

CONGO BASIN COMMUNITY REPORT #3

4TH OCTOBER 2019



LIBREVILLE ACTION POINTS

At the FSC Congo Basin Business Encounter 2018 held in Libreville Gabon 6 action points was identified to develop the market for sustainable tropical timber:

- Creating a Green Lane for FSC within EUTR.
- Developing LKTS.
- Reduce certification costs.
- Linking with Asian operators.
- Eco Services Payment action.
- Marketing tools to create awareness.

As a result of the Business Encounter and the action plan a working group is established called LKTS Congo Basin (LKTSCB). Members are from the leading European tropical timber markets and coordinated by FSC Netherlands.

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Dear members of the FSC Congo Basin Community

Welcome to our third report.

We are happy to inform you about the activities of this unique community. Our FSC colleagues did a great job at the Gabon Wood show in June. It is an example of how to approach other potential stakeholders and bring the positive message of the increase of sustainably managed forests in Gabon. And consequently growing opportunities to supply markets with sustainable FSC timber.

Read more about:

- Joubert Plywood and CBG Conference in Arnhem (NL)
- FSC Congo Basin at the Gabon Wood Show: A must do!
- Database for lesser known timber species has expanded

We call upon the community members to share their activities with all members, to inspire and connect.

/ Ben

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JOUBERT PLYWOOD AND CBG CONFERENCE HELD IN ARNHEM (NL)

On Tuesday June 25, 2019, JOUBERT Plywood in collaboration with CBG (Compagnie des Bois du Gabon), their historical forestry partner, organized a conference in Arnhem on Environment and Sustainable Development, a fundamental theme, clearly a highly topical issue of major importance and crucial to the future.

On this occasion, Thierry Joubert and his team Michael Geoffroy, Group Sales Director and Sylvie Wiciak, Sales Manager Netherlands presented all their commitments to Sustainable Development: to produce and deliver Okoumé plywood 100% legal and sustainable and to participate in the creation of better cities and buildings with ecological and sanitary performances.



Speakers at the Joubert Plywood and CBG Conference

Guillaume Fenart and Emmanuel Groutel explained the value and missions of CBG operating on a unique model which combines genuine environmental responsibility, social development to benefit local communities, economic sustainability, and an outstanding customer satisfaction record with these commitments:

- Sustainable development and responsible forest management,
- Preserving the environment and biodiversity,
- Community rights, land rights and labor law,
- Hygiene, health and safety at work,
- Good governance

In addition to the presentations by the organizers, guest speakers FSC® with Ben Romein, WWF with Gijs Breukink and ETTF / VVNH with André de BOER explained their work, their commitment and the developments that they generate.

The participants who accepted the invitation were thus made more aware of the current and future challenges and were given the opportunity to measure all the work done by JOUBERT Plywood and CBG.

Thanks to a long-term and effective partnership, JOUBERT and CBG guarantee Okoumé plywood in terms of quality, quantity and delivery times. With FSC® certification, in synergy and complementarity, from the tree to the finished product, they ensure a sustainable management of the forests which respects the environment, economic and social development.

Together we are FSC.

FSC CONGO BASIN AT THE GABON WOOD SHOW - A MUST DO!

The Gabon Wood Show 2nd edition took place from 24. to 26. of June 2019 in Libreville, Gabon.

After its successful launch edition in 2018, the fair had gained the reputation of being the only dedicated platform for the wood, forestry and machinery sectors in the West and Central African region. This unique and exciting platform offers visitors and exhibitors the chance to meet wood, woodworking machinery and forestry professionals, develop ideas for increasing the range and quality of one's business, and learn new techniques and sources of supply. The exhibition is organized in partnership with Gabon Special Economic Zone based on the outskirts of Libreville. GSEZ is a business partnership between Olam International and the Gabonese government.

In June 2018, for the first edition of the Gabon Wood Show, FSC Congo basin met all the stakeholders of the region. It also really made its presence felt by participating as panelist at the Race-wood Conference, organizing an FSC Regional Members meeting and a business encounter at the Meridien Rendama hotel and otherwise engaging with the public in the stand on the fair itself.

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This year the stakes were even higher for FSC

Since the President of Gabon announced on September 26th, 2018, his decision that all forest concessions should be FSC certified by 2022, Gabon has been a key market for FSC's development. The international organization has reinforced its local presence to support the institutions in the implementation of this decision and to accompany foresters in their journey towards certification.

Being at the Gabon Wood Show was therefore a must. Supported by FSC Africa Comms Manager, FSC Congo Basin decided to capitalize on this event to launch its first communication campaign since the Presidential decision. There was much information to share:

Presenting the new team members and in particular Harrison Kojwang, Regional Director, Bertin Tchikangwa, Sub-Regional Coordinator, and Nathalie Bouville, Regional Communications Manager.

Presenting the mission, values and FSC's certification standards with 2 conferences attended by more than 100 participants as well as in FSC's stand.

Promoting the organization through a series of interviews with the local media.

During the 3 days of the fair a constant flow of people visited the stand and got more information on FSC.

KEY FIGURES

- +100 visitors in the stands
- +60 persons attended the workshops
- + 2 000 000 ha of potential leads for FM certification
- Around 10 potential CoC certificates
- Partnerships with BAD, UNEP and WWF foreseen

Many important meetings were held with forest companies, certification bodies and financial partners. A lot of the companies feel that the cost of becoming certified is an hindrance and that they need financial support and loans in order to engage in the certification process. Among the high-level encounters, we can mention the visits on the FSC stand of the Country Resident Director of the United Nations Systems Stephen Jackson, the UNEP representative Francis James, and the AFDB bank Regional Director Robert Masumbuko.



Seminar at the Gabon Wood Show

Representatives of the FSC Certificate holders of the region were also present and among them as CIB Olam, Rougier and Interholco.

As **Harrison Kojwang**, the Regional Director said:

"Being at the Gabon Wood Show was a must for us and we are very happy to have been able to meet with so many stakeholders of the forest sector from Gabon, the Congo Basin and other parts of the world. Being able to explain who we are and to present the benefits of FSC certification to so many people on one go was also a real plus."

Bertin Tchikangwa, the recently appointed Sub-Regional Coordinator, also took the opportunity of the Gabon Wood Show to inform the public of the upcoming opening of the FSC office in Libreville. He stated that

"having a formal presence in Libreville will help us establish close links with all the interested parties in the FSC certification process. We will organize training and presentation sessions for all who wish to embark in the certification process".

With the opening of office space in Libreville and the permanent presence of FSC staff in the country, FSC Congo Basin has made Gabon a key priority in its development strategy in the region.

FSC hopes to increase its areas of FM certified forest as well as its Chain of Custody certificate holders. Participating in the Gabon Wood Show was certainly a key component to reach its objectives.

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DATABASE FOR LESSER KNOWN TIMBER SPECIES HAS EXPANDED

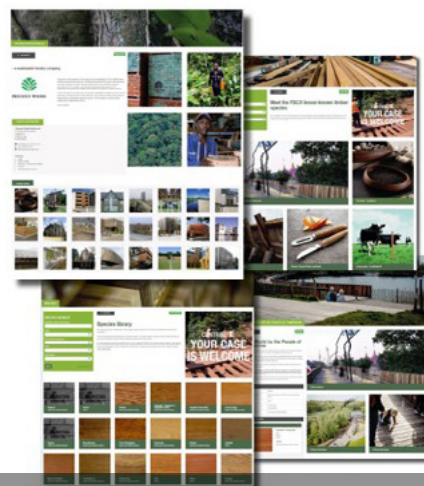
FSC Denmark's database for lesser known tropical timber species has grown. This means, among other things, a new design, more cases, new functionalities, and not least full language versions in:

English - Spanish - French - Dutch - Mandarin.

Also the adjustment of species names according to the Aitbt Nomenclature and CITES and IUCN status have been added to most species.

This recent update has been made possible with contributions from STTC and COMIFAC-PPECF.

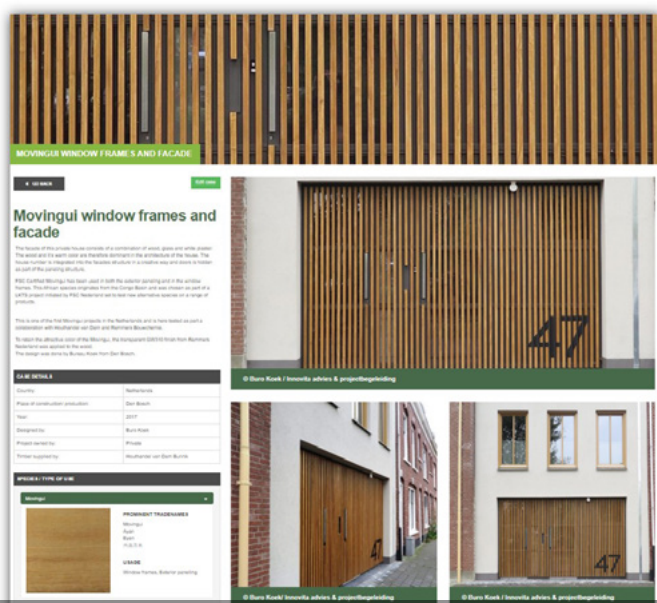
Full public launch of updates is expected to be communicated at the Sustainable Tropical Timber Coalition (STTC) annual conference in Berlin on November the 20th.



After a major rebuild of the site visiting number is continuously increasing reaching 1825 unique visitors in september.

YOUR AFRICAN CASES NEEDS TO BE SHOWN

WWW.LESSERKNOWNTIMBERSPECIES.COM



*New Movingui case - your cases is next on:
www.lesserknowntimberspecies.com*

SUBMIT: We are collecting examples of the use of lesser-known tropical timber species from a broad range of wood users, such as designers, architects, producers, businesses and project owners. If you have ever contributed to creating something in FSC-certified lesser-known timber species, this database is your opportunity to promote your work with LKTS or the LKTS species you carry.

Do provide us with a description and other details of the product/project such as:

- An overall description (50 - 150 words)
- Place of construction/ production
- Year of construction/production
- Constructor/producer
- Designer
- Project owner
- Timber supplier
- Species used and their use in the project/product

Remember to provide us with a variety of high-resolution images of your case.

Submit cases by contacting the website editor:

Kristian Jørgensen, Projectcoordinator, FSC Denmark
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www.lesserknowntimberspecies.com