

Intra-African Trade in Wood Products

*Case studies from Benin, Cameroon, Ghana
and the Republic of Congo*

2021



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*African Development Bank Group
Abidjan 01, Côte d'Ivoire;
Phone (Standard) : +225 2026 3900
Internet: www.afdb.org.*

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Table of Contents

FOREWORD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. BACKGROUND

2. METHODOLOGY

3.0. MAIN RESULTS

- 3.1. Global exports of wood products
- 3.2. Characteristics of total exports and intra-African trade shares
- 3.3. Trends in total wood products exported
- 3.4. Trends in intra-African trade in wood products
- 3.5. Flows in intra-African wood products trade
 - 3.5.1. Logs exports to other African countries
 - 3.5.2. Sawnwood exports to other African countries
 - 3.5.3. Plywood exports to other African countries
 - 3.5.4. Veneers exports to other African countries
 - 3.5.5. Export of finished furniture products to other African countries
- 3.6. Tree specie preferences for intra-African trade in wood products
 - 3.6.1. Tree species preferred for logs
 - 3.6.2. Tree species preferred for sawnwood
 - 3.6.3. Tree species preferred for plywood
 - 3.6.4. Tree species preferred for veneers

4. CHALLENGES TO INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE IN WOOD PRODUCTS

- 4.1. Policy level
- 4.2. Regulatory level
- 4.3. Economic level
- 4.4. Technological level
- 4.5. Organizational and social level
- 4.6. Financial level

5. OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE IN WOOD PRODUCTS

- 5.1. Differential forest endowments, a sharing window
- 5.2. Turning negative to positive trade balances
- 5.3. Implementation of new industrial models
- 5.4. Institutionalisation of continental integration and a growing middle class
- 5.5. Improving terrestrial and riverain/port connectivity

6. MAIN CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1. Continental destination of products matters
- 6.2. Intra-African destination of products matters
- 6.3. Type of product matters
- 6.4. Private sector business interest
- 6.5. Tree species of interest
- 6.6. Government policy and actions count

7. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Agreement
AfDB	African Development Bank
AEC	African Economic Community
AEO	Authorised Economic Operator
ATC-IB	Amani Trading Company - Industrie de Bois
AU	African Union
BIAT	Boosting Intra-Africa Trade
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COMIFAC	Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (Central African Forests Commission)
COMTRADE	United Nations International Trade Statistics Database
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
ANRC	African Natural Resources Centre
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FAOSTAT	FAO Statistical Databases
FC	Forestry Commission
FCFA	Francs de la Coopération financière d'Afrique
FOB	Free On Board
FORIG	Forestry Research Institute of Ghana
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
INSAE	Institut National De La Statistique De L'analyse Economique
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
NA	Not available
NWFP	Non-wood forest products
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
SCPFE	Service de Contrôle des Produits Forestiers à l'Exportation
SD	Standard Deviation
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
TIDD	Timber Industry Development Division
TRALAC	Trade Law Centre
TTP	Tropical Timber and Timber Products

Acknowledgements

This report was commissioned at by the African Natural Resources Centre (ANRC) of the African Development Bank based on discussions with regional member countries at a regional workshop organized by the African Forest Forum (AFF) in Accra, Ghana in 2017, and in Yaounde, Cameroon in 2018, to generating data to fill gaps in knowledge on intra-African trade in wood products. This was understood as an important contribution to guide policy makers in formulating policies and strategies to encourage such trade by the forest-endowed with the less forest-endowed countries.

The report was prepared by the African Natural Resources Centre in close collaboration with national consultants from Cameroon, the Republic of Benin, Ghana and the Republic of Congo. It was produced under the overall guidance of Modibo Traore, Chief Natural Resource Management Officer and former Acting Director and Cosmas Milton Obote Ochieng, former Director, ANRC. Direct supervision and leadership of the research team came from Tieguhong Julius Chupezi, Chief Forestry Officer, ANRC. The national consultants involved in the research were Mr Charles Yabi, Dr Paul P Bosu and Dr A M Ngoya Kessy from the Republic of Benin, Ghana and the Republic of Congo respectively. The Bank wishes to recognize the roles played by these national consultants in drafting the national reports as well as reviewing consolidated report. At the African Development Bank, the report was reviewed by Mr Modibo Traore, Chief Natural Resource Management Officer, Mr James Opio-Omoding, Chief Agricultural Economist, and Dr Rose Mwebaza, Chief Natural Resources Officer. Deep appreciation goes to the external reviewers, namely Mr Edward Sheikh A Kamara, Forestry development Authority Liberia, Dr Divine Foundjem Tita of the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Dr. Dickson Lubanga Makanji of Egerton University in Kenya, Dr Evaristus Mafa Chipeta and Dr Samuel Assembe-Mvondo, independent consultants, for their insight and time.

The Bank would like to express its gratitude to all the stakeholders contacted during this study in the various countries, including the representatives and staff of Statistics agencies, Customs departments, and government ministries in charge of forests, finance and trade. To all the representatives of wood industries and associations, your time and ideas have enriched this study and are much appreciated. In particular, sincere thanks to Dr Paul C. Djogbenou, the Coordinator of PAGEFCOM in Benin; Hijazi A Fadi, Director, Amani Trading Company (ATC); Patrice Alakpato, DG Industrie du Bois- Business Africa Center; Adjakou Adjinda, Director of plantations and forest management in Benin; Muafor John and Tasse Benoit of MINFOF Cameroon, for their strategic supports, leadership and guidance during the assignment.

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Foreword

This report is derived from four case studies on intra-African trade in wood products in Cameroon, the Republic of Benin, the Republic of Congo and Ghana. The study objective was to highlight the status, opportunities and challenges in intra-African wood trade. The report puts emphasis on the potential contribution of forest products to African industrialisation and regional integration that constitute two of the High 5 priorities of the African Development Bank. The report pinpoints to the fact that Africa has significant forest resources that are currently under-utilized and under-shared among the endowed and the less endowed. Using intra-African trade in wood products is a good way to illustrate both this under-utilization and the potential of forest value chains to contribute to some of Africa's fundamental development objectives such as industrialization and regional integration.

Thus, this report contains information on the magnitude and extent to which wood products are exported from case study countries to other African countries within the five African sub-regions (Eastern, Central, Northern, Southern, Western). Data on the export of logs, sawnwood, veneers and plywood constituted the focus of the study for the period 2009 to 2017.

Tree specie preferences and trade flows were also highlighted. The general tendency is that the export of forest products from one

African country to another was dominated by primary processed wood products such as air-dried and kiln-dried sawnwood, plywood and a limited quantity of veneers. The exception was the Republic of Benin, where furniture was the dominant product traded regionally. Most of the intra-African trade in logs from case study countries is destined to countries in the northern region of the continent (Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt).

Overall, intra-African trade in wood products remains low for logs and sawnwood, at less than 13% but with higher proportions observed for plywood (97%) and furniture (46%). The report pinpoints six factors that matter most in ensuring greater intra-African wood trade. They include: continental destination of products, African destination of products, type of product, private sector business interest, tree specie preferences and government policy and actions. The report, however, brings to focus several challenges being confronted by African countries trading among themselves in all tradable commodities and more particularly wood products. These are classified at six levels: policy, regulation, economic, organisational/ social, financial and technological.

Alongside the constraints are key opportunities for intra-African trade in wood products. These include: the differential forest endowments between countries and across regions, the possibility of reversing

negative to positive trade balances, the implementation of new industrial models, the institutionalisation of continental integration, as well as improving terrestrial and riverine/ port connectivity.

This report was produced under the supervision of Dr Tieguhong Julius Chupezi, Chief Forestry Officer of the African Development Bank. National consultants involved in this study included Mr Charles Yabi, Dr Paul P Bosu and Dr A M Ngoya Kessy from the Republic of Benin, Ghana and the Republic of Congo respectively. At the African Development Bank, the report was reviewed by Mr Modibo Traore, Chief Natural Resource Management Officer, Mr James Opio-Omoding, Chief Agricultural Economist, and Dr Rose Mwebaza, Chief Natural Resources Officer.

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Much appreciation to all the stakeholders contacted during this study in the various countries, including the staff of Statistics agencies, Customs departments, and government ministries in charge of forests, finance and trade. To all the representatives of wood industries and associations, your time and ideas have enriched this study and are much appreciated.

The opinions expressed in this document do not necessarily represent those of the African Development Bank.

Emmanuel Pinto Moriera,
Acting Director, ANRC

The African Development Bank established the African Natural Resources Centre as a non-lending entity to strengthen capacity for natural resource management. The Centre's mandate is to assist African countries in maximise development outcomes from their natural resources. The Centre advises governments on natural resources management, policy formulation and implementation to enable them to secure greater social and economic value from resource development. The scope of the mandate covers renewable (fisheries, forestry, land and water) and non-renewable (oil, gas and minerals) resources.

The Centre supports African governments in performing their custodial obligations by collaborating with regional institutions, private sector, civil society organisations and donors. It uses benchmarks and best practices from some countries to help others increase their capacity.



Executive Summary

This report is derived from four case studies on intra-African trade in wood products in selected African countries: Cameroon, Benin, the Republic of Congo and Ghana. The study objective was to highlight the status, opportunities and challenges in intra-African wood trade. African industrialisation and regional integration constitute two of the High 5 priorities of the African Development Bank to which forest products have enormous potentials to contribute. The study is in keeping with the promotion of African integration, as called for in the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) and the Action Plan on Boosting Intra-Africa Trade (BIAT).

The report pinpoints to the fact that Africa has significant forest resources that are currently under-utilized and under-shared among the endowed and the less endowed within the continent.

The main premise of the study was that using intra-African trade in wood products is a good way to illustrate both this under-utilization and the potentials of their value chains to contribute to some of Africa's fundamental development objectives such

as industrialization and regional integration. An understanding of the trade dynamics governing various product types at the country and continental levels can help inform the implementation of regional policies, treaties and conventions for effective African integration.

For all commodities of trade value, intra-continental trade is still limited in Africa, at 10-13% compared to other continents: Europe (72%), Asia (52%), North America (48%), and South and Central America (26%).

These global figures, however, tend to obscure the realities of intra-continental trade in specified types of products from specific countries. The study demonstrates the magnitude and extent to which wood products are exported from case study countries to other African countries within the five African sub-regions (Eastern, Central, Northern, Southern, Western). Data on the export of logs, sawnwood, veneers and plywood constituted the focus of the study for the period 2009 to 2017. Tree species preferences, trade flows, opportunities and challenges were also captured.

From 2009 to 2017, Benin, Cameroon, the Republic of Congo and Ghana exported wood products to 38, 21, 27 and 23 other African countries respectively. Over that period, Benin, Cameroon and Ghana exported about 16.3 million cubic metres of wood, with logs, sawnwood, plywood and veneers representing 46.8%, 44.5%, 5.0% and 3.8% of these exports respectively. Intra-African trade in logs and sawnwood was less than 10% in all the case study countries except in Ghana with 12.4% for sawnwood.

Plywood was the most important intra-African traded wood product in Ghana with slightly over 97% exported to other African countries. Furniture was the second most important intra-African traded wood product in the Republic of Benin with about 46% of the 4333 m³ produced being exported to other African countries. Other details on intra-Africa trade flows in different wood products is provided in terms of export volumes from case study countries to other African countries as well as preferences for products from given tree species.

The general tendency is that primary processed wood products such as air-dried and kiln-dried sawnwood, plywood and a limited quantity of veneers dominate the export of forest products from one African country to another.

The trend is a little different for the Republic of Benin where intra-African trade in wood products is dominated by furniture, and, interestingly, exports are to some of the most forest endowed African countries. Most of the intra-African trade in logs are destined to countries in the northern region of the continent (Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt). It could be said though that those countries are in the middleman role of importing and re-exporting to European Union or Asia because they do not have sawmills for tropical timber. Overall, it can be concluded from this study that six factors matter most in ensuring greater benefits in intra-African wood trade including: continental destination of products, African destination of products, type of product, private sector business preferences, tree species preferences and government policy and actions.

There are several challenges being confronted by African countries trading among themselves in all tradable commodities and more particularly wood products. These constraints may be classified at six levels: policy, regulation, economic, organisational/social, financial and technological.

The opportunities for intra-African trade in

wood products dwell on the different forest endowments between countries and across regions; on the possibility of reversing negative to positive trade balances; the implementation of new industrial models; on the institutionalisation of continental integration taking advantage of the growing middle class; and on improving terrestrial and riverain/port connectivity.

The potential benefits of intra-African trade in wood products can be substantial. Every effort should be made to achieve them through policy interventions. Such interventions should aim to increase the share of wood products imported by the less forest-endowed African countries from those that are more endowed.



01

Harmonise the legal and regulatory framework for the timber trade to adopt common tariffs between countries based on harmonised nomenclature for wood products to help curb illegal timber trade among African countries

02

Encourage local consumption of finished wood products by guaranteeing minimum quotas in public procurement of goods and providing incentives for value addition to wood products

03

Set up a joint system or network for the collection and processing of timber trade statistics between customs, wood industries, trade and forestry administrations

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FORMULATED ON HOW TO BOOST INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE IN TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS

04

Promote intra-African timber trade through the implementation of AfCFTA and BIAT tenets in all African countries. It is more tempting to state that certainty on duty-free imports from other African countries that together constitute over a billion customers will attract investors to construct manufacturing industries.

05

Conduct a similar study in African wood importing countries to understand their problems and needs, especially the sources of wood from outside Africa. This study is important because the results here show that Senegal is the top internal importer of Africa's wood products. It would be interesting to find out where Africa's largest economies (Nigeria, South Africa, Egypt, Morocco, Kenya, Ethiopia etc.) are importing their wood products from, which would allow for deeper analysis of these countries, looking at drivers of voluntary external preference.

01

Background

The African Natural Resources Centre (ANRC) conducted this study on intra-African trade in wood products in four African countries, namely Cameroon, Benin, Congo and Ghana.

The study objective was to shed light on the status, opportunities and challenges in intra-African wood trade, with a view to highlighting the potential contribution of forest and forest products to African industrialization and regional integration that constitute two of the High 5 Priorities of the African Development Bank Group.

In keeping with the promotion of African integration, as called for in the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) and the Action Plan on Boosting Intra-Africa Trade (BIAT), the report pinpoints to the fact that Africa has significant forest resources that are currently under-utilized and under-

shared among the forest-endowed and the less forest-endowed within the continent. Using intra-African trade in African forest products is a good way to illustrate both this under-utilization and the potential of forest value chains to contribute to some of Africa's fundamental development objectives such as industrialization and regional integration. An understanding of the trade dynamics governing various wood product types at the country and continental levels can help inform the implementation of regional policies, treaties and conventions for effective African integration.

This initiative is in keeping with the promotion of African regional integration as called for in the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), signed in Kigali in March 2018, and the Action Plan on Boosting Intra-Africa Trade (BIAT) endorsed by the African Union General Assembly in 2012.

The BIAT identifies seven priority action clusters: trade policy, trade facilitation, productive capacity, trade related infrastructure, trade finance, trade information, and factor market integration.

The AfCFTA and the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community relate to the Free Movement of Persons, Right to Residence and Right to Establishment. Today, 54 out of the 55 African Union member states have signed the consolidated text of the AfCFTA Agreement, while 47 have signed the Kigali Declaration and 30 have signed the Protocol on Free Movement.

The African Economic Commission (AEC) fast-tracked the establishment of the AfCFTA with a programme to double intra-Africa trade by 2022. Its goals are also to strengthen Africa's common voice and policy space in global trade negotiations and establish continental institutions within agreed upon timeframes for full economic integration. A minimum of 22 countries were required to ratify the Agreement for it to come into effect. This was achieved on 2 April 2019, and on Thursday 30 May 2019, 30 days after ratification, the agreement entered into force.

The main objectives of the AfCFTA are to create a single continental market for 90% of goods and services, with free movement of businesspersons and investments.

The Agreement will help accelerate the establishment of a continental customs union. It will also expand intra-African trade through better harmonisation and coordination of trade liberalisation and facilitation, and of instruments across Africa's regional economic communities and across the continent in general.

The AfCFTA is also expected to enhance competitiveness at the industry and enterprise levels through exploitation of opportunities for scale production, continental market access and better reallocation of resources. It will bring member states of the African Union closer together economically, covering a market of more than 1.2 billion people. This includes a growing middle class, and a combined GDP of more than USD3.4 trillion. In terms of numbers of participating countries, the AfCFTA will be the world's largest free trade area since the formation of the World Trade Organization. Estimates from the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) suggest that it has the potential

African Development Bank (AfDB). 2018. African Economic Outlook (AEO) for Central Africa 2018. African Development Bank. Abidjan. 32pp.

Tralac 2018. African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Legal Texts and Policy Documents. AfCFTA barometer. <https://www.tralac.org/resources/infographics/13795-status-of-afcfta-ratification.html>

<https://www.tralac.org/resources/by-region/cfta.html>

African Union Commission. 2015. Agenda 2063. The Africa we want. Final Edition, April 2015



both to boost intra-African trade by 52.3% by eliminating import duties. It is also expected to double this trade if non-tariff barriers are also reduced.

Consistent with the Action Plan on Boosting Intra-Africa Trade and the objectives of the AfCTA, this study looks at the extent to which African countries trade with one another in wood products.

Africa is a forest-endowed continent but the differences between individual country endowments – with some having more forests than others – provide opportunities for intra-African trade in wood and non-wood forest products (NWFP). However, this will require deliberate efforts by African governments to facilitate trade among



themselves in all commodities produced across the continent. Trade facilitation refers to measures taken by a sovereign nation and its agencies to remove or ameliorate hindrances to cross-border trade of goods and services. In the African context, there is the potential to improve trade among African countries, and this is important, given the pre-eminence of the AfCFTA and intra-African trade in products and resources produced in Africa such as forest and wood products.

1.1. Importance of intra-African wood trade

The Abuja Treaty, which established the African Economic Community in 1991, elaborates on Africa's Integration Vision. Today, there are at least 14 regional economic communities in Africa that are officially or unofficially recognised by the African Union (AU). Some of these overlap in membership. Africa's Integration Vision envisages a continent where there is free movement of people, goods and services, and rights of establishment, among other rights. Fifty-Four African countries are signatories to the Africa Economic Community, including the case study countries for this report. The efforts mentioned above confirm the great desire of African countries to integrate their economies to enhance mutual growth and

development. They can achieve this partially through regional trade in goods and services.

However, for all commodities of trade value, intra-continental trade is still limited in Africa at 10-13% compared to other continents. Comparative figures are: Europe (72%), Asia (52%), North America (48%), and South and Central America (26%).

Some prominent authors put the Africa totals for most commodities at generally below 3% of the global totals. They imply that even doubling intra-African trade would leave Africa modest in its global significance, based on capacity to negotiate fairer prices and other trade benefits for itself (Mafa Chipeta, Per. Com. 2018). However, these global figures tend to obscure the realities of intra-continental trade on specified types of products from specific countries, such as wood products.

In terms of forestry as a purveyor of development, wood products constitute strategic resources for African countries to trade among themselves because some countries are forest endowed while others are less so.

Tralac 2018. Op. Cit.

Traore M. and Tieguhong J.C. 2018. How Forestry contributes to the African Development Bank's High 5 Priorities: challenges and opportunities. African Natural Resources Centre. African Development Bank. Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

Stuart J. 2018. Trade Facilitation in Africa: Progress, Performance and Potential. Tralac Trade Brief No. S18TB02/2018. Stellenbosch: Trade Law Centre (Tralac). 28 pp. <https://www.tralac.org/publications/article/13100-trade-facilitation-in-africa-progress-performance-and-potential.html>

Indufor. 2016. "The State of Forest Plantation Investments in Africa—Overview of Volumes and Investment Patterns." PowerPoint presentation. Working Conference Forests for the Future—New Forests for Africa. Accra, Ghana, 16–17 March. Available at: https://induforgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/the_state_of_forestry_plantation_investments_in_africa.pdf

FAOSTAT. 2016. Forest Production, Imports and Export Statistics. FAOSTAT Database. Available at: <http://www.fao.org>.

Traore and Tieguhong, Op. Cit.

AfDB 2018. Op. cit.

Chipeta M.E. and Kowero G. 2015. An overview of intra-African trade in forest products: opportunities and challenges. International Forestry Review Vol. 17(S3): 114-124.

Traore and Tieguhong, Op. Cit.

Moreover, forest products provide avenues for forward and backward linkages for the industrialisation of various segments of African economies. Based on current trends, the African demand for industrial wood is projected to grow from about 75 million cubic metres a year today to 250 million cubic meters a year by 2030. Other estimates show that between 2001 and 2015, Africa's imports of forest products grew at 9% per year, while exports grew at only 5% a year, indicating serious negative terms of trade for forest products. In 2014, African countries had an exorbitant USD 2.9 billion trade deficit associated with importation of only three primary processed wood products: sawnwood, plywood, and veneers. More broadly, it is estimated that of the more than USD 4 billion in wood products imported by African countries, only 10% comes from other African countries.

A recent report by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) highlights some national and regional level actions that need to be taken to help improve intra-Africa trade in wood products. At the national level, actions proposed include the implementation of the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) procedure for tropical timber products trade; the promotion of public-private partnerships for trade facilitation and the strengthening of operational cooperation between forestry, customs and other trade-related authorities. At the regional level, the actions proposed are the removal of tariffs and other trade obstacles from intra-community trade; the effective harmonisation of external tariffs and reduction of tariff escalation; the strengthening of cooperation between custom authorities and operational cooperation in law enforcement to reduce

illegal transactions as well as the gradual implementation of the regional Authorised Economic Operator concept. Along these lines, to boost intra-African trade in wood products, other authors suggest that Africa needs to cultivate a conducive environment for sustainable production and effective marketing systems that include favourable policies and infrastructure for legalising such trade. In their opinion, there is potential to increase benefits to African countries through taxes, which are currently being avoided (tax evasion).

With the population of Africa expected to rise to 2.5 billion people by 2050 and to 4 billion by the turn of the century, the questions the forestry sector should ask itself could include the following: How will Africa meet the wood product needs of this growing population? Will Africa simply depend on ever increasing wood product imports?

By simply turning Africa into a wood product self-sufficient continent, the many billions in foreign currencies spent on importing could be spent on other domestic needs without recourse to expensive international capital markets. With this understanding, this study looks at the extent to which African countries conduct intra-African trade in wood products.

1.2. Study Goal and Objectives

Goal

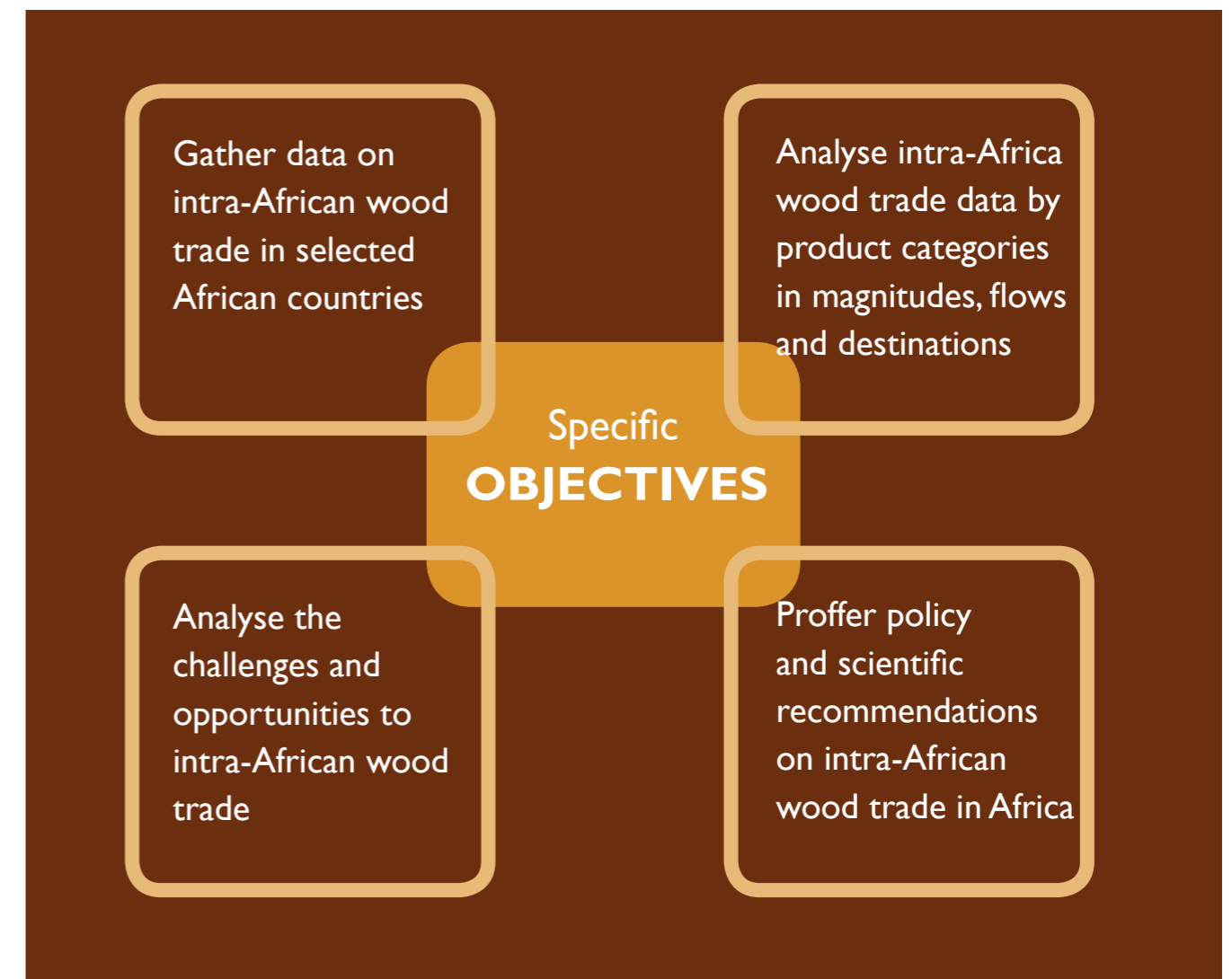
The goal of the study is to shed light on

the status, opportunities and challenges in intra-African wood trade, with a view to highlighting the potential contribution of forest and forest products to African industrialization and regional integration that constitute two of the High 5 Priorities of the African Development Bank Group.

1.3. Scope of Work

This study focuses on only one aspect of trade, namely exports of logs, sawnwood, veneers and plywood wood products from

2009 to 2017. This is the period with available comparative data in at least two of the selected countries. The four wood products together constitute most of the wood products exported from Africa. The study demonstrates the magnitude and extent to which wood products are exported from case study countries to other African countries within the five African sub-regions (Eastern, Central, Northern, Southern, Western). It also highlights preferences in tree species and trade flows. With available trade data, analyses were made on secondary processed wood products like furniture.



02

Methodology

Standard methods were used to analyse exports of wood products between case study countries and other countries within the five African sub-regions. Trade data (2009-2017) was sourced from various databases, including national trade statistics from ministries in charge of forests, finance, trade, customs and port authorities. Some key statistical databases were explored. They were: the Commerce du bois du Cameroun (COMCAM) in Cameroon; the Institut National de la Statistique de l'analyse Economique (INSAE) in the Republic of Benin; the Timber Industry Development Division (TIDD) of Ghana's Forestry Commission; the Service de Contrôle des Produits Forestiers à l'Exportation (SCPFE) in Congo; the United Nations International Trade Statistics Database (COMTRADE); and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Statistical Databases (FAOSTAT).

These databases served in compiling statistics on the specific products of interest

in the different countries for comparative analyses. The reporting period of 2009 to 2017 was chosen based on the availability of data in at least three study countries. When no data existed in a country, comparable data was presented for those that had data. Differences in data collection and reporting systems contributed to the lack of comparable data. The study was conducted in four African countries (Benin, Cameroon, Ghana and the Republic of Congo) based on data availability, the willingness of resource persons to participate, and geographical considerations.

Desk reviews were carried out from relevant reports, policy documents, information from various websites and scientific articles to substantiate and complement findings. Efforts were made to capture wood products that go through seaports, porous country borders via roads and navigable rivers, and other exit points for intra-African trade. Trade indices were computed from various proportions of the values and volumes of different



wood products to specified destinations. For example, indices were calculated per destination to show the ratio of value per unit volume of wood products exported. A

SWOT (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) approach was used to assess the challenges and opportunities for intra-African wood trade.

Main Results

Drawing from the four case studies, the main results presented in this paper relate to the magnitudes, trends, flows, challenges and opportunities for intra-African trade in four major wood products (logs, sawnwood, plywood and veneers). In very specific cases, other product categories were considered.

3.1. Global exports of wood products

From 2009 to 2017, wood products were exported from Benin, Cameroon, Congo and Ghana to 38, 21, 27 and 23 other African countries respectively. Over this period, about 16.3 million cubic metres of wood were exported from three countries (Benin, Cameroon and Ghana) with logs, sawnwood, plywood and veneers representing 46.8%, 44.5%, 5.0% and 3.7% respectively. Despite these gross proportions, Ghana was the

only country that did not export logs. These countries' sawnwood and plywood production commanded slightly over 90% of their wood exports, with 10% being veneers. The Republic of Benin saw the highest level of log exports, with 84% of the 1,889,301 cubic meters of wood products exported (Table 1). A previous study covering the Republic of Congo shows an aggregate of 6.3% intra-African trade or about 6.7 million m³ of seven wood products exported between 2009 and 2014.

Aggregate figures do not reflect the characteristics of annual variations in exports. For instance, in Cameroon, from 2009 to 2017, the mean annual export of logs, sawnwood, plywood and veneers were 674067 m³ (SD = 176 964 m³), 593 968 m³ (SD = 99 851 m³), 12 580 m³ (SD = 4633 m³), and 40 149 m³ (SD=9487 m³) respectively. In Benin, the mean annual exports were 37952 m³ (SD =

TABLE 1: Proportions of global wood exports by countries

Wood products	Cameroon		Benin		Ghana		All three countries	
	Total (m3)	% total	Total (m3)	% Total	Total (m3)	% Total	Total (m3)	% Total
Logs	6066602	51.0	1581560	83.7	0	0	7 648 162	46.8
Sawnwood	5345711	45.0	307011	16.2	1612600	62.9	7 265 322	44.5
Plywood	113217	1.0	658	0.0	699880	27.3	813 755	5.0
Veneers	361340	3.0	72	0.0	252340	9.8	613 752	3.7
Total	11886870	100.0	1889301	100.0	2564820	100.0	16 340 991	100.0

50436 m³), 31762 m³ (SD = 21003 m³), 82 m³ (SD = 74 m³) and 481 m³ (SD=187 m³) for logs, sawnwood, plywood and furniture respectively.

3.2. Characteristics of total exports and intra-African trade shares

Intra-African trade in logs and sawnwood is less than 10% in all the case study countries except in Ghana, with 12.4% for sawnwood. Plywood is the most important intra-African traded wood product in Ghana with slightly over 97% of the product exported to other African countries. Furniture is the second most important intra-African traded wood product in the Republic of Benin with about 46% of the 4333 m³ of furniture exported

to other African countries (Table 2).

The total annual intra-African trade export figures do not reflect possible annual variations that may occur over the years. For instance, in Cameroon, out of the total export volumes, the mean intra-Africa trade shares were 1.4% (SD=2%), 7.7% (SD = 3.6%), 40.6% (SD = 17.3%) and 6.2% (SD = 2.6%) for logs, sawnwood, plywood and veneers respectively. For all wood products exported from Cameroon, the average intra-African trade share remained low at 4.8% (SD = 2.7). In Benin, out of the total export volumes, the mean intra-Africa trade shares are 0.96% (SD=1.3%), 0.54% (SD = 0.25%) and 45.9% (SD=11.6%) for logs, sawnwood and furniture respectively. Considering all wood products exported from Benin, the

Logs (0.06%), Eucalyptus poles (94.33%), air-dried sawnwood (30.19%), kiln-dried sawnwood (3.69%), sliced veneers (4.11%), plywood (2.36%), wood chips and shavings (14.76%) and finished products (0.59%).

Tieguhong J.C., Kowero G. and Piabuo S.M. In Press. Promoting African integration through trade in forest products: Cameroon's Perspective.



TABLE 2. Characteristics of total exports and intra-African shares by product categories – 2009-2017

Wood products	Cameroon			Benin			Ghana		
	Total (m3)	Intra-African (m3)	% Total	Total (m3)	Intra-African (m3)	% Total	Total (m3)	Intra-African (m3)	% Total
Logs	6066602	78253	1.3	265665	289	0.11	0	0	0
Sawnwood	5345711	405626	7.6	222337	709	0.32	1612600	200080	12.4
Plywood	113217	50718	44.8	247	62	24.9	699880	681260	97.3
Veneers	361340	21195	5.9	110	0	0	252340	86170	34.1
Total	11886870	555792	4.7	488359	1060	0.22	2564820	967510	37.7
Furniture	NA	NA	NA	4333	1979	45.7	NA	NA	NA

average intra-African trade share remains low at 12.9% (SD = 23.5). Ghana has the highest intra-African trade share for all wood products at 37.7%.

As for the Republic of Congo, intra-African trade in all tradeable commodities was 23% in 2009. This study, however, shows relatively marginal intra-African wood trade for the country. For a total wood export of over one million m3 from Congo, intra-African trade represents a mere 4% on average, equivalent volume of 29 045.89 m3. This volume constitutes mostly primary processed (air-dried and kiln-dried sawnwood) and eucalyptus poles and chips. However, considering the four main product categories considered for this study, sawnwood represents 83.5% followed by logs (8.6%), veneers (7.6%) and plywood (0.3%).

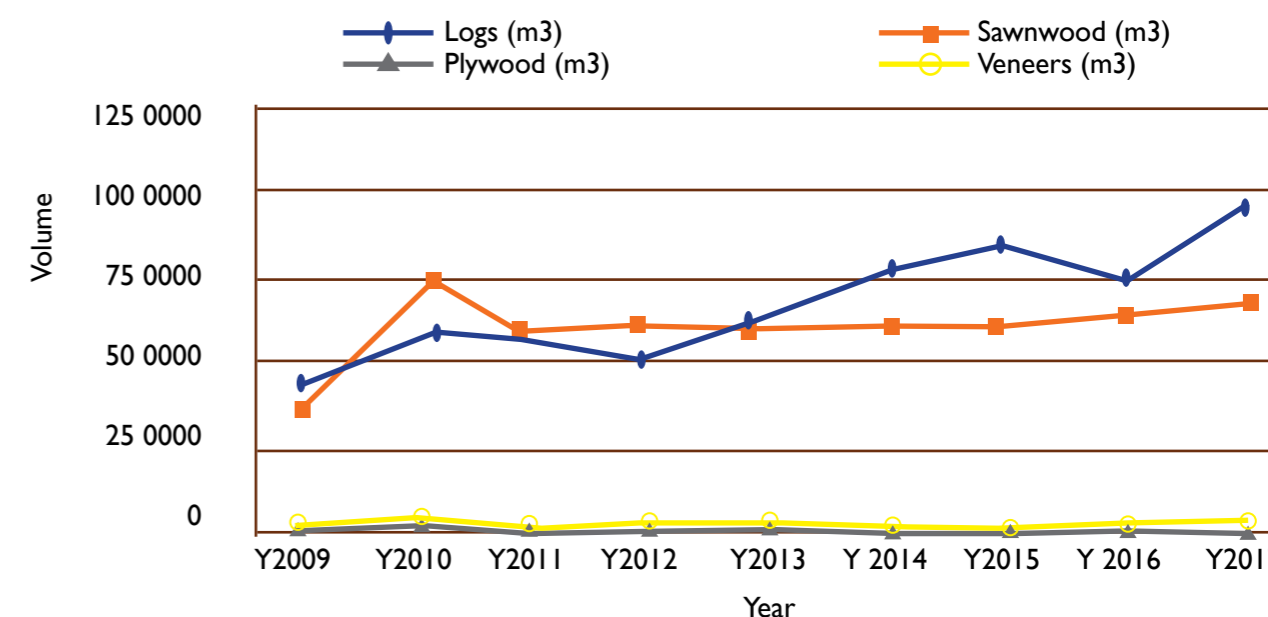
3.3. Trends in total wood products exported

In Cameroon, logs and sawnwood dominate wood product exports, with little fluctuation over the last nine years. Plywood and veneer exports remain very low with a linear response over the reporting period (Figure 1).

In Benin, trends in total exports of wood products between 2009 and 2017 show that logs and sawnwood dominate exports of wood products. Plywood and veneer exports remained very low during this period (Figure 2).

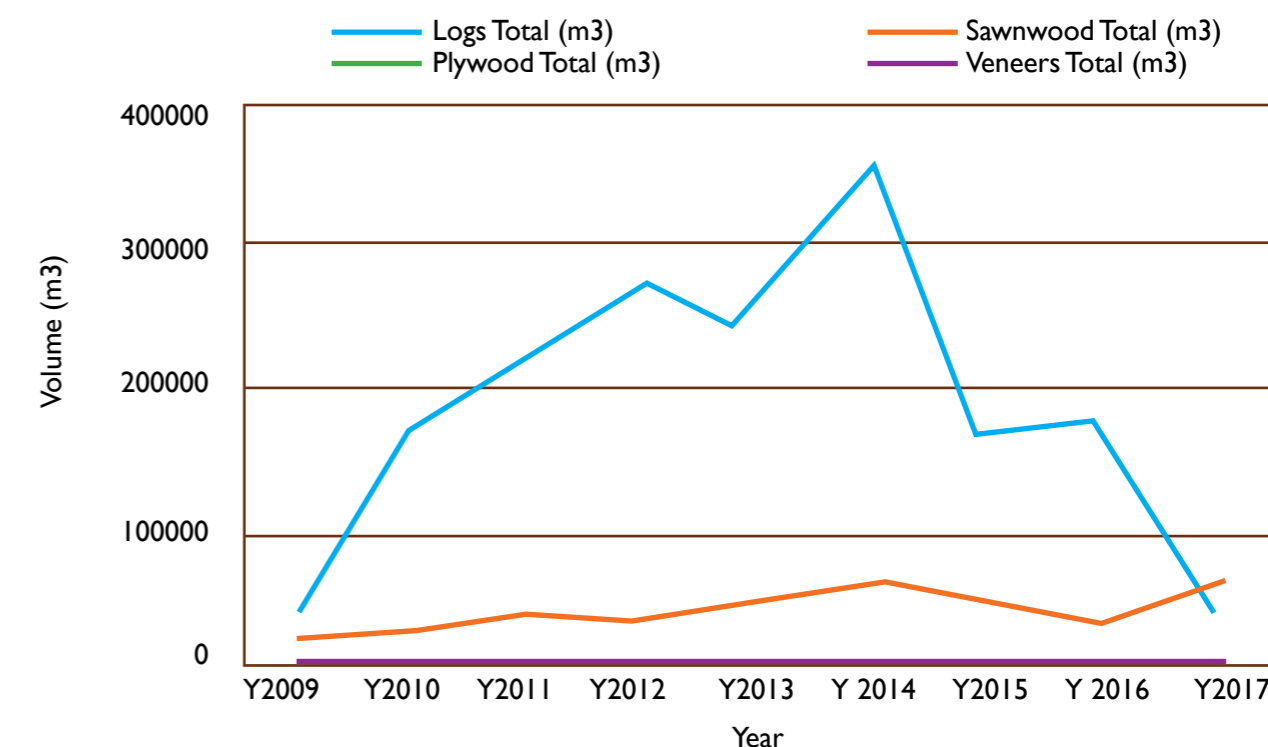
In Ghana, a total 3,110,020 m3 of wood products were exported to various destinations during the period 2009 to 2017. Products that dominated the market were air-dried sawnwood, plywood and veneer.

FIGURE 1. Trends in total exports of wood products from Cameroon (2009-2017)



Others included billets, poles and mouldings. Exports of wood products from Ghana declined from 2009 through 2012 but picked up after 2013 (Figure 3). Of the three key wood products exported, air-dried sawnwood was the highest, constituting 1,612.60 thousand m3 and USD 896.43 million in value. Plywood was 699.88 thousand m3 by volume, with a value of UD

FIGURE 2: Trends in total exports of wood products from Benin (2009-2017)



Communauté Economique des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale (CEEAC). 2009. Libre Circulation et Traite des Personnes. XIV ème session ordinaire de la Conférence des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement. Kinshasa, le 19 juin 2009.

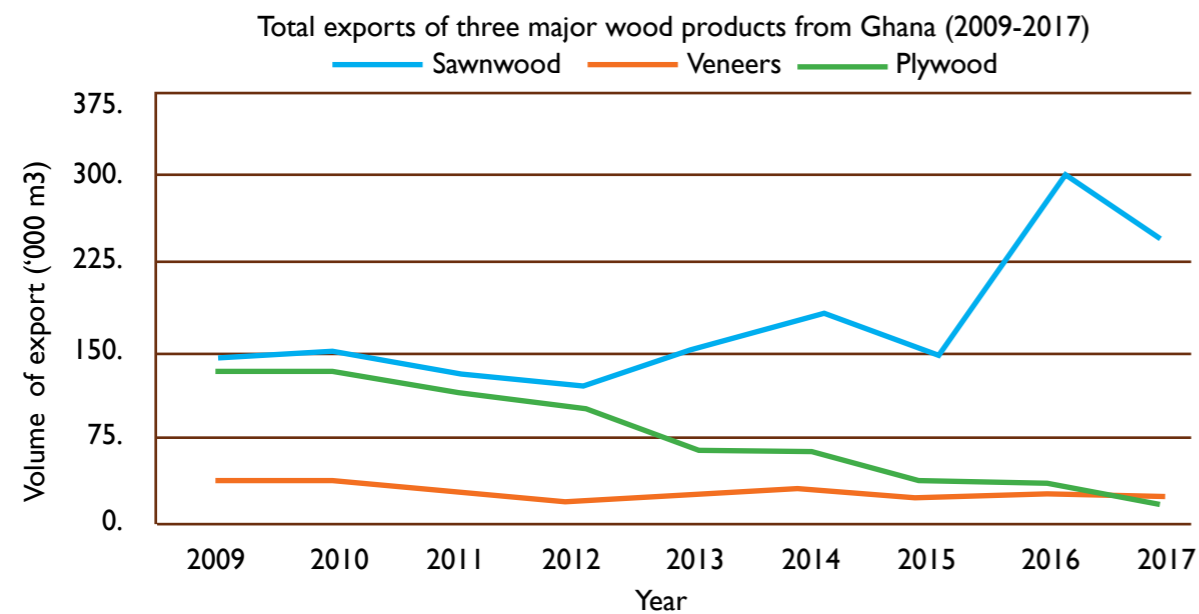
275.65 million, while veneer was 252.34 m3 by volume and USD 254.19 million.

3.4. Trends in intra-African trade in wood products

Cameroon trades least with other African countries in logs, veneers and plywood.

This indicates possibly the low levels of industrialisation across the continent or a lack of incentives to trade in these products. Sawnwood saw the highest level of intra-African trade in 2009 and 2010 but has since been on a decline in recent years with a little pick up in 2017 (Figure 4).

FIGURE 3. Trends in three key wood products exported from Ghana to all destinations

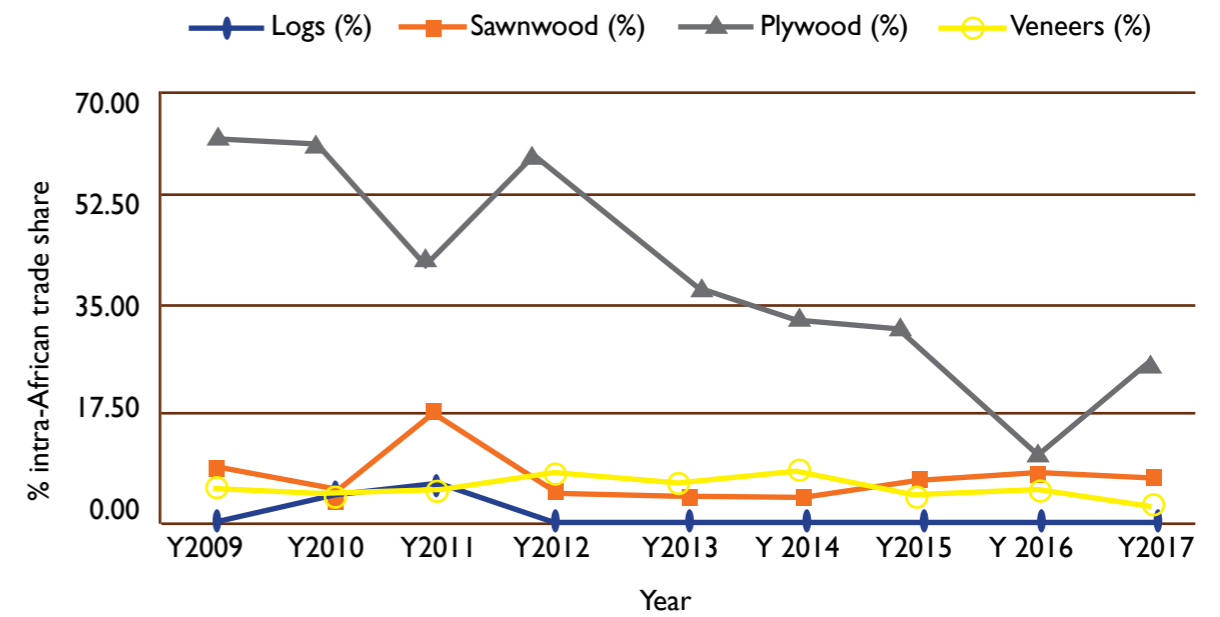


The trade of wood products of Benin with other African countries is dominated by sawnwood and furniture. There is little exchange with other African countries in plywood and veneer (Figure 5). Trade in logs is governed according to Benin's internal

policy on logging and log trade.

In the Republic of Congo, intra-African trade in air- and kiln-dried sawnwood increased gradually from 2009 to 2013, and observed a slow but progressive decline to 2017.

FIGURE 4. Trends in intra-African trade share in wood products (2009-2017)

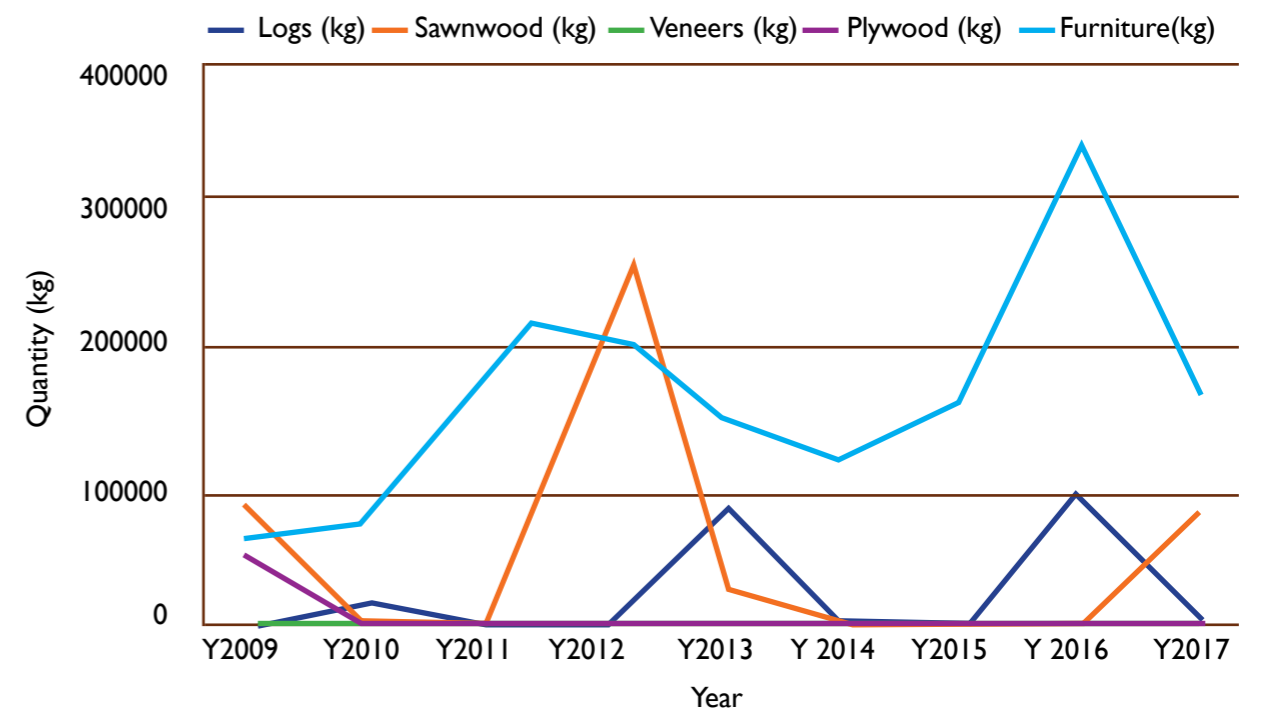


Veneers and plywood exports to other African countries remain low throughout the reporting period. Log exports had a way trend from 2009 to 2016 but picked

up sharply afterwards (Figure 6).

In Ghana, the volume of exports to other African countries over the period was

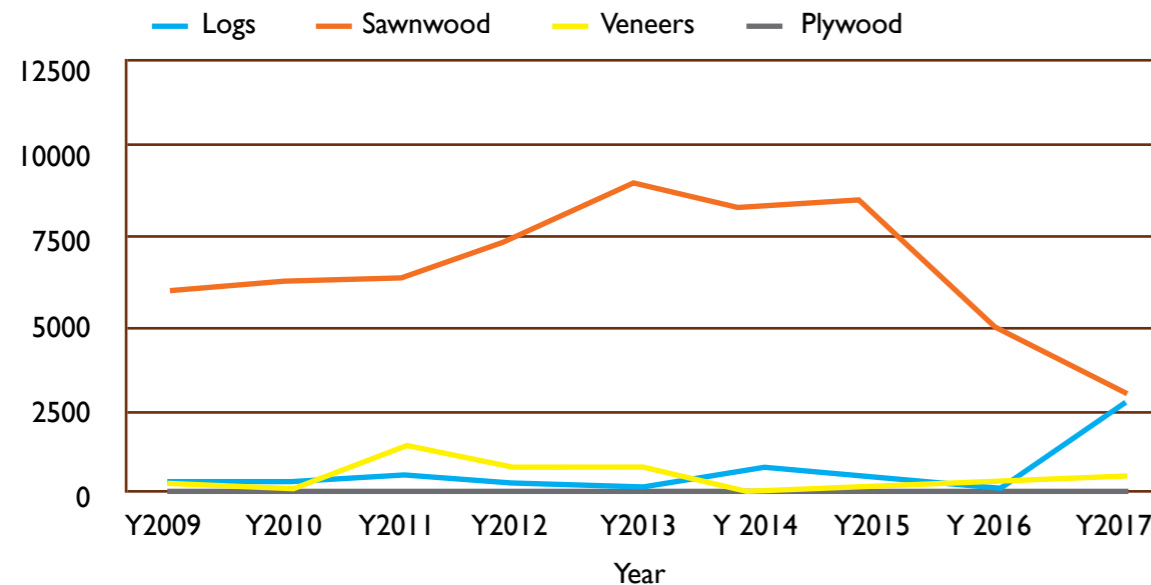
FIGURE 5: Trends in intra-African trade share in wood products (2009-2017)



1004.7 thousand m³. This represents 32.3% of total exports, and USD 403.24 million or approximately 25% of export value. The data revealed that the highest proportion of all wood products exported from Ghana went

to Asia and the Far East (33%), and 25.5% to Europe. The total export volume observed in 2009 continued on a downward trend until 2013. It picked up in 2014 and remained around the 350 thousand m³ mark until 2017.

FIGURE 6: Trends in intra-African wood products trade in the Republic of Congo (2009-2017)



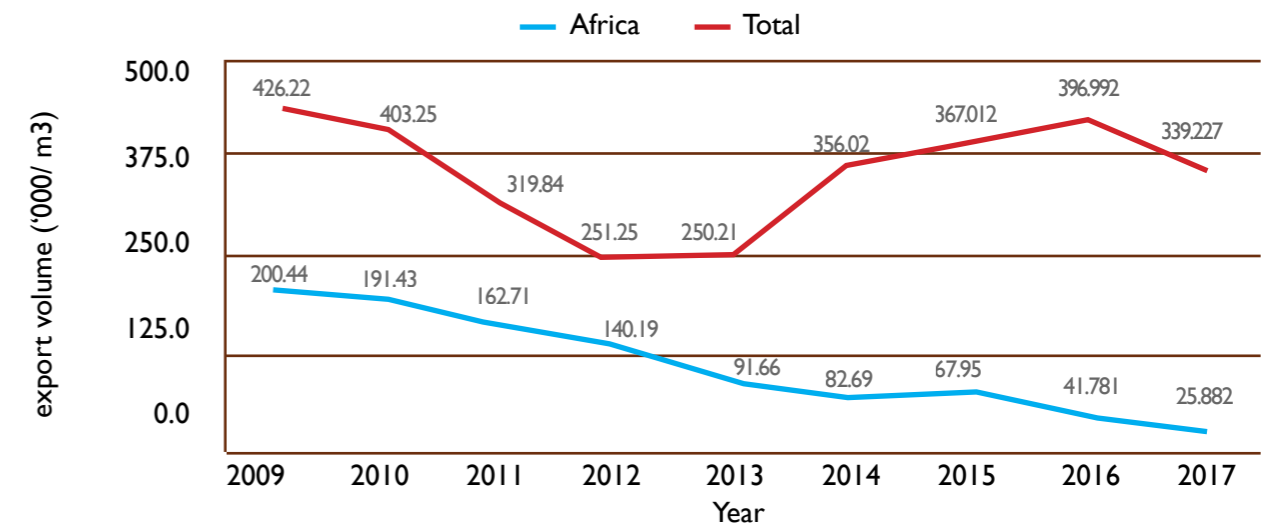
On the other hand, exports to the African market have continued their downward trend, going from 200.44 thousand m³ in 2009 to 25.88 thousand m³ in 2017 (Figure 7). This represents a significant 87% drop over eight years. In value terms, the data revealed that Africa's USD 79.0 million share of the market in 2009 dropped sharply to USD 12.3 million in 2017, which is equivalent to 84.4%. Overall, the total value of wood product exports from Ghana has significantly reduced, with corresponding reduction in

the income earned in less than a decade.

3.5. Flows in intra-African wood products trade

The details on intra-Africa trade flows in wood products are provided in terms of export volumes from case study countries to other African countries. For clarity, this is presented according to the different wood products.

FIGURE 7. Trends in intra-African trade in wood exports from Ghana to African destinations versus total exports to all destinations



3.5.1. Logs exports to other African countries

Over the reporting period, logs from Cameroon were exported to seven other African countries representing four of the five African sub-regions (Western, Southern, Northern and Eastern). The total log export was 78253 m³. Of this, about 97% went to three northern African countries. Specific country shares were Morocco (86.29%), Algeria (7.89%), Tunisia (2.8%), Senegal (2.03%), Tanzania (0.8%), Nigeria (0.18%) and South Africa (0.02%).

For the Republic of Congo, the total intra-African trade volume of logs was 6731.27 m³ to nine destination countries: Seychelles (38.67%), Algeria (24.78%), Cameroon (15.03%), Tunisia (10.22%), Ghana (6.66%),

Morocco (1.98%), South Africa (1.73%), Central African Republic (0.53%) and Senegal (0.38%). Similarly, 1345 m³ of Eucalyptus poles were exported from Congo to three African countries: Democratic Republic of Congo (73.93%), Angola (15.05%) and Central African Republic (11.02%).

In the case of the Republic of Benin, the country exported 289.32 m³ of logs to five African countries, namely Niger (38.88%), Ghana (32.39%), Liberia (13%), Morocco (9.47%) and Burkina Faso (7.25%). The mean annual log export was 177 m³ (SD=97 m³).

3.5.2. Sawnwood exports to other African countries

During the reporting period, Cameroon exported sawnwood to 21 African countries.

Communauté Economique des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale (CEEAC). 2009. Libre Circulation et Traite des Personnes. XIV ème session ordinaire de la Conférence des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement. Kinshasa, le 19 juin 2009.

Ten of these were top ten countries, representing 99.48% of the 405 626 m3. The remaining 11 countries imported just 0.52%. Senegal was the topmost sawnwood-importing African country from Cameroon with about 65%, followed by Libya (16.18%), Tunisia (9.08%), Morocco (3.25%), Mauritius (2.06%), Egypt (1.83%), South Africa (1.41%), Algeria (0.78%), Cape Verde (0.22%) and Côte d'Ivoire (0.21%). The 21 African countries represent all the five African sub-regions (Central, Western, Southern, Northern and Eastern).

The Republic of Benin exported 709 m3 of sawnwood to 21 other African countries with five top countries importing 85.23%, including Côte d'Ivoire (42.62%), Togo (19.75%), Ghana (13.14%), Niger (5.41%) and Nigeria (4.31%).

Ghana exported 200,080 m3 of sawnwood to 15 other Africa countries from 2009 to 2017. This is equivalent to 12.4% of the total export volume of 1.613 million m3 of sawnwood. Niger, Senegal, Burkina Faso, South Africa, Cape Verde and Egypt were

the six lead importers of sawnwood with proportions of 36.5%, 25.3%, 15.8%, 9.6%, 5.4% and 4.0% respectively, totaling 96.6%. The remaining nine countries imported 3.4%. A total of USD 54.15 million was realised from the volume of sawnwood exported. The values generated from exports to the six countries were USD 18.66 million (34.4%), USD 9.23 million (17.1%), USD 9.07 million (16.8%), USD 4.96 million (9.2%), USD 5.02 million (9.27%) and USD 4.26 million (7.87%), totalling USD 51.2 million (94.64%) for Senegal, South Africa, Niger, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde and Egypt respectively.

of plywood from Cameroon, followed by Equatorial Guinea (16%) and Gabon (8%). The 15 African countries represent four African sub-regions (Central, Western, Southern and Northern).

Of the 699.88 thousand m3 of plywood exported from Ghana, 681.26 thousand m3 or 97.3% went to 15 countries in Africa. Of the total plywood exported to Africa, 71.1% went to Nigeria, 11.3% went to Burkina Faso, 8.3% went to Niger, and 5.4% to Togo. Total value earned from these exports to African destinations was USD 286.09 million. Of the amount, 74.2% of the export earnings came from Nigeria, 9.9% from Burkina Faso, 6.4% from Niger, and 5.6% from Togo.

The Republic of Congo exported 213.5 m3 of plywood to five African countries including Reunion Island (50.91%), Angola (17.14%), Central African Republic (11.43%), Equatorial Guinea (11.26%) and Gabon (9.26%).

The Republic of Benin exported 61.6 m3 of plywood to Burkina Faso. It is assumed that these were re-exports, since there are no plywood mills or veneer mills in Benin.

3.5.4. Veneers exports to other African countries

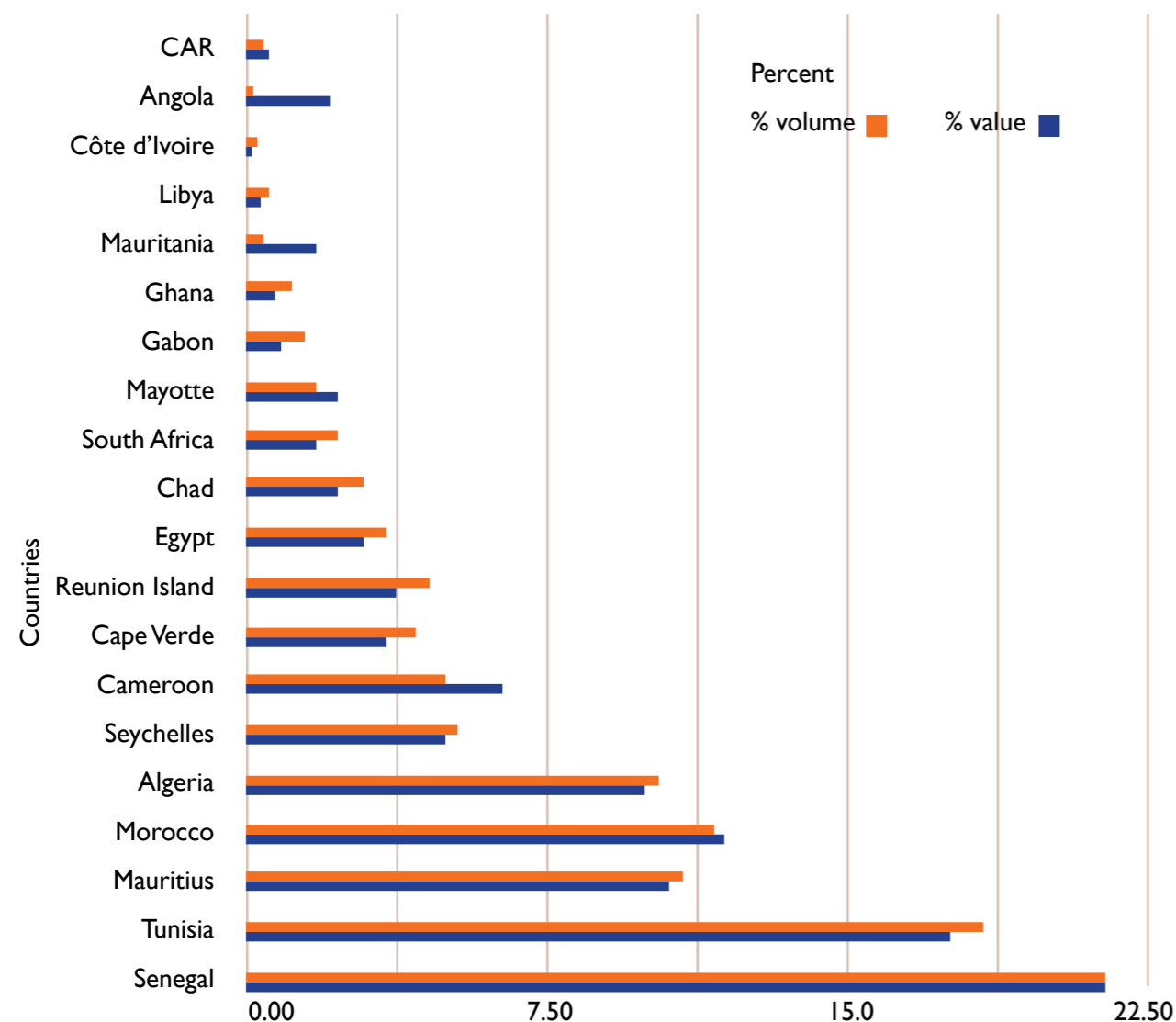
During the reporting period, Cameroon exported veneers to 11 African countries. The top five countries represented 94.2% of the 21195 m3 exported while the remaining six countries (Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana and Seychelles)

Over the same reporting period, the Republic of Congo exported 65357 m3 of air-dried (18.6%) and kiln-dried (6.4%) sawnwood to 20 and 10 African countries respectively. In terms of air-dried sawnwood, Congo exported 48670 m3 to 20 African countries including Senegal (21.3%), Tunisia (17.7%), Morocco (11%), Maurice Island (10.5%), Algeria (9.8%) and Cameroon (6.6%) (Figure 8).

3.5.3. Plywood exports to other African countries

During the reporting period, Cameroon exported plywood to 15 African countries, including top ten countries. These exports represented 99.6% of the 51 138 m3 while the remaining five countries import just 0.4%. The other countries (five in number) are: Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Seychelles, South Africa and Burkina Faso. Senegal remained the topmost importing country in Africa with about 67%

FIGURE 8: Proportions of volume and value of air-dried sawnwood exported from Congo to African destinations (2009-2017).

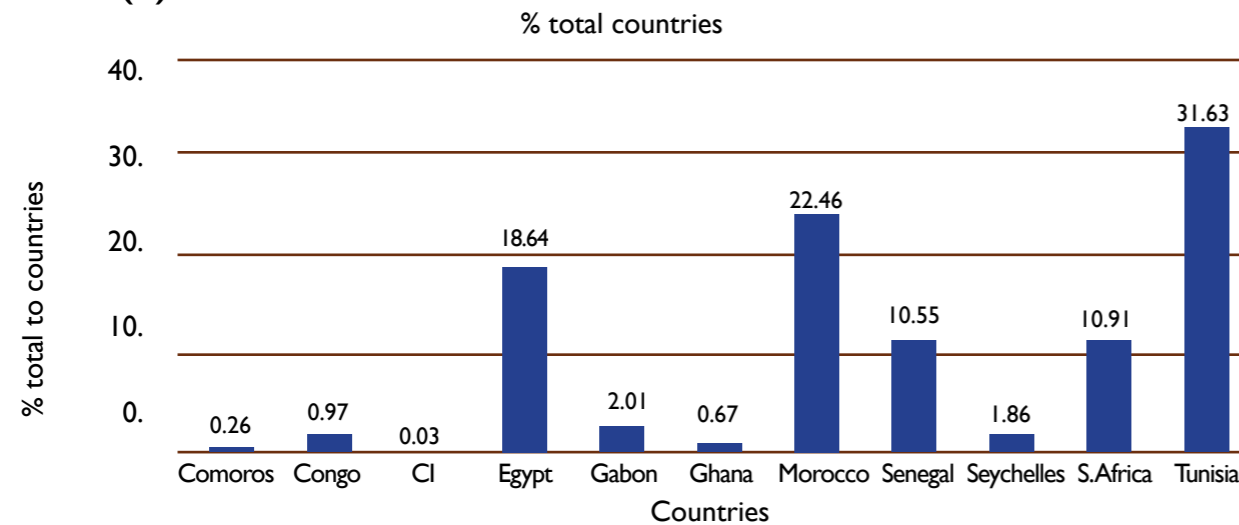


Algeria, Benin, Gambia, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Togo and Uganda
Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Libya, Morocco, Maurice Island, Mauritania, Mayotte, Reunion, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Tunisia

represented 5.8%. The northern African countries remained the highest importers of veneers from Cameroon with about 73%

championed by Tunisia (32%), and followed by Morocco (22%) and Egypt (19%) (Figure 9).

FIGURE 9: Proportion of veneers exports from Cameroon to importing African countries (%)



Nine African countries imported 86,170 thousand m3 of veneer from Ghana between 2009 and 2017. This constituted 34.2% of all veneer exported from Ghana. Approximately 80% of the African imports of veneer went to Egypt, while South Africa and Morocco were the next major destinations with 11.2%

and 9.6% of the import share, respectively. In terms of value, exports to Egypt yielded USD 34.87 million or 72.9% of the total earnings, while exports to South Africa and Morocco yielded USD 6.78 million (14.2%) and USD 5.33 million (11.2%), respectively (Figure 10).

FIGURE 10: Proportion of veneer exports from Ghana to importing African countries (%)

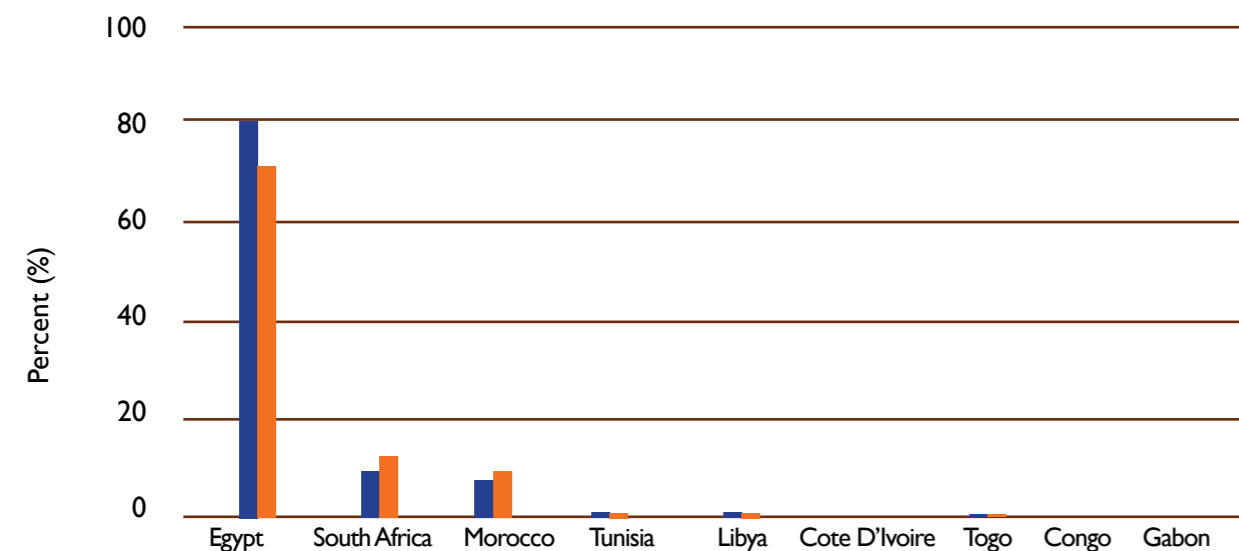
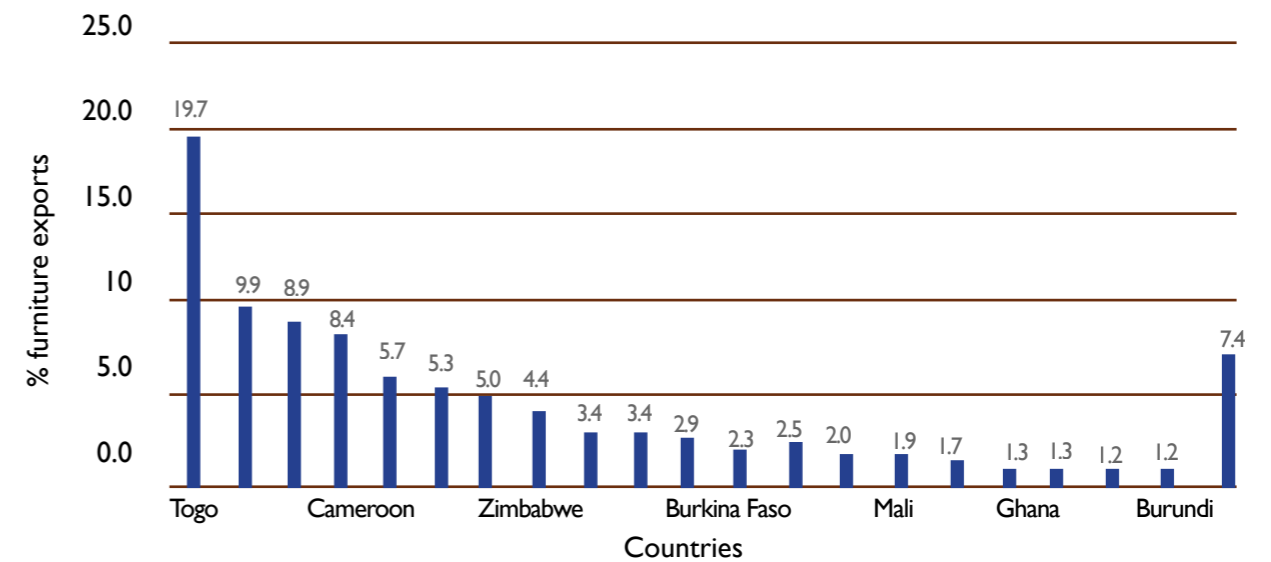


FIGURE 11: Proportion of furniture exports from Benin to importing African countries (%)



Over the reporting period, the Republic of Congo exported 5973 m3 of veneers to two African countries, namely Morocco (83%) and Tunisia (17%).

3.6. Tree specie preferences for intra-African trade in wood products

The study found that different countries importing logs, sawnwood, plywood and veneers had preferences for products from given tree species.

3.5.5. Export of finished furniture products to other African countries

The top 20 African countries importing furniture from Benin command 92.6% of total exports. The remaining 16 countries import 7.4% (Figure 11).

3.6.1. Tree species preferred for logs

Over the reporting period, the Republic of Congo exported 250 m3 of finished products to five other African countries. These were South Africa (64.41%), Tunisia (9.77%), Gabon (16.62%), Cameroon (8.29%) and Morocco (0.91%).

Log exports from Cameroon came from 34 tree species in various proportions, with 20 top species representing 98.61% and the remaining 14 species providing 1.39% of the total volume. Logs imported by Morocco represent 27 tree species, suggesting a wide species-import base. This was followed by Tunisia and Algeria with 13 and seven species respectively (Table 3).

*Algeria, Benin, Gambia, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Togo and Uganda
Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Libya, Morocco, Maurice Island, Mauritania, Mayotte, Reunion, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Tunisia*

TABLE 3. Cross-Table of species against importing countries of intra African trade in logs – Cameroon

Tree species	Countries							Grand Total	%total of species
	Algeria	Morocco	Nigeria	Senegal	South Af.	Tunisia	Tanzania		
Agba / Tola		43						43	0.05
Aiélé / Abel	4532	15836				611		20979	26.81
Awoura		68					8	76	0.10
Ayous/Obéché				746				746	0.95
Azobé		200						200	0.26
Bilinga		5483				249		5732	7.32
Bongo H / Olon		13						13	0.02
Dabéma	192	996					63	1251	1.60
Dibétou				32				32	0.04
Ebiara Edéa		19					151	170	0.22
Ekaba		272						272	0.35
Ekop ekusek	43	4681				43		4767	6.09
Ekop ngombe G.F		506						506	0.65
Etimoé		11						11	0.01
Eyong	160	12315	137			79		12691	16.22
Faro		1118						1118	1.43
Fraké				810				810	1.04
Gombé / Ekop Ngombé		198						198	0.25
Kondroti		205						205	0.26
Kossipo	714	435				537		1686	2.15
Koto		143						143	0.18
Limbali						186		186	0.24
Lotofa / Nkanang		989				248		1237	1.58
Naga	442	21354			18		77	21891	27.97
Naga parallèle						94		94	0.12
Niové		694				20	146	860	1.10
Okan / Adoum		5				29		34	0.04
Okoumé		169						169	0.22
Onzabili / Angongui		1240						1240	1.58

TABLE 3. Cross-Table of species against importing countries of intra African trade in logs – Cameroon (Continued)

Tree species	Countries							Grand Total	%total of species
	Algeria	Morocco	Nigeria	Senegal	South Af.	Tunisia	Tanzania		
Padouk rouge		6						6	0.01
Sapelli	89						46	135	0.17
Tali		3				76		79	0.10
Tiama		519				16	54	589	0.75
WAMBA							84	84	0.11
Grand Total	6172	67521	137	1588	18	2188	629	78253	100.00
% total by country	7.89	86.29	0.18	2.03	0.02	2.80	0.80	100.00	

In the Republic of Benin, the six main species exported are *Tectona grandis* (62%), *Pterocarpus erinaceus* (35%), *Daniella oliveri* (1.92%), *Gmelina arborea* (0.68%), *Azelia africana* (0.05%) and *Erythrophleum guineense* (0.1%).

3.6.2. Tree species preferred for sawnwood

A total of 66 species of timber trees are sawn to sawnwood in Cameroon with the top 20 representing 97.82% and the remaining 46 species representing 2.18% of the total volume exported during the reporting period. The species Fraké (*Terminalia superba*), Dibétou (*Lovoa trichilioides*), Ayous (*Triplochiton scleroxylon*), Sapelli (*Entandrophragma cylindricum*) and kossipo (*Entandrophragma candollei*) represent 38%, 17%, 14%, 9% and 7% respectively.

In Ghana, from 2009 to 2017, 106650 m³ of sawnwood/lumber were produced from twenty-six tree species. They were exported overland to other member countries of the

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The largest quantities were from mixed white wood (41.77%), Chechen (37.12%), Ceiba (18.25%), wawa (0.77%) and papao/apa (0.44%) totaling 98.3%. The remaining 1.7% came from 21 tree species

3.6.3. Tree species preferred for plywood

During the reporting period (2009 to 2017), a total of 12 species of timber trees processed to plywood in Cameroon with top five representing 95.6% and the remaining 07 species representing 4.4% of the total volume exported. The species Ayous, Fraké, Lotofa, Illomba and Eyong represent 34%, 26%, 20%, 12% and 4% respectively.

Over the same period, the 674 172 m³ of plywood produced and exported by Ghana mostly went to ECOWAS member countries. They were composed of 37 tree species. The top five species were Ceiba (69.14%), Mahogany (9.14%), Ofram (6.3%), mixed redwood (4.48%) and Chenchen

(3.25%) amounting to a total of 92.31%. The remaining 7.67% was produced from 32 other tree species.

3.6.4. Tree species preferred for veneers

A total of 36 species of timber trees are sliced to veneers in Cameroon with the top 10 representing 96.2% and the remaining 26 species representing 3.8% of the total volume exported during the reporting period. The species Ayous, Eyong, Illomba, Sapelli and

Fraké represent 44%, 18%, 12%, 11% and 4% respectively.

Veneers are produced from seven tree species in Ghana and exported to other ECOWAS zone countries. The top five species are Ofram (76.83%), Koto/Kyere (8.8%), Sapale (7.5%), Makore (4.27%) and Asanfin (1.79%) totaling 92.92%. The remaining 0.8% is produced from Edinam (0.8%) and black Ofram (0.01%).



Challenges to intra-African trade in wood products

African countries confront several trading challenges among themselves, and these apply to all tradeable commodities, though more particularly wood products. These constraints may be classified at six levels: policy, regulation, economic, organisational/social, financial and technological.

4.1. Policy level

At the continental and/or regional levels, the harmonisation of the legislative and regulatory frameworks as well as forest and customs policies will ensure connectivity and foster intra-African trade in wood products.

For instance, the harmonisation of customs and taxation policies on forest products will reduce the persistent problem of corruption in the import and export of wood as well as long cross-border transit time and overall

transaction costs. Achieving this will require the development of regional guidelines and the signing of bilateral trade agreements between countries with high forest endowments and those with less or none.

Another policy measure could be the development of fiscal policy that encourages value addition in Africa as well as discourages the export of raw wood.

For instance, over the years, Cameroon and Benin have tried to discourage the export of raw timber by adopting a policy of differential taxation on exported products, according to their level of processing. However, to be more of a deterrent, the differences in tax rates between different levels of processing need to be revised upwards. They also require some exigencies for each exporter on the minimum ratio of raw wood to processed wood exported. Government procurement policies could also trigger and encourage local processing of wood

products and intra-African trade in value-added products. This can be achieved when the government specifies a quota of wood products manufactured locally for any public call for tenders, as well as imposes higher taxes on imported finished wood products.

4.2. Regulatory level

Regulatory issues contributing to illegality and less intra-African trade data on forest products has been succinctly captured as follows. “The emerging scenario in intra-African trade in forest products is one characterised by very small volumes of recorded trade on one hand, and on the other one of unrecorded, and of potentially big sales, taking place across borders. There has been considerable attention and resources put on condemning and containing the latter, which is ‘illegal’; and less so on understanding its causes, its niche in socio-economic development, and ways to tame it as formal trade.”

Illegality in the wood products trade is widely believed to be the major cause of the current poor state of intra-African trade.

For instance, Nigeria instituted the ban on the export of logs in 1996. However, most of the logs imported into the Republic of

Benin are smuggled from Nigeria with no clear procedures for importation. Dealers resort to illegal importation because of the difficulties that they encounter in accessing legal documents to import wood from Nigeria. Such legal documents include cutting permits, certificates of origin, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) certificates if required. It is essential for forestry directorates and customs services to elaborate wood import guidelines or develop a sustainable wood supply policy that facilitates product traceability.

The illegal trade, especially in wood products exported overland to African destinations calls into question the validity and authenticity of the volumes/value traded. For example, it was observed that official figures of wood products exported from Ghana to Burkina Faso constituted just about 27% of the figure reported by the latter. Artisanal logging by chainsaw millers, which is generally informal, accounts for 50%, 70% and 71% of annual wood harvest in Cameroon, Ghana and Congo respectively. Illegal logging increased from 40% to 65% between 2000 and 2012 in Cameroon. Of this, chain saw millers accounted for 50% of the total (Lawson, 2014). The timber produced by these small-scale loggers are important in meeting national and regional needs in wood products but are poorly documented. For

Chipeta M.E. and Kowero G. 2015. An overview of intra-African trade in forest products: opportunities and challenges. *International Forestry Review* Vol. 17(S3): 114-124.

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Kishor, N. and Lescuyer, G., 2012. Controlling Illegal Logging in Domestic and International Markets by Harnessing Multilevel Governance Opportunities. *International Journal of the Commons* 6 (2): 255-270.

Hoare, A. (2015). *Tackling Illegal Logging and the Related Trade: What Progress and Where Next?* Chatham House, London. <https://www.chathamhouse.org/node/18090>.



instance, inconsistencies or discrepancies in the destinations of wood exported overland from Ghana to its northern neighbours (Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali) are rife.

One of main constraints that was not fully analysed during the study dwells on the culture of informality in Africa. This is where the de facto practice of informality is directly connected with the absence or neglect of appropriately documenting volumes and values of transactions (Assembe Samuel, Per. Com). Added to this is the corruption of the public procurement system, which defines technical specifications that disqualify products manufactured within countries. Collusion by those in control of state procurements compounds things further. Overall, local and regional procurement policies are not yet adapted and transparent enough for wood products from local industries to be purchased by African governments. Local malpractices still favour poor quality reconstituted wood products from Asia and Europe.

4.3. Economic level

Salient among economic issues is the competitiveness of wood products on the African market, compared to imported wood products from outside the continent.

The latter may be linked in some countries to the narrowness of the African market. Most of the African population has low incomes, so in many countries, people have low purchasing power. This results in their inability to procure finished or semi-finished wood processed products (moldings, floorings, doors and windows, furniture etc.). Few elites in large cities can really afford such products called “luxuries.” The creation and/or development of a middle class is an economic necessity to boost this trade. High transportation costs are another serious economic downside for intra-African trade in wood products. This is because of the bulky nature of the product. For

example, as one of the main wood processing operators in Benin noted, transporting a container of wood from Benin to China or India costs USD 300, while shipping the same container to Senegal costs more than USD 5,000. Some of the reasons for this disparity include infrequent routes, the bad state of loads, corruption, cartels and greed (Mafa Chipeta, Per. Com.). However, a dedicated study on the transportation and transit of wood products may be required to document the main issues. In the Republic of Congo, the cost of road transportation and chartering by the Port of Pointe-Noire is not competitive compared to the port of Douala in Cameroon, which also offers more destinations. Most railways like the Congo-Océan CFCO Railway have been out of use for more than three years.

4.4. Technological level

African wood products need to be more competitive, and the wood trade among African countries better facilitated. Technology today presents part of the solution.

Industries can take advantage of technology and use it to equip themselves with modern tools to better valorise wood and its residues.

This will improve productivity. For instance, with the installation of some modern industries in Benin in recent years, wood products formerly considered as waste

are increasingly being valued for improved productivity of the wood industries at large. Today Benin exports finished wood products to 36 other African countries. The prospects will be more apparent with overall trade facilitation in Africa, such as facilitation of customs formalities among African countries, the adoption of common tariffs on timber between countries, the improvement of road networks, and the improvement of the cost of transporting goods between African countries. These measures, if well-implemented, will all help improve competitiveness. The Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement all but guarantees this.

Other technological innovations in Africa will entail increasing the range of processed wood products as well as expanding the band of tree species used and converted to finished products. This will involve promoting the incorrectly called “secondary species” to overcome the pressure on “noble species” to ensure stable prices of wood raw materials and their sustainable supplies. For instance, tree species such as Sapelli and Sipo are skimming, and their sustainable supply is threatened by the difficult reproduction of Meliaceae.

A technological challenge for African countries trading among one another dwells on knowledge and information systems to inform trade policy processes and preferences. Nowadays, weaknesses in most countries can be seen in data collection, archival capacity, analyses and reporting. Countries need to take their departments of statistics more seriously by providing the necessary material and human resources for

their proper functioning. The importance of ensuring that policy decisions are backed by data (trends, trade flows in volume and values and by product categories) cannot be overemphasised.

4.5. Organizational and social level

The level of organisation of economic operators in the wood sector remains low and does not allow for the sharing of experiences and information at national and regional levels.

The consequence is the disregard of the emerging African timber market, which is a major handicap to intra-African timber trade. Many exporters do not know the potential of African markets to absorb wood products. As one exporter who explored the wood market in Nigeria noted, “the Nigerian market alone can consume all wood products produced in Benin if barriers to the timber trade are lifted.” A more detailed study of the African timber market would provide potential economic operators more clarity on opportunities.

Economic operators can avail themselves of the services of chambers of commerce and industry in most African countries. However, most chambers fail to tackle the wood products trade. There are several associations of wood operators in countries. However, there are no real functional relationships between them, and no viable/dynamic national and regional platforms for wood operators to exchange information and share experience among one another. Moreover, many challenges remain to be

resolved when it comes to the organisation of wood trade fairs, wood shows, African timber forums, and the creation of websites for better knowledge and shared experiences on manufactured wood products.

Another challenge is the absence or lack of means for appropriate communication within and between countries that border one another. The need for effective and permanent dialogue between African countries to ensure concerted and sustainable intra-African trade cannot be overemphasised. Environmental education is yet another important challenge. It is important for young people to be educated on the value of local products, on their production and trade channels as part of education for sustainable development in a holistic perspective. This is even more necessary considering ecological, social, cultural and other aspects.

Finally, even broader public information, education and communication campaigns must be organised for the benefit of the wider African public. In so doing, one message that must find resonance is that the notion of “better products are those from abroad” is not necessarily true, and that local products can be just as good if not better than imports. Continuing to favour imports is unfavorable to intra-African wood trade.

4.6. Financial level

Technological revolution cannot happen without access to financial capital. Support from banks is rare in the forestry sector. This is why, it will be necessary for each state to support wood industries through its support programme for small and medium-sized enterprises.

Currency manipulations present another financial challenge to intra-African trade in all tradeable commodities. This is associated with the huge differences in the formal and informal exchange rates (up to 10% in most cases) that lead to high transaction costs.

This is detrimental to doing profitable business. For instance, some businesspersons believe that the different values of the CFA Franc in West and Central African states do not promote the development of intra-African trade between the regions. This holds true with the convertibility of other currencies for trade transactions.

In summary, recent authors make direct or indirect references to the following challenges to intra-African trade:

- i. Absence of reliable infrastructure (including poor transportation networks) and interconnectivity to facilitate trade between countries or trading partners
- ii. High transport costs
- iii. Limited use of information and communication technology,
- iv. Lack of security at some border posts (informal taxes, highway robberies, etc)
- v. Long delays in the issuance of certain documents
- vi. Weak institutional capacity to ensure monitoring
- vii. High transaction costs .



Opportunities for intra-African trade in wood products

The opportunities for intra-African trade in wood products dwell on the following:

- i. the differential forest endowments between countries and across regions
- ii. the possibility of reversing negative to positive trade balances
- iii. the implementation of new industrial models
- iv. the institutionalisation of continental integration, and
- v. taking advantage of the growing middle class as well as improving terrestrial and riverain/port connectivity

5.1. Differential forest endowments, a sharing window

Differential forest resource endowments among the different regions of Africa provide great opportunities for intra-African trade in wood products.

The question is on producing wood products of

the quality and standards desired by the African people at competitive costs and facilitating their trade at the continental level. Deliberate efforts are needed to ensure the implementation of existing trade facilitation instruments. It is also important to increase investments at the national level on the downstream processing of wood products as well as to organise marketing platforms and annual forums at regional and continental levels for sharing information, technologies and experiences.

5.2. Turning negative to positive trade balances

Currently, most African countries register negative trade balances with respect to value-added wood products.

To reverse this trend forms a great opportunity, especially for those African countries that are endowed with raw materials. This can be achieved when countries develop concrete strategies for ensuring further wood processing, and by stimulating local consumption of wood

products through consistent publicity. At first glance, furniture imported from Asia appears to be very competitive and cheaper than furniture made by local wood industries. However, in reality, these products are mainly composed of sub-standard and wood-covered composite materials. Local industries on the other hand, if standardised, offer solid wood products that last longer.

5.3. Implementation of new industrial models

There are opportunities for African countries to create special economic zones with focus on the establishment of further wood processing industries to ensure job and wealth creation.

This is the economic model being undertaken in Gabon, which can be replicated in other African countries. Along the same lines and as part of the effort to expand exports of added value products by smaller companies, Ghana has created two initiatives. One is the Wood Industries Training Centre, being shaped to provide technical and management training. The other is the “Wood Village” (Kumasi Wood Estates Ltd.) which aims to offer common services to companies that set up their own production units on the large site close to Kumasi. In the Republic of Benin, private sector engagement can be seen with initiatives like the Amani Trading Company Industrie de Bois (ATC-IB) complex, a high-tech secondary wood processing facility that offers boarding facilities for over 100 trainees at a time.

5.4. Institutionalisation of continental integration and a growing middle class

Further opportunities exist with the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the Action Plan for Boosting Intra-Africa Trade (BIAT). Both aim to create and facilitate a single inter-continental market free trade area.

Regional economic communities and the African Development Bank have made regional integration a priority, and much strategic focus is on capturing the purchasing power of the growing middle-class of Africa's burgeoning population.

In this regard, domestic consumption matters, especially for major construction sites and government construction works. For instance, in the Republic of Benin, domestic consumption of wood products is estimated to be about 63% of total wood production. This testifies to the existence of a fast-growing domestic market that operators could seize if the state puts in place a good product valuation policy.

5.5. Improving terrestrial and riverain/port connectivity

Infrastructure development for increased connectivity of African countries provides great opportunity for intra-African trade in wood products. For instance, the development of road and port infrastructure has facilitated timber

Geda A. and Kibret H. 2001. 'Regional Economic Integration in Africa: A Review of Problems and Prospects with a Case Study of COMESA', *Regional Economic Integration in Africa*, p. 2.
Marfo et al. 2017. *Op. cit.*
Chipeta and Kowero (2015). *Op. cit.*

exports from eastern Democratic Republic of Congo to eastern and southern African countries (Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, South Sudan, Zimbabwe). Trade facilitation efforts

are being made in the Great Lakes region, in conjunction with the establishment of economic zones. This will also support regional and intra-regional trade.



06

Main conclusions

Primary processed wood products like air-dried and kiln-dried sawnwood, plywood and a limited quantity of veneers mostly dominate the export of forest products from one African country to another.

The trend is similar for the Republic of Benin, where intra-African trade in wood products is dominated by furniture, and interestingly, exports are to some of the most forest-endowed African countries. Most of the intra-African trade in logs are destined to countries in the northern region of the continent (Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt), although it could be said that those countries play a middleman role of importing and re-exporting to the European Union or Asia because they do not have tropical sawmills. Six main conclusions can be drawn from this study. They are outlined

- in the following six sub-sections:
- i. Continental destination of products matters
 - ii. Intra-African destination of products matters
 - iii. Type of product matters
 - iv. Private sector business interest
 - v. Tree species of interest
 - vi. Government policies and actions count

6.1. Continental destination of products matters

In terms of continental destinations, the value/volume indices indicated that African countries may earn more by exporting their wood products to certain continents than others. For instance, Ghana earned relatively the same amount of money per unit of wood product exported to Europe and other parts of Africa but about 2.5 times more with exports to the Americas (Figure 12, Table 4).

FIGURE 12. Value /volume indices for all wood product exports from Ghana to continental regions of the world - 2009 to 2017

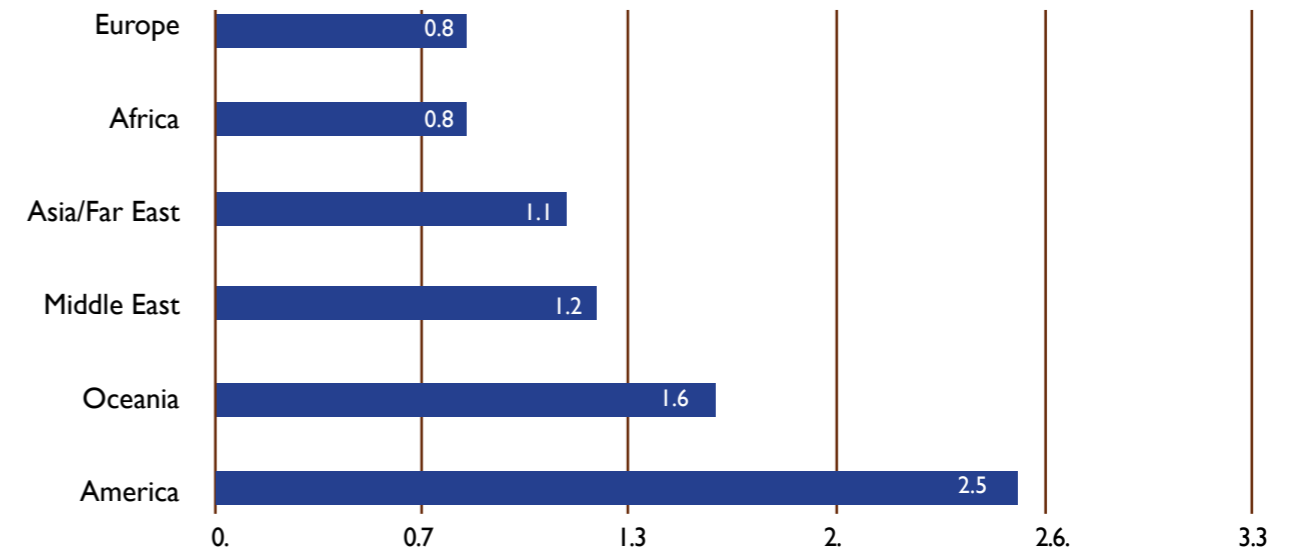


TABLE 4. Value /volume indices for all wood products exports from Ghana to continental regions of the world - 2009 to 2017

Market Region	Volume ('000 m3)		Value (\$ '000000)		Value/Volume index*
	Total	% of total	Total	% of total	
Africa	1004.7	32.3	403.24	25.04	0.78
America	133.0	4.3	171.28	10.63	2.47
Asia/Far East	1026.6	33	600.05	37.26	1.13
Europe	791.9	25.5	340.26	21.13	0.83
Middle East	150.1	4.8	93.24	5.79	1.21
Oceania	3.8	0.1	2.55	0.16	1.60
Total	3110.0	100	1610.6	100	1

*Volume/value indices are indicative based on absolute volumes and values. They do not take into account possible variations that may be linked to the great diversity of products and their mix.

6.2. Intra-African destination of products matters

Intra-African trade can clearly be more beneficial to African countries than exports outside the continent for many African exporters.

For example, the value/volume indices for wood products from the Republic of Congo and Benin show that they earn more by exporting their products to other African countries than to those outside the continent.

TABLE 5. Value/volume indices of all wood product exports from Congo to other African countries 2009 to 2017

Importing Country	Volume (m3)	Value (\$)	%Value	% volume	Value/volume index
Senegal	10355.19	1116585774	21.29	21.28	1.00
Tunisia	9039.75	927664381	17.69	18.57	0.95
Mauritius	5154.85	597752565	10.49	10.59	0.99
Morocco	5425.36	550133941	11.40	11.15	1.02
Algeria	4893.07	514130274	9.80	10.05	0.98
Seychelles	2623.28	345416213	4.73	5.39	0.88
Cameroon	2298.03	247823620	6.59	4.72	1.40
Reunion Island	2000.98	191137407	3.65	4.11	0.89
Cape Verde	1997.93	190280235	3.63	4.11	0.88
Egypt	1706.06	156015446	2.98	3.51	0.85
Chad	1083.81	92124020	1.76	2.23	0.79
South Africa	567.21	63641668	1.00	1.17	0.86
Mayotte	466.08	60766719	1.21	0.96	1.27
Gabon	299.01	58719161	0.48	0.61	0.79
Ghana	235.23	52473035	0.38	0.48	0.79
Mauritania	155.17	25416105	1.12	0.32	3.51
Libya	156.06	19994720	0.25	0.32	0.79
Côte d'Ivoire	59.91	15141211	0.10	0.12	0.79
Angola	55.23	13265440	1.16	0.11	10.21
CAR*	97.97	5092605	0.29	0.20	1.43
TOTAL	48670.19	5243574539	100	100	1

*CAR = Central African Republic

TABLE 6. Value/volume indices of all wood product exports from Benin to other African countries (2009 to 2017)

Countries	Total volume(m3)	Total value (FCFA)	% volume	% value	Index
South Africa	46.96	32 753 923	1.47	1.95	1.33
Algeria	4.16	2 200 000	0.13	0.13	1.01
Angola	41.1	13 619 200	1.29	0.81	0.63
Burkina Faso	150.07	36 446 604	4.70	2.17	0.46
Burundi	36.05	25 986 000	1.13	1.55	1.37
Cameroon	169.66	269 768 899	5.31	16.06	3.02
CAR	1.37	750 000	0.04	0.04	1.04
Republic of Congo	99.42	139 721 014	3.11	8.32	2.67
Congo, DRC	106.4	45 625 959	3.33	2.72	0.82
Côte d'Ivoire	415.13	160 085 861	13.00	9.53	0.73
Djibouti	26.47	18 319 140	0.83	1.09	1.32
Egypt	1.64	1 000 000	0.05	0.06	1.16
Ethiopia	8.49	1 300 000	0.27	0.08	0.29
Gabon	69.77	26 362 272	2.19	1.57	0.72
Gambia	2.68	1 000 000	0.08	0.06	0.71
Ghana	243.26	57 036 232	7.62	3.40	0.45
Guinea	64.01	19 683 000	2.00	1.17	0.58
Equatorial Guinea	46.53	17 083 659	1.46	1.02	0.70
Kenya	15.48	8 750 000	0.48	0.52	1.07
Liberia	39.7	2 374 000	1.24	0.14	0.11
Madagascar	28.08	11 630 000	0.88	0.69	0.79
Mali	49.25	10 215 500	1.54	0.61	0.39
Morocco	125.33	45 475 763	3.93	2.71	0.69
Mauritania	23.73	6 600 000	0.74	0.39	0.53
Mozambique	22.19	5 850 000	0.69	0.35	0.50
Niger	324.96	95 750 706	10.18	5.70	0.56
Nigeria	76.98	82 220 846	2.41	4.90	2.03
Uganda	16.03	1 900 000	0.50	0.11	0.23
Rwanda	18.61	14 892 000	0.58	0.89	1.52

TABLE 6. Value/volume indices of all wood product exports from Benin to other African countries (2009 to 2017) (continued)

Countries	Total volume(m3)	Total value (FCFA)	% volume	% value	Index
Senegal	218.11	147 870 981	6.83	8.81	1.29
Sierra Leone	2.05	2 000 000	0.06	0.12	1.85
Soudan	2.47	1 580 000	0.08	0.09	1.22
Tanzania	6.23	4 400 000	0.20	0.26	1.34
Chad	6.38	8 832 000	0.20	0.53	2.63
Togo	569.27	324 470 110	17.83	19.32	1.08
Tunisia	13.85	11 300 000	0.43	0.67	1.55
Zambia	1.78	1 516 000	0.06	0.09	1.62
Zimbabwe	99.28	22 957 142	3.11	1.37	0.44
TOTAL	3 192.92	1 679 326 811	100.00	100.00	1.00

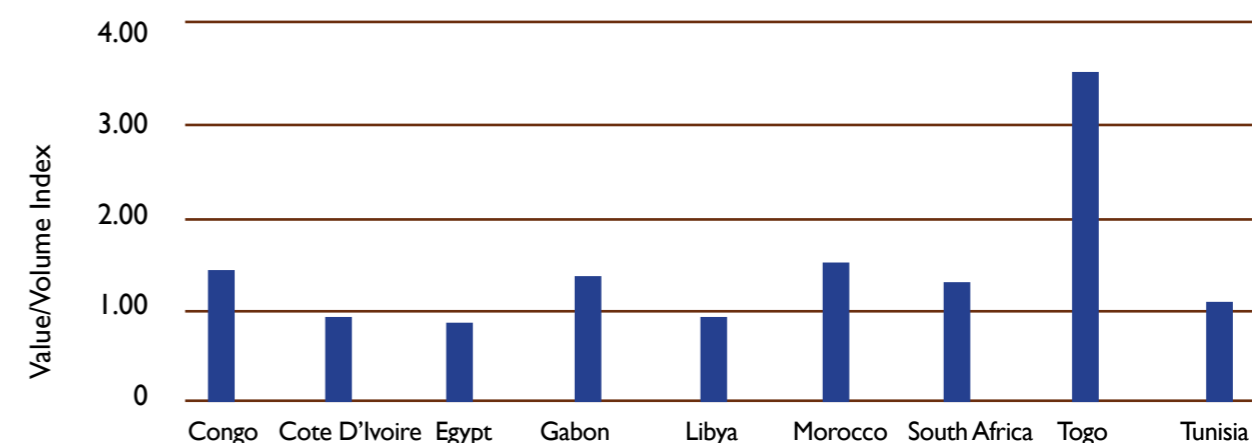
Even within Africa, countries must make careful choices based on projected profit margins. The Republic of Congo will earn over 10 times and 3.5 times more by exporting wood products to Angola and Mauritania, respectively, than by exporting to Senegal (Table 5). With regard to wood products from Benin, importing African

countries with value/volume indices higher than 2.0 included Cameroon (3.02), Congo (2.67), Chad (2.63) and Nigeria (2.03). This means that Benin earns double amounts per unit by selling wood products to those countries (Table 6). The type of products imported from Benin – mostly furniture – influences the indices.

TABLE 7: Value/volume indices for wood product categories in the Republic of Congo

Product category	Total volume (*1000 m3)	Total Value (FCFA)	% volume	% value	Value/volume index
Air-dried sawnwood	48670	5243574539	18.6	42.5	2.3
Eucalyptus poles	181495	3266911980	69.5	26.5	0.4
Kiln-dried sawnwood	16687	2520439737	6.4	20.4	3.2
Veneers	5973	676083492	2.3	5.5	2.4
Logs	6731	551706393	2.6	4.5	1.7
Plywood	250	37851729	0.1	0.3	3.2
Plantation chips	1343	30756956	0.5	0.2	0.5
TOTAL	261149	12327324825	100.0	100.0	1.0

FIGURE 9: Proportion of veneers exports from Cameroon to importing African countries (%)



6.3. Type of product matters

Previous studies have indicated that value-added products may bring up to four times more income than exporting in the raw form.

These studies also show that it may be desirable to produce and export veneers and plywood instead of logs and sawnwood. Looking at the value/volume indices for various products in the Republic of Congo, this conclusion is not exaggerated. For instance, kiln dried wood has an indice of 3.2 while air-dried sawnwood has an indice of 2.3. Plywood on the other hand has an index of 3.2 and Eucalyptus poles 0.4 (Table 7).

Looking at value/volume indices at individual product basis could be more revealing. For instance, the export of veneers by Ghana to Togo out of nine African countries showed the proportion of import volume of 0.18% but 0.48% of the value, giving a value/volume index of 3.43 (Figure 13).

6.4. Private sector business interest

Overall, the structure of the forest industry in most African countries is commanded by ownership associated with foreign capital (Asian and European), which favours Asian and European destinations.

Therefore, exports of forest products to other African countries remain very weak because of limited African investors in the African timber value chain. The decision of private sector actors can drive the direction of trade in wood products in Africa through the way they position their companies within countries. For example, in the Republic of Congo, from 2010 to 2017, six logging companies exported four categories of 5110 m3 wood products to Cameroon. They were: air-dried sawnwood (45%), kiln-dried sawnwood (34.8%), logs (19.8%) and finished products (0.4%). MOKABI company (a subsidiary of Rougier SA Group, with

branches in Cameroon, the Republic of Congo and Gabon) led by exporting 92%, 62% and 88% of air-dried sawnwood, kiln-dried sawnwood and logs, respectively, to Cameroon. Likouala Timber company was the second highest exporter of kiln-dried sawnwood (37.5%) and logs (7.7%). Likouala Timber company exported 84% of finished wood products. The company IFO exported the remaining 16% to Cameroon. Other companies (SEFYD, SIFCO and COFIBOIS) were minor exporters of wood products to Cameroon. Raw materials can be supplied inter-changeably among subsidiaries to meet the installed processing capacities in either country or to meet market demands. This seems true for the installed (and operational) overcapacity of some sawmills in Cameroon, where such capacity is greater than the forestry potential.

6.5. Tree species of interest

Countries have preferences for importing wood products of some tree species over others.

This could be linked to: the legal status of the species; different taxation policies on exports based on the level of wood processing; the response of wood from given species to environmental variability; specificity of the species in terms of wood texture and quality; or demand of industries for producing specific wood products on interest. For instance, different species of wood are used for such end uses as carving, carpentry, doors and window frames, plywood, veneers, heavy construction work, mouldings, packaging, ship/boat building, decking, flooring, mining props and cabinetwork.

COFIBOIS, IFO, Likouala Timber, MOKABI, SEFYD, SIFCO

6.6. Government policy and actions count

Overall, Africa suffers from a preponderance of raw log and sawnwood exports. This speaks to very low value addition in the continent.

It also depicts a great loss of potential foreign exchange linked to the importation of finished wood products from other continents. However, many African governments are beginning to make policy changes to address the situation. For example, in 2016, the government of Benin, adopted a policy of differential tax rates on four main wood product categories. This was done according to the level of processing. The move was aimed at encouraging the export of wood products that have undergone a higher level of processing. Because of this government policy, which increases export incomes, the volume of Benin's export of raw logs in 2017 was 10 times less than it was in 2016. The export of sawnwood reached a record high level since 2009.

Still in terms of policy, government can use policy measures to control the harvesting and export of wood from certain tree species.

For instance, the top tree species hitherto harvested from Benin include *Tectona grandis* (62%) and *Pterocarpus erinaceus* (35%) but the former is a fast-growing species from forest plantations, while the latter is a natural forest species with a slow growth rate. The anarchic exploitation of the *Pterocarpus erinaceus* over the last decade

rendered it vulnerable as a species – so much so that during the 2016 Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in South Africa, it was registered as an endangered species in Appendix II by Benin and many other countries. This registration resulted in the setting up of an annual export quota of at 45.935 m³ for this species in Benin in 2017. This took into account the large volume of the species that was already exploited and

recorded by the Forestry Department over past years. Considering this, Benin prohibited the further exploitation and trade of this species (Act 2017-40 of December 29 and Order 2017-200 of March 29) in 2018. The consequence of this policy is the need for Benin, in the short-run, to formalise the import of timber of this species from other African countries. It also needs to develop an intensive reforestation policy to ensure future production and to promote the use of *Tectona grandis*.



Key Recommendations

From this study on intra-African wood products trade, the following key recommendations were formulated on how to boost intra-African trade in timber and timber products in Africa:

01

Harmonise the legal and regulatory framework for the timber trade to adopt common tariffs between countries based on harmonised nomenclature for wood products to help curb illegal timber trade among African countries

02

Encourage local consumption of finished wood products by guaranteeing minimum quotas in public procurement of goods and providing incentives for value addition to wood products

03

Set up a joint system or network for the collection and processing of timber trade statistics between customs, wood industries, trade and forestry administrations

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FORMULATED ON HOW TO BOOST INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE IN TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS

Promote intra-African timber trade through the implementation of AfCFTA and BIAT tenets in all African countries. It is more tempting to state that certainty on duty-free imports from other African countries that together constitute over a billion customers will attract investors to construct manufacturing industries.

Conduct a similar study in African wood importing countries to understand their problems and needs, especially the sources of wood from outside Africa. This study is important because the results here show that Senegal is the top internal importer of Africa's wood products. It would be interesting to find out where Africa's largest economies (Nigeria, South Africa, Egypt, Morocco, Kenya, Ethiopia etc.) are importing their wood products from, which would allow for deeper analysis of these countries, looking at drivers of voluntary external preference.

04

05

Appendix

APPENDIX I: List of timber tree species and their scientific names

Commercial name	Scientific name
Kotibé	<i>Nesogordonia papaverifera</i>
Naga	<i>Brachystegia cynometrioides</i>
Bilinga	<i>Nauclea diderrichii</i>
Ekaba	<i>Tetraberlinia bifoliolata</i>
Eyong	<i>Eribroma oblongum</i>
Gombé/Ekop Ngombé	<i>Didelotia letouzeyi</i>
Niové	<i>Staudtia kamerunensis</i>
Okan / Adoum	<i>Cylicodiscus gabonensis</i>
Okoumé	<i>Aucoumea klaineana</i>
Onzabili / Angongui	<i>Antrocaryon klaineanum</i>
Tali/Potrodum	<i>Erythroleum ivorense</i>
Abalé / Abing	<i>Petersianthus macrocarpus</i>
Agba / Tola	<i>Gossweilerodendron balsamiferum</i>
Aiélé / Abel	<i>Canarium schweinfurthii</i>
Ako / Aloa	<i>Antiaris spp</i>
Alep	<i>Desbordesia glaucescens</i>
Alumbi	<i>Julbernardia seretii</i>
Andoung brun	<i>Monopetalanthus microphyllus</i>
Andoung rose	<i>Monopetalanthus letestui</i>

APPENDIX I: List of timber tree species and their scientific names (Continued)

Commercial name	Scientific name
Asila Akung/Sougue	<i>Maranthes chrysophylla</i>
Awoura	<i>Paraberlinia bifoliolata</i>
Bongo H / Olon	<i>Fagara heitzii</i>
Dabéma	<i>Piptadeniastrum africanum</i>
Diana /Celtis / Odou	<i>Celtis spp</i>
Ebiara Edéa	<i>Berlinia bracteosa</i>
Ebiara Yaoundé /Abem	<i>Berlinia grandiflora</i>
Ekop ekusek	<i>Gilbertiodendron brachystegioides</i>
Ekop G.H.	<i>Talbotiella batesii</i>
Ekop ngombe G.F	<i>Didelotia africana</i>
Essia	<i>Petersianthus macrocarpus</i>
Eveuss / Ngon	<i>Klainedoxa gabonensis</i>
EyeK	<i>Pachyelasma tessmannii</i>
Eyoum	<i>Dialium zenkeri</i>
Faro	<i>Daniellia ogea</i>
latandza / Evouvouss	<i>Albizia ferruginea</i>
Lati / Edjil	<i>Amphimas ferrugineus</i>
Limbali	<i>Gilbertiodendron dewevrei</i>
Lotofa / Nkanang	<i>Sterculia rhinopetala</i>
Mambodé / Amouk	<i>Detarium macrocarpum</i>
Miama	<i>Calpocalyx heitzii</i>
Naga parallèle	<i>Brachystegia mildbreadii</i>
Oboto / Abotzok	<i>Mammea africana</i>
Osanga, /Sikong	<i>Pteleopsis hylodendron</i>
Ovoga / Angalé	<i>Poga oleosa</i>
Wamba	<i>Tessmannia anomala</i>
Bété/Mansonia	<i>Mansonia altissima</i>
Movingui	<i>Distemonanthus benthamianus</i>
Mukulungu	<i>Autranella congolensis</i>

APPENDIX I: List of timber tree species and their scientific names (Continued)

Commercial name	Scientific name
Padouk rouge	<i>Pterocarpus soyauxii</i>
Sapelli/Sapale	<i>Entandrophragma cylindricum</i>
Ayous/Obéché/Wawa	<i>Triplochiton scleroxylon</i>
Azobé	<i>Lophira alata</i>
Dibétou	<i>Lovoa trichilioides</i>
Framiré	<i>Terminalia ivorensis</i>
Kossipo/ Candollei	<i>Entandrophragma candollei</i>
Koto	<i>Pterygota macrocarpa</i>
Tiama/ Edinam	<i>Entandrophragma angolense</i>
Bahia	<i>Mitragyna ciliata</i>
Acajou de bassam	<i>Khaya ivorensis</i>
Assamela / afrormosia	<i>Pericopsis elata</i>
Bossé clair	<i>Guarea cedrata</i>
Bubinga rose/Entedua	<i>Guibourtia tessmannii</i>
Doussié blanc	<i>Azelia pachyloba</i>
Doussié rouge	<i>Azelia bipindensis</i>
Iroko/Odum	<i>Milicia excelsa</i>
Moabi	<i>Baillonella toxisperma</i>
Ovengkol / Bubinga E	<i>Guibourtia ehie</i>
Pao rosa	<i>Swartzia fistuloides</i>
Sipo	<i>Entandrophragma utile</i>
Wengé	<i>Millettia barteri</i>
Zingana	<i>Microberlinia bisulcata</i>
Ceiba	<i>Ceiba pentandra</i>
Chenchen/Kyenkyen	<i>Antiaris toxicaria</i>
Koto/Kyere	<i>Pterygota macrocarpa</i>
Sinuro/Emien/Ekouk	<i>Alstonia boonei</i>
Hotrohotro/Fotie	<i>Hannoa klaineana</i>
Walnut/Lovoa	<i>Lovoa klaineana</i> = <i>L. trichilioides</i>

APPENDIX I: List of timber tree species and their scientific names (Continued)

Commercial name	Scientific name
Dahoma	<i>Piptadenia africana</i> = <i>Piptadeniastrum africanum</i>
Otie	<i>Pycnanthus angolensis</i>
Yaya	<i>Amphimas pterocarpoides</i>
Mixed White Wood	<i>Triplochiton scleroxylon</i> , <i>Terminalia superba</i>
Mixed Redwood	<i>Cedrella odorata</i> , <i>Entandrophragma</i> spp., <i>Khaya</i> spp., <i>Azelia Africana</i> , <i>Aningeria robusta</i> , <i>Guarea cedrata</i> and <i>Tectona grandis</i>
Kako/Ekki	<i>Lophira alata</i> = <i>L. procera</i>
Danta	<i>Nesogogordonia papaverifera</i> = <i>Cistanthera papaverifera</i>
Asanfina	<i>Aningeria</i> spp.; <i>A. altissima</i> ; <i>A. robusta</i>
Papao/Apa/Doussie	<i>Azelia africana</i> ; <i>A. bella</i>
Essia	<i>Petersia africana</i> = <i>Petersianthus africanus</i> = <i>P. macrocarpus</i> = <i>Combretodendron africanum</i>
Gmelina	<i>Gmelina arborea</i>
Ofram/White Ofram/	<i>Terminalia superba</i>
Frake	
Teak	<i>Tectona grandis</i>
Rose Wood/ Kpatro	<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>
Bombax	<i>Bombax buonopozense</i>
Senya	<i>Daniellia oliveri</i>
Makore	<i>Dumoria heckelii</i> = <i>Mimusops heckelii</i> = <i>Tieghmella heckelii</i>
Black Ofram	<i>Terminalia ivorensis</i>
Mahogany	<i>Khaya ivorensis</i> ; <i>K. anthotheca</i> ,
Black Hyedua	<i>Guibourtia ehie</i> = <i>Copaifera ehie</i>
Cedrela	<i>Cedrela odorata</i>
Ogea	<i>Daniellia ogea</i>
Sterculia/Wawabima	<i>Sterculia rhinopetala</i>
Ohaa	<i>Sterculia oblonga</i>
Aprokuma	<i>Antrocaryon micraster</i>
Guarea	<i>Guarea cedrata</i> ; <i>G. thompsonii</i>
Kokote//Kokoti/Abari	<i>Anopyxis klaineana</i>

Source: Authors' compilation



For more information, contact either of the following:

Leontine Kanziemo
Email: l.kanziemo@afdb.org

Julius Chupezi Tieguhong.
Email: tieguhong@afdb.org



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

African Natural Resources Centre

Avenue Jean-Paul II -01BP 1387,
Abidjan - Côte d'Ivoire

anrc@afdb.org
www.afdb.org

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