



AFORPOLIS
African Forest Policies & Politics



**Global
Environmental Institute**
北京市朝阳区永续全球环境研究所

First Africa-China AFORPOLIS Workshop on

Forestland Governance, investments and sustainability

Yaoundé- Cameroon, 3 - 5 September
2019

Programme

Organising committee

This workshop is organised by the African Forest Policies and Politics (AFORPOLIS) organisation and the Global Environmental Institute (GEI) – China in cooperation with the University of Göttingen in Germany, the University of Dschang in Cameroon, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), the Alexander von Humboldt Foundations, The Congo basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), and the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) - Cameroon.

Main organisers:

Symphorien Ongolo, AFORPOLIS/University of Göttingen – Germany

Lin Ji, Global Environmental Institute (GEI) – China

Co-organisers:

Martin Tchamba, University of Dschang – Cameroon

Dany Pokem, Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP)

Abdon Awono, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) – Cameroon

Organising committee members and secretariat

Ameni Hasnaoui, AFORPOLIS/University of Göttingen – Germany

Minette Nago, AFORPOLIS/University of Göttingen - Germany

Yue Zhao, AFORPOLIS/University of Göttingen – Germany

Sandrine Andong, AFORPOLIS Cameroon

Main Organisers



Organising partners



Unterstützt von / Supported by



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Context

Since the early 2000s, the increasing activities by Chinese companies – in forestland conversions including for logging, agribusiness, mining and infrastructure development– have caught special international attention because of the related sustainability challenges. These Chinese increasing investments and trades in Africa are partly driven by the China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Forum of China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), with significant ecological and social implications for African countries under deforestation pressure. In the same vein, China has become Africa’s biggest trading partner, reaching a trading value of 203.98 billion USD in 2018 with 20% increase from 2017. In timber trade sectors, China has become a major export destination of the timber-rich African countries such as those in the Congo Basin including Cameroon. By estimation, more than 75% of Africa’s timber production was exported to China in 2017. This trend is predicated to keep rising, notably because of the growing wood demand in China. These Chinese investments and related trade implications have been disputed for their environmental (biodiversity, ecosystem services, climate change mitigation) and social (forest-dependent people’s livelihood, labour conditions, etc.) effects in Africa.

Objectives

The workshop aims to: (i) elucidate the effects of Chinese investments in forest sector in Africa; and (ii) explore opportunities to enhance and promote sustainability in Chinese forestry investments; and (iii) promoting multi-stakeholders dialogue and interactions on Chinese forest-related investments in Africa.

Tuesday, 03 September 2019

09:00 **Registration****09:30** **(Chair: Abdon Awono, CIFOR)****Introduction**

Symphorien Ongolo, AFORPOLIS/University of Göttingen, Germany

Jiaman Jin, GEI, China

Thomas Pichet, DFID/FGMC, UK

Keyong Liu, China NFGA, China

Welcome speech

Vice-Chancellor, University of Dschang, Cameroon

Opening

Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, MINFOF, Cameroon

11:00 Coffee break**11:30** **Keynote 1**

Chimère Diaw

RAFM, Cameroon

Talk: Beyond carbon: win-win investments and partnerships to govern African forestlands for societies

12:05 **Keynote 2**

Yong Chen

NFGA, China

Talk: China-Africa timber trade and forest investments

12:40 Lunch break

Plenary session (Moderator: Roger Ngoufo, CEW/Univ. Yaoundé I)	
14:10	Talk 1: Mao Zhun (INRA, France)
14:40	Talk 2: Samuel Assembe-Mvondo (Independent Researcher, Cameroon)
15:10	Talk 3: Alain Karsenty (CIRAD, France)
15:40	Coffee break
16:10	Talk 4: Wen Zhou (Yale University, USA)
16:40	Talk 5: Peng Ren (GEI, China)

Wednesday, 04 September 2019

	Room 1 (plenary room)	Room 2
09:00	Session 1: Community forestry – governance and livelihood (Chair: Yunzhu Chen)	Session 2: Forest resources and local development (Chair: Lucie Temgoua)
10:30	Coffee break	
11:00	Session 3: Biodiversity preservation and sustainability (Chair: Serge Bobo Kadiri)	Session 4: Wildlife, trade and illegality (Chair: Jingwei Zhang)
12:15	Lunch break	
13:45	Session 5: forestland-use, logging and certification (Chair: Benoit Jobbé-Duval)	Session 6: Timber and legality processes (Chair: Yong Chen)
15:00	Round table discussion with sessions' chairpersons (Chair: Dany	
–	Pokem, CBFP)	
16:15		

16:15	Coffee break	
16:45	Group discussion 1** : forest exploitation, plantation and sustainability (Chair : Patrice Bigombe)	Group discussion 2*** : Wildlife management and biodiversity preservation (Chair : Lin Ji)
18:00		
19:30	Workshop dinner	
21:45		

Thursday, 05 September 2019

09:00	Finalising group discussions' reports
10:00	Wrap up meeting - take home message (presentation of group 1 and group 2 reports)
11:30	Closing ceremony
12:00	Lunch break
13:30	Field trip

*Each talk in plenary session is scheduled for 25 minutes in total. This includes 15 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for discussion. Each parallel session is scheduled for 75/90 min. This includes 45/60 min for 3-4 talks, and 30 min for discussion.

/ The aim of Group discussion 1 and Group discussion 2 is to explore path forward and suitable alternatives to improve sustainability of Chinese forestry investments and related trade flows in the Congo basin. The main outcome of the constructive discussions expected from these group discussions will be to: (i) point out the major failings; (ii) propose specific recommendations.

Table of talks:

Names	Country of affiliation	Institution	Talk
Plenary session (Chair: Abdon Awono, CIFOR)			
Zhun Mao	France	INRA	Why do forest and agro-forestry ecosystems matter for environmental sustainability?
Samuel Assembe-Mvondo	Cameroon	Independent Researcher	Mapping Chinese forestry investments in Cameroon: actors and trade flows
Alain Karsenty	France	CIRAD	Addressing subcontracting issue to improve tropical timber production in the Congo basin
Wen Zhou	USA	Yale university	Concessions in the crosshairs: African elephants, Western conservationists, and Chinese logging companies in Gabon, Central Africa
Peng Ren	China	GEI	China's regulatory policy development on environmental impacts of overseas investments and China's non-forest investments in Africa.

Parallel session 1: Community forestry – governance and livelihood (Yunzhu Chen)			
Eliezer Majambu	DRC	University of Kisangani	Can traditional authority improve the governance of forestlands in the Congo (DRC)?
Patrice Bigombe-Logo	Cameroun	CERAD & University Yaoundé2	Close to the forests, out of the benefits? community forestry and inequality in Cameroon
Weiju Song	China	Qinghai Provincial Forestry and Grassland Bureau	Community conservation and livelihoods development in China – insights from local government perspective
Brigitte Adjemo	Cameroon	GIC Tsoung-Amande/Lomié	Local management and trade systems in community forestry: Experience from Est-Cameroon
Parallel session 2: Forest resources and local development (Lucie Temgoua)			
Lucie Temgoua	Cameroon	University of Dschang	Developing forest plantations from local level: Can peasants make the difference in Cameroon?

Lilian Laurin	Republic of Congo	CGG	Negotiating with logging companies: Independent forest monitoring and knowledge sharing in communities in Congo for
Yunzhu Chen	China	Global Environmental Institute (GEI)	Community conservation and livelihoods development practices in China and Myanmar
Yves Mvondo	Cameroon	Ets. MYREG	Experience in subcontracting community forestry with a Chinese operator in Cameroon
Parallel session 3: Biodiversity preservation and sustainability (Serge Bobo Kadiri)			
Serge Bobo Kadiri	Cameroon	University of Dschang	Managing forestlands for biodiversity preservation: opportunities and challenges in Congo basin
Edgar Ambassa Ongono	Cameroon	MINFOF	Deforestation, mining and biodiversity: empirical observations from East Cameroon
Nan Jiang	China	Nanjing Forest Police Academy	Policies and practices in combatting illegal trade of timber and wildlife in China, and the needs for China-Africa cooperation

Parallel session 4: Wildlife, trade and illegality (Jingwei Zhang)			
Chun Li	China	GEI	Chinese wildlife-related policies, anti-wildlife traffic
Simon Essissima	Cameroon	MINFOF	Monitoring and punish illegal hunting: experience from Cameroon
Martin Fokit	Cameroon	MINFOF	combatting illegal wildlife trafficking: learning from the airports forest police
Parallel session 5: forestland-use, logging and certification (Benoit Jobbé-Duval)			
Jianmin Xiao	China	China Academy of Forestry	Assessment of the Chinese Forest Investors' behaviors in Africa-based on the investigation in Mozambique
Corneille Kumbazi	DRC	DIAF/MEDD (DRC)	Emergence and evolution of Chinese logging companies in DRC
Eric Dassie Wendji	Cameroon	PPECF/COMIFAC	Chinese operators and forest certification initiatives in the Congo basin

Parallel session 6: Timber and legality processes (Yong Chen)			
Yong Chen	China	Center for International Forest Products Trade, China NFGA	Timber legality verification system in China - Development and practices
Justin Kamga	Cameroon	FODER	Reducing illegal logging in the Congo basin: Lessons from forest independent monitoring systems
Samuel Assembe-Mvondo	Cameroon	Independent Researcher	Does the origin of investments affect managerial practices? case of Chinese investments in forest sector in Cameroon

Roundtable and group discussions

Roundtable discussion (Chair: Dany Pokem, CBFP)

The roundtable discussion aims to facilitate a knowledge sharing of key messages from parallel sessions. Accordingly, panellists of this roundtable discussion will include the chairpersons of the parallel sessions for a comprehensive discussion with the audience.

Group discussions

Two thematic group discussions in parallel sessions are scheduled in the afternoon on the second workshop day (see schedule structure). The outcomes of the group discussions will be reported to all participants in plenary session in the first half of the third workshop day. Each group discussion will consist of a comprehensive discussion session among attendees. The discussion will be organised under the leadership of a chair person assisted by a rapporteur.

Group discussion 1

Topic: forest exploitation, plantation and sustainability

Chair Person : Patrice Bigombe

Rapporteur : Sandrine Andong

Group discussion 2

Topic: Wildlife management and biodiversity preservation

Chairperson : Lin Ji

Rapporteur : Zhun Mao

In-country information in brief

Accommodation

The first Africa-China AFORPOLIS workshop 2019 venue and the accommodation place of participants will be located at *Mont Febe hotel* (Tel: +237 2 22 21 40 02)¹.

Currency

“Communauté Financière Africaine” Francs (Fcfa) is the currency in Cameroon. The usual currency exchange with Euro is: 1 Euros = 655 Fcfa (approximatively). Money machines exist in the majority of banks in Yaoundé. There are available agencies for money transfer in the city. The general accepted payment in Yaoundé is Cash. For this, we suggest participants to consider bringing cash, preferably in local currency or Euro. Payment by credit card is possible in some hotels, some supermarkets and restaurants, but not in small shops and fast foods.

Transportation:

The recommended transportation in Yaoundé is (yellow) taxi. It costs around 10.000 Fcfa from and to the airport of Yaoundé Nsimalen. An individual use of yellow taxi in the city costs around 2500 Fcfa per journey or 300 Fcfa in a collective use with other passengers.

There will be available AFORPOLIS workshop shuttles to transport participants 1) between the Yaoundé airport and the *Mont Febe hotel* for arrival and departure, 2) for lunch, the workshop dinner and the field visit/excursion.

Mobile

Recommended Sim-cards: MTN Cameroon; Nexttel; Orange Cameroon.

Internet

Internet access is free of charges in *Mont Febe hotel*, but as regards with outside hotels, there are different offers by private companies (Nexttel; Orange Cameroon; MTN Cameroon).

Climate and Weather

September is usually a rainy season in Yaoundé, please do not hesitate to take an umbrella or a raincoat with you. Temperature varies between 20 and 28°C in Yaoundé in September.

¹ <http://www.hotel-montfebe.com/>

Opening time of shops

The working days are from Monday to Saturday in Cameroon. Shops open at 9am and close at 6pm. The majority of shops are closed on Sunday.

The available supermarkets around *Mont Febe hotel* are DOVV-Bastos and Mahima.

Eat & drink

A meal costs approximately from 2500 to 10000 Fcfa depending on restaurant category. Water in bottle costs from 250 to 500 Fcfa.

Selection of typical food: Ndolé, Poisson braisé, Poulet-DG; Soya. Plantains frits, baton de manioc, Coki & beignets haricot – Sanga –Prunes, etc. (for vegetarians).

Short selection of typical drink: 'vin de palm', Foléré