

**FSC® CONGO BASIN BUSINESS ENCOUNTER IN LIBREVILLE, GABON
PROGRAM AND LOGISTICS
FINAL PROGRAMME
19 June 2018**



The Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC) organizes a business encounter in collaboration with stakeholders to achieve better balance in demand and supply of FSC certified wood and wood products from the Congo Basin and try to strengthen the only responsible timber supply chain in a difficult sub-regional context.

DATE

The FSC Business Encounter takes place on **19th of June in Gabon** from 8.30 AM to 17.30 PM.

VENUE

The program will take place in [Hôtel Re-Ndama Méridien](#)

GABON WOODSHOW

The FSC business encounter is scheduled one day in advance of the [Gabon Wood Show 2018](#) (20 – 22 June 2018 – also in Libreville Gabon).



MAIN GOAL OF THE BUSINESS ENCOUNTER

In collaboration with key stakeholders from Europe and Congo Basin, we aim to achieve a better balance between supply and demand of certified wood and timber products from Congo Basin and try to strengthen the only responsible supply chain in a difficult sub-regional context by increasing the area of FSC® certified tropical natural forests in Central Africa, enhancing the protection and maintenance of forest landscapes and strengthening increasing the number of responsible companies operating in the sub-region.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

Since 2013, FSC Congo Basin Programme and FSC The Netherlands heard the worries expressed by European purchasers regarding a shortage in hydraulic wood (mainly Azobe), in FSC® certified Sapelli (on the mid-term) and in FSC® certified okoume. On the other side, FSC heard also from FSC® certified producers from Congo Basin that the “responsible” market in Europe and in US is not ready anymore to pay a premium to get FSC, despite the considerable effort from these producers to get and maintain their socio-environmental performance aligned with FSC requirements.

This business encounter is organized to identify the main bottlenecks and find a common direction to maintain FSC presence (and offer) in Central Africa. The further development of sustainable forests is demand driven. Stronger development of European markets is crucial, also seen in the light of the changes in global demand, especially the strong rise in demand from Asian markets.

- What do forest owners, wood industries and exporters expect from Europe?
- What expectations do European importers have from the suppliers?
- Can the solution be found in a mix of tools, changes in quality standards, use of a greater variety of species (LKTS), more continental specifications (co-operation between importers from different countries), a general approach in sustainability policies?
- What is/should be the role of FSC in the process?
- What is/should be the role of main stakeholders of these value chains in the process?

FSC feels that this meeting could not be better timed. An accurate analysis of the current situation is vital and produces answers for the future. We hope that the encounter will be concluded with clear action plans and commitments from both stakeholders and FSC. The discussions will be open minded and non-restricted: all relevant issues must be part of the exchange of views.

VENUE

Libreville, Republic of Gabon

Libreville, Gabonese capital, is the heart of the okoume supply chain and a dynamic place, sub-regionally, with the flow of new Asiatic and Indian companies investing in the Gabonese Special Economic Zone from Nkok.

Libreville could be considered as the “face” of change in the Congo Basin supply chain.



Libreville has obviously been chosen to be the place to organize the unique business encounter for all stakeholders, organized by FSC. This event will bring together main responsible European purchasers of certified timbers/veneers/sawn timbers from Congo Basin and producers operating in Cameroon, Gabon, Republic of Congo and Democratic Republic of Congo.

The main target is to establish an opened and transparent dialogue amongst the key drivers of the value chains, to discuss current issues and eventually incentive some producers to really start a FSC certification process to pally the apparent lack of FSC® certified materials from Congo Basin.

LOGISTICS

Special rates have been negotiated at the venue for invitees having confirmed their attendance to the FSC Business Encounter See contact of the Hotel below.

All invitees should confirm their attendance to FSC Congo Basin Programme to Ben Romein - b.romein@fsc.nl

Conference and Accommodation – The Venue

Hotel Meridien (Quartier Glass Centre-Ville, Libreville, Gabon) <http://www.lemeridienrendama.com/>
All attendees which would like to stay at the Venue should book by themselves using the **Code FSC2018** at 01810.Reservation@lemeridien.com; amie.itoua@lemeridien.com

E-Visa

Once you have made your booking at the Meridien, you can apply electronically for a e-visa providing, where asked, Meridien phone number: **01 79 32 00**. (Website: <https://www.dgdi.ga/e-visa/>).

You shall receive a confirmation of registration, **then an authorization of entry whose you would need to print to travel to LBV**.

Once landed at LBV International Airport, you will have to pay the visa fees (in Euro or in Francs CFA, USD not accepted) to enter Gabon. Cost of the e-visa: 80 €.

Practical Information

A practical guide is attached to this agenda for you to prepare your trip to LBV.



PROGRAMME OF THE DAY – FSC Business Encounter, 19 June 2018

Venue : **Hôtel Re-Ndama Méridien in Libreville - Gabon**

- 08.30** **Registration Open + Refreshments**
- 09.00** **Welcoming words & Framing the Day**
Ben Romein | FSC Netherlands Project Coordinator
Mathieu Auger-Schwartzberg | FSC Director Congo Basin Programme
Peter Woodward | Independent Facilitator

CLUSTER 1: FRAMING THE CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY

- 09.20** **The emerging picture of sustainable forestry in the Congo Basin**
Mathieu Auger-Schwartzberg | FSC Director Congo Basin Programme
- 09.35** **FSC timber marketing: opportunities and challenges**
Jeremy Harrison | FSC Director Market Development
- 09.50** **Supply side perspective: possibilities of the Congo Basin forest at mid-term and the need to “respect” the Nature Capital**
Tom van Loon | Sustainability Director at INTERHOLCO, a Danzer Group)
- 10.05** **Both sides perspective: What is today, the advocacy tools for one of the key stakeholder in the tropical wood market, and what expects from FSC?**
Stephan Glannaz | Chief Commercial Officer at Precious Woods Holding AG
- 10.20** **Demand side perspective: SNCF Policies in procurement regarding tropical timber from Congo Basin – a new era for the supply chain**
Patrizia Gregorini | Environmental Performance Director of SNCF RESEAU
- 10.35** **Time for participants Q&A / Discussion**
- 11.00** **Refreshments**

CLUSTER 2: TOWARDS A SHARED AMBITION FOR SUSTAINABLE TIMBER SOURCED FROM THE CONGO BASIN

- 11.30** **Introduction to the value and process of visioning and action planning**
Peter Woodward | Independent Facilitator



- 11.35** FSC Congo Basin Office suggest a positive vision for where we would all like to be in 2030
Mathieu Auger-Schwartzberg | FSC Director Congo Basin Programme
- 11.40** Table groups discuss this and feedback suggestions to improve the vision
- 12.00** Plenary discussion with the aim of achieving a working consensus on a single vision

CLUSTER 3: "ACTION AREA" IDENTIFICATION

To achieve the vision, what Action Areas must we explore to create pathways and remove roadblocks?

- 12.30** Groups discuss to identify up to 6 Action Areas
- 12.45** Feedback to plenary and cluster. Agree a workable number to tackle – (6?)
- 13.15** LUNCH

CLUSTER 4: ACTION AREAS PROGRESS PLANS

- 14.15** Participants choose an Action Area to explore in table groups:
- further explore the issue
- identify collaborative pathways to take us forward
- Proposed action plan steps
- 15.05** REFRESHMENTS

CLUSTER 5: FEEDBACK AND ACTION PLANNING

- 15.20** Feedback key proposals from each group to plenary
Opportunity for all to discuss proposals and sign-up to follow-up actions
- 16.40** Closing Remarks
- 16.50** Close and networking meetings

