)

According to FAO, bioeconomy is seen as a way to use natural resources sustainably. Contributions of sustainable wood products through the bioeconomy and circularity approach can be strengthened in both developed and developing countries. Use of wood through the bioeconomy approach contributes to its full realization of the potential.

FAO highlighted the forest economic multiplier and the overall impact of the forest sector on the economy. A study (FAO, 2019 forthcoming) of 58 forest countries around the world found that, on average, for every \$ 1 of value-added in the forest-wood sector, the multiplier effect exceeded 2, meaning that more than \$ 1 was generated in other sectors.

According to the presentation from the Université Laval et Institut sur les forêts (IRF), Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Canada, the bioeconomy approach is based on uses of renewable materials; inclusion of small and medium producers; transformation, reuse, use of residues; cascading and circularity uses of timber and other forest products. Good examples of wood in construction can be found in policies and strategies in Canada and Rwanda (e.g. use of wood in hotels, nurseries, passive house technology, where wood collects light and reduces energy costs, recycle of «wood waste», etc.).

Ways to tackle "bottlenecks" of the value chain through the bioeconomy approach include:

- Make room for the informal sector: artisans, local processors, etc.
- Prepare and facilitate training adapted to their needs
- Set up flexible and efficient networks such as clusters, niches, technopoles, incubators, etc. for exchange of services and promotion of good practices
- Make funding available to artisans and SMEs
- Sensitize local consumers to quality products.

Promotion of "sustainable practices" to reduce the carbon footprint should follow the concept: "Good wood, at the right plant for the right use"; harvested wood should not be wasted, and if possible, focus on other uses before energy conversion and disposal (3RVE principle: Reduction: at the source Reuse: to give a second useful life to a product; Recycling: gives a second life to a product by transforming it; Valuation: otherwise converting materials from waste to a noble product; Elimination: safe and environment-friendly disposal).

The wood value chain holds many opportunities in economic, social and environmental terms: it has potential to generate more jobs, improve the living conditions of urban and rural populations through the use of wood in construction; have positive impacts on sustainable forest management; reduce carbon footprint and increase the sustainability of rural and urban landscapes. To ensure social benefits from the forest value chains and to SMEs, there is a need to make space for artisans, ensure they have access to finance, as well as make local consumers more interested in high-quality wood products.

The representative from the University of Kibungo, Rwanda, highlighted, in particular, the importance of the creation of research centres/wood schools/revised university courses, to address sustainable value chains (engineering and non-traditional uses of wood mainly) could be also beneficial to all value chain actors. In the global context, the contribution of wood products to the green economy and climate change should be widely recognized and acknowledged (people want green products). Value chains of NWFPs also have the potential to ensure progress in family farming: they not only produce revenue but also contribute to food security.

Countries should take measures on the: local species and products, both wood and non-wood; investing in plantations; forest regeneration through forest reserves; sustainable management of firewood and wood waste (side-products of value-adding to the solid wood). He proposed that a triple ellipse system (government + private sector + universities) should be supported by

architects (4th pillar) and NGOs (5th pillar) to ensure proper and full use of wood, including recycling.

Session 5 - Tools for legality in sustainable value chains: Presentation of the FAO / MAFF Japan Project "Strengthening Knowledge and Capacity in Forest Legislation and Legality."

Speakers: FAO, FLAG, FSC, PAFC

According to FAO, Legality can contribute to better sustainability if legislation reflects the pillars of sustainable forest management: economic adequacy, social equity and ecological compatibility. Increased efforts to combat illegal logging and to promote legality in timber production and trade are being performed around the world through:

- International Instruments
- Legislation of importing countries
- Voluntary forest certification standards
- Initiatives for legality by NGOs and the private sector
- FAO has recently started a 24 months project with the support of Government of Japan, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, titled "Strengthening knowledge and capacity in forest legislation and the legality of timber". This project highlights the importance of the legality of timber for sustainable forest management, and as one of its products, it will have a developed Timber-Lex platform structured around the guiding legal elements, directed to governments, companies and civil society. The platform intends to support national arrangements for forest management, production and trade, offering easy and neutral access to information.

As part of the panel, FLAG presented the FLAG Open Timber Portal, which contributes to increased transparency in the wood market, offering a tool to follow legality of forest operators. The representative of PAFC-Gabon presented PAFC certification in the country and praised the mandatory certification approach as a means to improve legality and sustainability. She highlighted, however, that there some gaps in the legal framework, which result in conflicts in the resource use.

Day 2 – Summary of key topics discussed on Day 1

Wood energy value chain

Informality

Systemic approach wood and non-wood forest products

Technology transfer for the processing industry

Education for SW4SW: revision of curricula and research topics

Trade with Asia/Pacific

SW4SW at national level

Attention to the Timber.Lex

Increase knowledge of niche markets

Role of women and communities

Session 6 - Potential for regional collaboration on sustainable forest value chains

Speakers: ITTO, CIFOR, FAO, WWF, COMIFAC, GFBC, FSC, IFDD

FAO highlighted its work in the region through several initiatives (FFF, FLEGT, REDD+, Wildlife programme, etc.), as well as country projects and direct support, and the need to ensure collaboration and coordination with existing activities. The particular work on value chains comprises support to more robust business cases in the forest sector and improved access to finance, supported by governance work to reduce the transaction costs as well as improved standards in forest production and wood processing. The FAO representative emphasized the importance of improving governance for domestic and regional value chains, including by ensuring linkages with consumer sectors such as energy and construction. She mentioned the need to increase value-added and explore the potential for generation of jobs and income.

The CIFOR focused on the need to identify the deficits in knowledge regarding several forest value chains and to build on existing initiatives. The importance of connecting forest restoration with a value chain approach to clarify the linkages and impact of forest use to ecosystems. For instance, the case of the effects of wood energy on mangroves due to fish smoking. It was also highlighted the need to work on the domestic African markets, which are responsible for 23% of the total markets, and the importance of introducing plantations in the sustainable wood discussions. The WWF concurred with this vision and called for emphasis in the domestic markets.

The ITTO highlighted the role of international trade, legality and the potential of international cooperation to attract investments in sustainable forest management operations and related forest products processing. The representative mentioned the initiative with China (called Global Green Supply Chains – GGSC) as a potential source of collaboration, which could contribute in progressively involving China and some South-East Asian countries (representing more than 80% of international tropical timber trade) in the international SW4SW initiative.

The IFDD emphasized work on wood in construction and the need to invest in education and training to build technical capacity, including in the architectural/engineering community. The

IFDD representative also mentioned the need to invest in the identification of mechanical and physical properties of species and governance to support inter-regional trade. The IFDD said it would be ready to start working with a small project still in 2019 and would be willing to cooperate with other organizations.

The Chinese representative also emphasized that the availability of experienced human resources is crucial. The Chinese industry hires mainly locals, and therefore, there should be courses for timber engineers on wood processing to increase processing and value-added in the region.

COMIFAC emphasized the importance of discussing sustainable wood value chains and the bioeconomy in the region at high level, and to ensure alignment with COMIFAC directives, including the "Plan de convergence". He added that all countries would benefit from such efforts. The representative of the organization reminded participants that forest resources are limited. He also stressed the need to discuss the non-wood value chains. He highlighted the lack of regulation for the informal forest sector as a fundamental issue, adding the impact informality has on social standards, as informal businesses have no formal social responsibilities. The COMIFAC representative suggested the formulation of projects to access finance through the Green Climate Fund.

The representative of FSC stressed the importance of sustainable forest management to deliver all forest functions, including contributions to climate change mitigation and adaptation. He also highlighted the opportunity to "green" the African GDP.

Discussions pointed out the challenges related to the development of sustainable wood value chains, such as knowledge and information gaps, engagement of the private sector and the need for demonstration through pilots. Forest restoration and plantations were considered underpinning conditions for value chain development. The reality of domestic markets was also emphasized, calling for strengthened governance for domestic value chains and addressing informality, which does not always mean illegality.

Participants also highlighted the role of governments and ministries as a means of restraint or opportunity for value chain development. Increasing awareness of the impact of value chains approach on GDP and employment could create stronger political buy-in. Discussions pointed out that COMIFAC could have a role in creating dialogues between governments and relevant stakeholders to strengthen value chains.

Session 7 – Break – out group discussion

The participants were divided into three groups to develop sub-regional SW4SW roadmap: Cameroon-Gabon, Congo-DRC-CAR and the so-called Pan-African group (representatives from Burundi, Canada, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Rwanda and Togo, as well as of international organizations). Facilitators were designated for each group

. Designated rapporteurs did presentations from their groups after 1-hour discussions on each topic. The results of these discussions are presented below:

Session 7.1 Forest value chains and the SDGs in Africa

Groups were requested to identify the most relevant contributions of forest value chains to SDGs and how to operationalize them.

Pan-African group: the most relevant were SDG1, SDG8, SDG9 and SDG 13. As ways to harness these contributions, the group highlighted the diversification of value chains, the improvement of social standards and formal commitments to implement them, increased legality, addressing informality, plantations including fast-growing species, the need of increased downstream processing with innovation and use of wood in infrastructure.

Cameroon-Gabon group: the group selected SDG1, SDG2, and SDG7 as priorities followed closely by SDG8, SDG9 and SDG13. The group highlighted the importance of wood energy. As a means of implementation, the group mentioned climate change strategies.

Congo-DRC-CAR group: the group selected SDG1, SDG2, SDG8, SDG 9 and SDG13 as most relevant. The group suggested the contributions to be strengthened through support to agroforestry and community-based forestry; the use of other existing strategies and initiatives, such as the REDD+ strategies; and international cooperation. The Three-Basin and China Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was mentioned as an example of an instrument to implement technical cooperation, including for know-how on bamboo.

Session 7.2 Capacity building along forest value chains

Groups were requested to identify the most relevant areas for capacity building.

Pan-African group: the group highlighted the following capacity building needs:

- Build on local know-how; certification systems (seeds, wood laboratories, etc.);
- Plantations;
- Industrial production systems, including education and use of improved techniques, equipment and techniques to minimize waste and increase efficiency;
- Policies consistent with sustainable wood value chains, including use of traceability; and
- Access to finance and project management;
- Development of NWFPs in association with wood production;

Cameroon-Gabon group: the group focused on the following areas for capacity building:

- Knowledge gaps on interactions between wood value chains and the other forest value chains;
- Practical training (training of the human resources);
- Creation of training institutions not only for new professionals, but also to youth, and setting up networks between institutions; and
- Systematize and disseminate good practices and lessons learned.

Congo-DRC-CAR group: The group considered the need to address capacity building at individual and institutional level in the following areas:

- Regulation and improved technology for wood energy;
- Market assessments;
- New technologies;
- Competitiveness strategies; and
- Research and technical training for harvesting and processing.

Session 7.3 Markets and trade

Groups were requested to discuss the main opportunities and challenges regarding markets and trade, as well as propose priority actions.

Pan-African group: the group identified Africa and Asia, Australia and Japan as primary markets. Participants considered that lack of market predictability and fragmented relationship with producers are important challenges. As suggestions to address these issues, the group believed to be important to connect primarily producers with the partners and proposed organization of producer groups, promotion of e-trade and price differentiation for sustainable wood. Import taxes on wood, including intra-regional trade, was considered a significant challenge.

Cameroon-Gabon group: the group considered organization of the market critical for better trade. A platform with information on wood species and prices could improve market transparency and improve trade. Information on uses of species at the international and national levels and availability of wood resources could also help to strengthen the market. Access to market: wood furniture; promoting market action through envisaging a platform with wood species and prices depending on the region so that buyers will have an idea; wood stock market; promoting ATIBT initiative; identification of niches in terms of wood species (at the international and national level). Availability of resources: better knowledge on need of wood on the national level, why negotiating with funding agencies alone is not always effective – negotiating in groups could work better; climate fund funding is not available yet for SMEs; easy access to finance could push value chains ahead; small-scale legal production – to be supported. Regional consultation: reduce of custom barriers; supply chain for firewood to be set up; encourage PPPs between

industry and SMEs; NWFPS – good case studies are needed; methods of harvesting and packing are crucial as well; set up a general complex blueprint

Congo-DRC-CAR group: access to market: furniture, firewood and NWFPS: need to improve sawing and drying of wood; formalize access to forest resources for informal actors; carry out the market analysis; set regulations and compassing cross border trade; major NWFPS – improve supply at the national level, harness postharvest technologies

Session 7.4 Bioeconomy

Groups were requested to reflect on how sustainable wood value chains could support the bioeconomy in their local contexts and priority action to enable such a process.

Pan-African group: the group focused on recycling and reuse, in particular ensuring wood residues would be used as energy and recycling would be increased. Recommendations were to increase research for the production of bioenergy; build on good practices to guide investments in bioeconomy, and adopt policies and incentives to redirect the production into the recycling and reuse

Cameroon – Gabon group: the group suggested to create an inventory of wood-based bioeconomy experiences in the world (basically good practices and case studies). It was also recommended to promote actions to make better use of local species; adapt technology to the local context; with highlight to the need for training and machinery; and feasibility studies. As an example of concrete action, the group suggested the use of wood residues by artisans, for the panels' production, as well as fertilizers.

Congo-DRC-CAR group: the group observed that bioeconomy is a new concept for regional stakeholders and therefore should be promoted in policies and count with capacity building. Public-private partnerships were mentioned as a critical vehicle for advancing the bioeconomy, as well as pilot initiatives by the private sector. The group suggested national SW4SW workshops to support strong support from governance for bioeconomy and circular approach. The group considered that national policies should encourage bioeconomy and that “bioeconomy” should be mentioned explicitly in the national frameworks.

Session 8 - Potential Roadmap for the Implementation of SW4SW in Francophone Africa

Results of group discussions:

Theme 1 (SDGs):

- Group 1 (Pan-African): Group 1: SDGs 1, 8, 9, 13
- Group 2 (Cameroon-Gabon): SDGs 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 13
- Group 3 (RDC-RC-RCA): SDGs 13, 12, 15, 8, 9

Initial alignment: 8, 9, 13, but after the discussion all three groups agreed that relevant SDGs should include the following ones: 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 and 13

Theme 2 (value chains):

Responses were different. There were almost no common responses

Only regarding **professional capacity building**, there were similar responses: the creation of training centers; access to funds for training. Need for two types of training: learning and certifying. Need for setting benchmarks. Additionally, the need for setting up communication on the value chain approach to promote awareness; setting up initiatives on the national level.

Theme 3 (markets and commerce):

Cross-cutting for all three groups: emphasis on producer organization (basically means to organize actors in the entire value chain), including trade unions; setting financial mechanisms, and adapt taxation to the local use of wood.

Theme 4 (bioeconomy):

Convergence points: Disseminate knowledge and build capacity on bioeconomy; setting up a policy that considers bioeconomy; carrying out research on good practices

National Dialogue - Cameroon

Session 1: Value Chain and SDGs

Three value chains identified as crucial for the national markets and sustainable development:

- Timber
- Energy wood
- NTFPs

Several SDGs can be impacted as part of value chain development:

- SDG 1 on poverty reduction (Improving the living conditions of communities by highlighting all value chains)
- SDG 2: Promotion of wellbeing (This objective will be achieved through management that respects nature and livelihoods)
- SDG 7: Clean energy (The promotion of wood energy will allow the use of less polluting energy sources and will ultimately contribute to the reduction of GHGs)
- SDG 9: Industry and Innovation (Promotion of modern approaches and more respectful of the environment)
- SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities (The development of greener and more sustainable homes and buildings by recycling waste and scrap in the wood sector)
- SDG 13: Measures to combat climate change (Reduction of GHG emissions through sustainable forest management / reduction of forest pressure, but also adaptation to climate change for communities)

Session 2: Capacity Building along Forest Value Chains

- Targeted training based on the needs of those already in business (at all stages of the value chain);
- Reinforcement of the practical capacities of newly trained people through greater professionalization of training/education;
- Upgrading training institutions based on business standards and the modernization of laboratories.

The summary of the exchanges made it possible to highlight the following recommendations:

- Identification of training needs and capacity building;
- Development of business standards according to the value chain considered;
- Formalization of a dialogue between operators of the sector, the State and training institutions with a focus on processing (2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc.) conditioning, of major NTFPs for which production is associated with wood production (good harvest practices, packaging and labelling) for NTFPs;

Session 3. Market and Trade

Recommendations and proposals will be specific to each value chain promoted.

a. For timber,

To ensure market access:

- Consider a structure/platform that will allow for an exchange of information on available species, buyers and flows: A national timber value exchange that can regulate the FOB value of timber according to demand and prices on the market ;
- Establish timber promotion institutions such as those implemented by ATIBT;
- Lobbying for the establishment of a timber promotion framework under the VPA on the European market (which was discussed and discussed during the VPA negotiations);
- Promote promotional species for the national, sub-regional and regional markets to be able to supply legal timber sought by buyers in the domestic timber market.

To ensure access to financing:

- Involve all stakeholders in the CEMAC subregion to adapt the taxation of local wood consumption;
- Sub-regional discussion between cross-border countries (e.g. Cameroon - Nigeria) to make the wood needs of the buyer consistent with the products put on the market by the producing countries;
- Subregional coordination (UEMOA and CEMAC) to lower customs barriers and facilitate intra-regional trade;
- Put in place a targeted value chain communication strategy to improve knowledge about the profitability of this sector and eventually attract the interest of financial backers/organizations.

b. As for energy wood,

Proposals made for this value chain:

- Put in place regulations for fuelwood that would better organize market access;
- Encourage partnerships between industries and SMEs to ensure sustainable supply;
- Promote the use of wood energy by:
 - Systematizing the use of NTFPs;
 - Constructing a speech to change habits;
 - Conduct studies on the demand and capacity of the forest to meet this demand.

c. For NWFPs,

Proposals for this value chain are:

- Capitalize on the different existing studies on NWFPs;
- Formalize collection, packaging and packaging methods that would give more value to these products
- Improve knowledge on existing NWFPs and their various applications/uses;

- Target major NTFPs and build the entire value chain related to them before extending to other NWFPs;
- Put in place a comprehensive strategy for NWFPs.

Session 4. Bioeconomy

- Improvement of knowledge
- Make an inventory of what is being done elsewhere concerning the technological use of wood
- Adaptation to local realities (local market needs and local species)
- Improve the knowledge of the physio-chemical properties of the species
- Raise awareness and train
- Training of Engineers and Architects: Curricula
- Adaptation of the technologies to the local context which would make it possible to manufacture the machines locally to transform
- Sensitization through models / Implementation of models ("made of wood" to show innovation) Demonstrations of residential and non-residential wood constructions
- Adapt building codes to introduce wood as a building material
- Investment-friendly investment policies that increase the value of timber

Circularity: optimal use of wood products

- Change laws so that the concept of "circular economy" can develop
- At each stage, we create industries that value waste or by-products
- Leaves: Biomass, granule production
- Branches and Rebus: Production chain of artisanal wood
- Chips: particle board, organic fertilizer
- Sawdust: Glulam, Particleboard,
- Used furniture: recycling by grinding to manufacture
- Commission a feasibility study on the implementation of the circular economy

Annexe 1 - List of participants
SW4SW dialogue for Francophone countries in Africa

Douala, Cameroon 28-30 May 2019

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Annexe 2 – Feedback from the meeting

“Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World” (SW4SW)
Subregional dialogue for Francophone countries in Africa
Douala, Cameroon, 28-29 May 2019

Dear Colleague, please take a moment to answer the following questions. Circle the note you want to assign to each area of the meeting:

(1 = excellent, 2 = good, 3 = average, 4 = fair, 5 = poor)

1) Amenities:

1 2 3 4 5

Comments / Suggestions:

2) Plenary session (1st day):

a) Topic	1	2	3	4	5
b) Usefulness	1	2	3	4	5
c) Added value	1	2	3	4	5
d) Interactivity	1	2	3	4	5

Comments / Suggestions:

3) Discussion/break-out groups (2nd day):

a) Topic	1	2	3	4	5
b) Usefulness	1	2	3	4	5
c) Added value	1	2	3	4	5
d) Interactivity	1	2	3	4	5

Comments / Suggestions:

4) Which session did you find most useful/relevant?

a) Forest value chains and the SDGs	1	2	3	4	5
b) Legality and sustainability	1	2	3	4	5
c) Markets and finance	1	2	3	4	5
d) Bioeconomy	1	2	3	4	5

5) Please identify a priority for future actions (follow up)

6) Other comments / suggestions

Thank you very much for your participation!

The results of the questionnaire were the following:

Aspects of the workshop	Result of the assessment
1) Amenities	1,4
2) Plenary session (1st day):	
a) Topic	1,2
b) Usefulness	1,6
c) Added value	1,6
d) Interactivity	1,4
3) Discussion/break-out groups (2nd day):	
a) Topic	2,0
b) Usefulness	1,8
c) Added value	2,2
d) Interactivity	1,6
4) Which session did you find most useful/relevant?	
a) Forest value chains and the SDGs	1,8
b) Legality and sustainability	1,2
c) Markets and finance	1,4
d) Bioeconomy	1,2

As the main comments/suggestions, there were several general recommendations:

1. To organize national dialogues for each country;
2. To develop more work on the bioeconomy;
3. To increase the duration of the meeting from 2 days to 2,5 days, with a half day as a field trip