



Recommendations of the subregional workshop on cross-border flows of timber in the Great Lakes region in the context of the FLEGT action plan

The experts make the following recommendations to governments and their partners for improving the legal framework and its implementation in order to formalize and better organize the artisanal forest-based sector:

1. Conduct studies on the status of national and regional legal frameworks, with a focus on agreements on the free movement of persons, goods and services within the CEPGL and the East African Community and on their application at country level, in order to determine specific recommendations to regulate trade in timber, charcoal and other forest products in the subregion.
2. Establish frameworks of dialogue, cooperation and facilitation at all levels for the control and formalization of trade flows of forest products among the Great Lakes countries (Burundi, DRC, Rwanda, Uganda, etc.).
3. Include Sudan, Tanzania and Kenya, as consumer or transit countries, in the subregional study of cross-border trade in timber.

The experts make the following recommendations concerning the best way to collect missing data and to monitor the cross-border movement of forest products:

4. Assess existing data collection systems at provincial, national and cross-border level in order to propose an agreed harmonization of data collection systems.
5. Set up check points along major roads in the eastern provinces of the DRC that facilitate the illegal cross-border flow of forest resources towards neighbouring countries.
6. Put in place a system of internal control and traceability of flows of forest products at national and subregional level (including products in transit) using new technologies, notably at border crossings.
7. Establish a system of traceability of forest sector earnings.
8. Conduct an economic analysis of artisanal production systems and marketing channels by major type of product (fuelwood, charcoal, timber, sawn wood) and by area.
9. Specify the modalities and ensure the redistribution of artisanal forest-based revenues between the different levels (national, provincial, local, etc.).
10. Ensure that mechanisms for monitoring the forest product sector are at the top of the agendas of subregional consultation frameworks (COMIFAC, CBFP, CEPGL, EAC, CEFDHAC, Greater Virunga initiative, etc.).



11. Revitalize the national statistical services and strengthen their capacities.
12. Establish national or provincial observatories in each country to harmonize the collection and systematic dissemination of data, in accordance with the OFAC arrangements of the COMIFAC and MNV (Measurement, Notification and Verification) to be put in place as part of the REDD+ platform.

As regards incentive actions to regulate the artisanal forest-based sector, the experts recommend as follows:

13. Promote local community forests/village-based forests/communal forests.
14. Promote the organization of the artisanal forest-based sector in the form of associations, cooperatives and other groups in order to gain more direct access to important markets with multifaceted support adapted to needs.
15. Facilitate the development of appropriate mechanisms for the financing of artisanal forest exploitation.
16. Strengthen the capacities of decentralized and devolved administrations in terms of personnel and resources.
17. Make the provincial and local administrative authorities of the countries concerned responsible for following up and implementing these recommendations.

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