

WORKING PAPER

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on African timber and wood products trade

2022



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

Africa Natural
Resources Management
and Investment Centre

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The report was written by Dr. Julius Chupezi Tieguhong under the guidance of Dr. Vanessa Ushie, Acting Director of ECNR and the supervision of Ms. Leontine Kanziemo, Advisor, Natural Resources Management. Many thanks to Mr. Edward S. Kamara of the Forest Development Authority of Liberia for providing timber export data for 2019 and 2020.

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Please cite the work as follows:

Africa Natural Resources Management and Investment Centre. 2022. Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on African timber and wood products trade. African Development Bank. Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

01

Introduction

Globally, the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) is killing thousands of people daily and has resulted in production and supply chain disruptions, termed as ‘supply-demand shocks’. The pandemic has caused ripple effects across all economic sectors including those linked to natural resources, manufacturing, services and entertainment. The impacts of the pandemic are being felt in Africa particularly because most national economies are commodity-dependent, and demand for commodities has generally declined over the first quarter of 2020 and may continue to decline if the future remains uncertain.

Even though COVID-19 does not directly affect forests and trees, the sector is impacted indirectly by the pandemic because of changing consumer demands, social distancing, health measures, lower production, poor market access or logistical problems related to transportation and closure of export terminals. The stand-out question concerns the social, economic and

environmental impacts of the pandemic on various national economic sectors and what mitigation options are available for countries?

This study examines the economic impacts of COVID-19 on countries in Africa exporting timber/forest products in terms of export flows, price fluctuations, lost revenues and employment. The study reviews the scientific and grey literature, press releases and articles in Asian, African and European countries on socio-economic disruptions in the forestry industry associated with COVID-19. However, there is a closer focus on selected African countries (Cameroon, Gabon, Ghana, Liberia, DR Congo and the Republic of Congo) with high volumes of timber production and exports. The study also makes use of expert interviews (by emails, telephone, zoom, skype) with key forestry stakeholders in Africa (ministries and departments in charge of forestry, regional offices of FAO, CIFOR, ITTO, WWF, AFF etc.) on the likely impacts of COVID-19 on the forestry sector in Africa. Where

data is available, year-on-year or period-on-period comparisons are made between 2020 and 2019 timber values and volumes to demonstrate impacts.

Overall, the study reviews the importance of the forestry sector to African economies and environmental resilience pre-COVID-19 and assesses the impacts of the pandemic on the African timber trade (exports in particular),

forest management and its people. Country relief measures and strategies for mitigating the impact of the coronavirus on the forestry sector and for building resilience during and after the pandemic for a sustainable future are also reviewed. Recommendations are made to assist governments and the private sector make informed decisions on how to handle future developments in the forestry sector to improve resilience to shocks.



02

Importance of timber products exports to African economies pre-COVID-19

Forests cover 30% of the Earth's land area (nearly 4 billion hectares). When sustainably managed forests create healthy, productive, resilient and renewable ecosystems that provide essential goods and services to about 25% of the global population. The estimated value of ecosystem services from forests, trees and savannahs is more than \$76 trillion¹. The international timber trade annually generates up to \$150 billion, in addition to \$50 billion from trade in non-timber forest and farm products². Other estimates show that global imports of wood products for 2015 were \$236.14

billion with the main importing regions being Asia, followed by Europe at \$92.62 billion and \$91.21 billion respectively³. Together, Asia and Europe took 79% of all wood imports from around the world. Northern America imported 12%, while Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Oceania imported 5%, 4% and 1% respectively⁴. This international demand for timber will likely continue to grow, especially in Asia, indicating a negligible risk of surplus production by suppliers. For instance, China is known to be the largest consumer of timber and wood products—exceeding 100 million m³ of imports

roundwood equivalent (rwe) but the country's timber consumption was 0.33 m³ rwe per capita in 2018, well below the global average of 0.52 m³, indicating an opportunity for growth.⁵

In 2017, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030, with the mission to promote sustainable forest management and the contribution of forests and trees outside forests to the 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development.⁶ It is believed that sustainable economic and social benefits can be derived from industrialising the forestry sector in Africa, where most exports are still in primary forms. For instance, it is possible for African countries to realise a potential value-added of \$44–271 if only one cubic meter of sawnwood is processed into fine furniture. On average, such value added by the furniture industry could generate as many as four to twelve times more jobs than the primary sawmills.⁷

Africa's forests cover 21–23% of its land area, are endangered by misuse, over-exploitation, and destruction due to deforestation and degradation at an annual rate of 2.8 million hectares.⁸ Despite the threats, the importance of the forests of Africa cannot be overemphasised. The importance of timber products trade in terms of the contributions made by forest use to national economies, the value of traded products, trends and international destinations, are significant. World Bank data shows that in 2017,⁹ economic output from forest products contributed at least 3% to the GDPs of 30 African countries and 5% to those of 20 countries and over 15% in four countries. The top ten countries with forest outputs contributing to their GDPs are: Liberia (20%), DRC (18%), Burundi (16%), Guinea Bissau (16%), Somalia (15%), CAR (13%), Mozambique (12%), Sierra Leone (11%), Niger (11%) and Ethiopia (10%) See Figure 1.

¹ All \$ in US dollars, unless indicated otherwise.

² Rural 21. *International Journal of Rural Development*. 20.03.2020. <https://www.rural21.com/francais/resultat-de-recherche/detail/article/donner-aux-forets-lattention-que-elles-meritent.html>.

³ FAOSTAT 2016 *Forest Production, Imports and Export Statistics*, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, Rome, also available at <http://www.fao.org>.

⁴ Kakuru, W. 2018. *The timber value chain and its potential contribution to African economies. A focus on plantation forestry. Draft Report*. ECNR. pp101.

⁵ ITTO 2020. *Report of the International Forum: Together Towards Global Green Supply Chains*. International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Yokohama, Japan.

⁶ Campos Arce J.J. 2019. *Background Analytical Study Forests, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and employment*. Background study prepared for the fourteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests. pp.58.

⁷ AfDB (African Development Bank) 2018. *Central Africa Economic Outlook*. Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire: African Development Bank.

⁸ FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) 2015. "World Deforestation Slows Down as More Forests Are Better Managed." FAO, Durban, South Africa. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/326911/code/>.

⁹ Data from World Bank. 2017. *Forest rents (% of GDP), 1970-2017*. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.FRST.RT.ZS>

FIGURE 1: Forest rents (% GDP 2017)

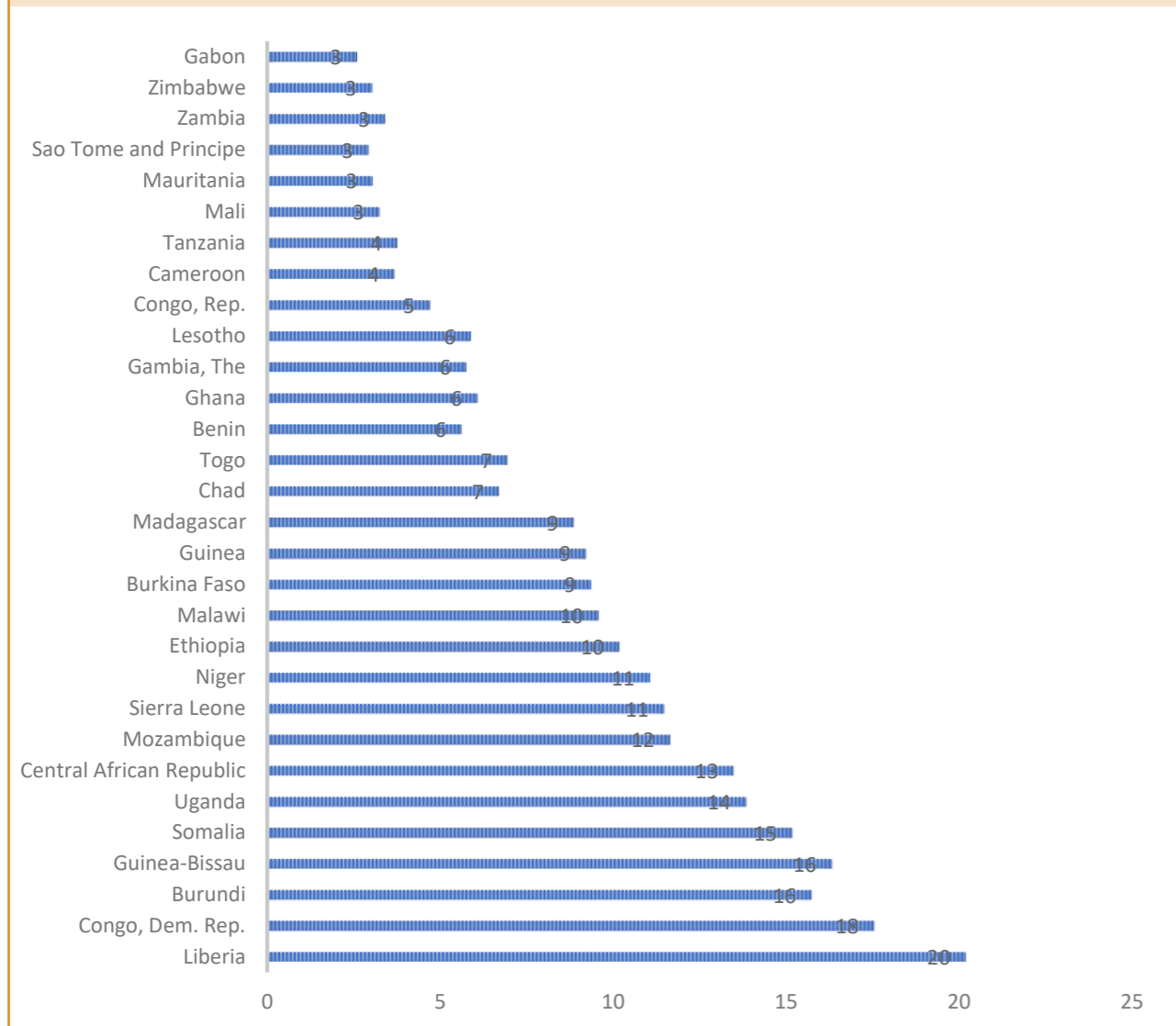
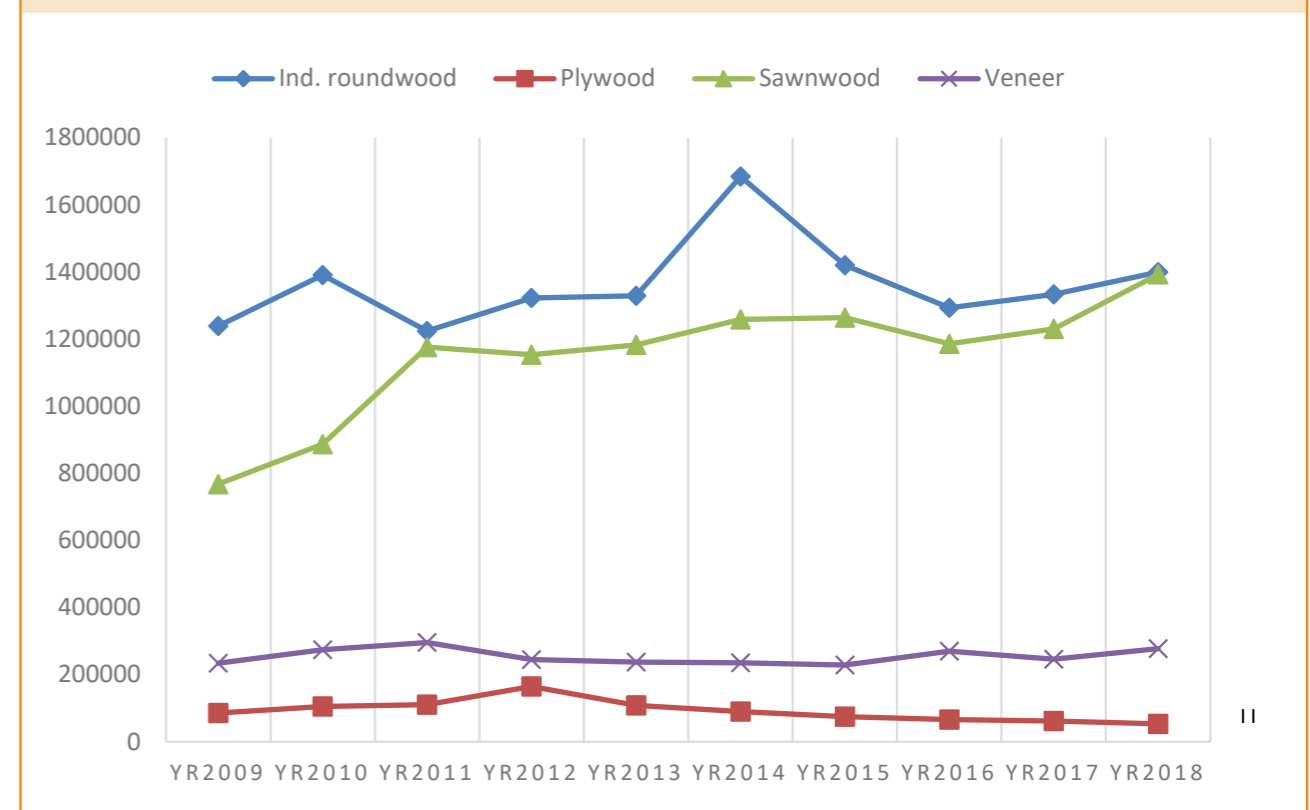


FIGURE 2: Export value (\$*1000) of primary wood products by 13 ITTO producer member countries (2009-2018)



From 2009 to 2018, the export value of four primary wood products (industrial roundwood 48%, sawnwood 40%, plywood 3%, and veneers 9%) by 13 African ITTO timber producer member countries¹⁰ totaled

over \$29 billion, averaging \$2.9 billion per annum. For all wood products annual exports had a steady trend between 2009 and 2018 (Figure 2, Annex I).

¹⁰ Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Togo

¹¹ Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Togo

03

Impacts of the coronavirus pandemic in the timber sector

Forest products are among the most internationally-distributed commodities attracting foreign exchange earnings. To this end, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the forestry sector go beyond national to regional and global levels. It remains pertinent to review the impacts of the pandemic at global levels before considering the African context. Reference is made to China and other Asian countries due to their global demand for raw wood materials to meet their fast-growing manufacturing wood product industries. For instance, China is the world's largest producer and consumer of wood, with an annual turnover in its wood

product industry estimated at \$290 billion and that of Vietnam growing by about \$1 billion per annum.¹²

3.1. Impacts of COVID-19 on global timber trade and supply chains

Globally, in the forestry sector, COVID-19 is known to have caused production shutdowns, supply chain disruptions, suspensions, postponements and the cancellation of production and export operations.¹³ Where statistics exist, a few national and regional

examples of the impacts of the slowdowns are highlighted from China, Vietnam, India, the European Union, New Zealand, Brazil and the USA. This is due to the widespread supply chain and multiplicity of international distributions of timber and timber products from African producers. It is expected that the negative impacts of the pandemic in destination countries will eventually affect the demand for raw materials in African countries with weak domestic secondary and tertiary processing capacities.

In China, where COVID-19 first appeared, industrial production, sales and investment all fell sharply in the first three months of the year, compared with the same period in 2019. Chinese industrial production fell in the first two months by 13% and in March by almost 8%.¹⁴ The effects of the disruption in the supply chain resulted in a 19.8% reduction in shipments of goods and containers from China in February, compared with a year earlier. With the exhaustion of cumulative stocks of 2019, the impacts of COVID-19 on the processing industry came from the reduction of logging in many countries, closure of some ports, increased prices of containers, sea freight and wood raw materials. For instance, the cost of labour, processing and logistics was higher with an expected price increase of wood products in China to over 30%.¹⁵ This

had negative implications on the ordering and import of wood raw materials given that 80% of China's wood processing industry depends on imports, that China makes up a third of manufacturing globally, and is the world's largest exporter of goods.

It is estimated that China's demand for imported wood will reduce by 10-20%, because of reduced export and domestic demand and this will take some time to return to normal.¹⁶ For example, China's log imports in the first two months of 2020 totaled 7.73 million m³ valued at \$1,104 million, a year-on-year decline of 9% in volume and 27% in value. Of total log imports, softwood log imports fell 7% to 5.49 million m³ and accounted for 71% of total log imports. Hardwood log imports fell 15% to 2.24 million m³ (29% of total log imports). Of total hardwood log imports, tropical log imports were 1.30 million m³ valued at \$3.25 million, down 26% in volume and 37% in value from the same period of 2019.¹⁷

On a regional basis, China's log imports from ASEAN¹⁸ in the first quarter of 2020 were 14,209m³ valued at \$16.5 million, a drastic decline of over 90% in both value and volume compared to the same period in 2019.¹⁹ China takes about 60-80% of New Zealand's logs, worth \$2.7 billion in 2019,

¹² ITTO 2020. Report of the International Forum: Together Towards Global Green Supply Chains. International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Yokohama, Japan.

¹³ Robert Dalheim and Karl D. Forth. Woodworking industry coronavirus disruptions and cancellations. March 23, 2020. <https://www.woodworkingnetwork.com/news/woodworking-industry-news/woodworking-industry-disruptions-and-cancellations-coronavirus-update>.

¹⁴ Lora Jones, Daniele Palumbo & David Brown 2020. Coronavirus: A visual guide to the economic impact BBC News. 30 April 2020.

¹⁵ ATIBT 2020. Impact of COVID 19 on timber trade. <https://www.atibt.org/en/impact-of-COVID-19-on-timber-trade-3/>.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ ITTO TTM Report: 24:8 16 – 30 April 2020.

¹⁸ Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Singapore, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand.

¹⁹ ITTO TTM Report: 24:10 16 – 31 May 2020.

but in the first quarter of 2020 there were logjams at Chinese wharves due to lack of space, causing significant problems for New Zealand's forest products industry. This was associated with precautions in China against COVID-19 that resulted in a halt in the off-loading of logs in China for processing.²⁰ This was an unfortunate situation with no immediate short-term solutions due to limited or no domestic sawmilling in some production areas or alternative uses of logs domestically, or access to other international market destinations. Regrettably, many timber contractors had little alternative but to lay off skilled workers or put harvest contracting crews on reduced hours or worst case, they stood down and turned off the supply at the forests, bringing exports to a grinding halt, and putting 1000-1500 people out of work in New Zealand.^{21 22} The conclusion was that relying so much on China as the only domestic market for logs was dangerous for the forest products industry. Additional regional and country specific impacts of the pandemic were that in Jan-Feb 2020, round wood/log import from the USA to China decreased by 45%, while sawnwood reduced by 2%, compared with levels of Jan-Feb 2019. Chinese imports of round wood/log and sawnwood from the EU declined by

16% and 25% relatively. Imports of round wood/log from Africa diminished by 46% and sawnwood by 36%. Overall, woodchip companies in China reduced orders and pushed down prices by around 10%.²³

In Vietnam, wood and wood product (W&WP) exports to five major destinations (the US, the EU, Japan, South Korea and China), accounting for over 80% of Vietnamese W&WP export last year, were expected to decline sharply by about 80% for wood-processing firms in 2020 as buyers were asking for delayed shipments of orders. Timber companies reported losses of around \$1.06 million during the first quarter of the year.²⁴ A more recent survey showed that the situation in Vietnam was changing fast and getting worse with 76% of enterprises facing losses estimated at VND 3.066 trillion (around \$130 million) because of lower production and with some 45% of workers in the wood-processing sector having lost their jobs due to the pandemic.²⁵

In India, over half the timber mills in Kandla port remained closed in the first quarter of 2020 despite being responsible for annual imports of around 4 million m³ of timber, approximately 65% of India's total timber



imports. There are nearly 2,000 sawmills and more than 100 plywood units in the proximity of Kandla port where 80,000-100,000 direct labourers are employed.²⁶ Closure led to layoffs; the labourers went back to their states. This caused the problem of a huge stock of imported timber that was stuck at the port awaiting collection, which created extra storage bills.²⁷ Indian ports were closed to both imports and exports. Containers could not move because, in most cases, the receiving ports were closed. Import containers were waiting to be offloaded and transported, but workers could not travel. Until restrictions were lifted, nothing could move.²⁸

The situation was not unique to India as the Indonesian furniture and craft industry also reported the layoff of some 280,000 workers.²⁹ Still in Indonesia, some impacts of the pandemic were the cancellation of 3-5% of orders and the delayed shipment of 70% of orders placed by buyers.³⁰ In Malaysia, a survey of the impacts of the pandemic on employment and income in forestry and logging sector showed that 6% of workers were on half pay leave, 18% were on unpaid leave and 12% had lost their jobs altogether.³¹ In Peru, by 20 April 2020 more than 7,000 companies had suspended employee salaries for three months.³²

²⁰ Debrin Foxcroft. 2020. Coronavirus: Log jam at Chinese wharves as forestry industry feels impact. 24 February. <https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/119772264/coronavirus-log-jam-at-chinese-wharves-as-forestry-industry-feels-impact>

²¹ ITTO TTM Report: 24:8 16 –30 April 2020.

²² Nathan Taylor. 2020. Small-town New Zealand suffering as forestry industry's hit hard by impact of coronavirus. Tuesday March 10 2020. <https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/small-town-new-zealand-suffering-forestry-industrys-hit-hard-impact-coronavirus>.

²³ ITTO TTM Report: 24:8 16 –30 April 2020.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ ITTO MIS Tropical Timber Market Report 24(7).

²⁶ ITTO TTM Report: 24:10 16 – 31 May 2020.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ ITTO MIS Tropical Timber Market Report 24(7)

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ ITTO TTM Report: 24:8 16 –30 April 2020

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

In Brazil, it is estimated that a global recession caused by the pandemic could reduce the country's exports by at least \$18.6 billion in 2020, equivalent to a 8.25% decline compared to 2019. In the case of forest products, the reduction of shipments was 35% in the first two months of 2020³³. In March 2020, the Brazilian exports of wood-based products (except pulp and paper) declined by 4.4% in value compared to March 2019, from \$276 million to \$264 million.³⁴ In Brazil's furniture sector, the eighth largest production sector in the country and a major employer with some 260,000 direct jobs, a survey in the Bento Gonçalves furniture cluster with 300 industries had an estimated revenue of R\$384 million in the first quarter of 2020, which was 3.3% less compared to the same period in 2019. The reduction in the first quarter exports led to about 2,600 layoffs by furniture companies in Bento Gonçalves and some 40% of the companies reduced working hours.³⁵

In the USA, gross domestic product was projected to decline by 8% in 2020 with dire implications for trade in wood products. It was expected that timber production and demand would be slow in the second half of 2020 and much of 2021.³⁶ Due to the strong involvement of the wood products industry in the housing, manufacturing and consumer

goods economy, the likely impacts over the next two to three years could include: reduced construction activity, reduced tree planting, home renovation, pulp demand, and global trade in wood products.³⁷ For example, US residential building activity collapsed in March 2020 as COVID-19 spread, because housing starts tumbled 22% from a month earlier. Construction of single-family houses fell 17.5%, while apartment starts were down 32% from February 2020. The drop in housing starts was the worst monthly decline since the 1980s, when new home construction plunged 26.4% in March 1984.³⁸ These trends offered a bleak outlook for housing as the lockdown continued in the fight to contain the virus.

3.2 Impacts on Africa's forestry and timber sector

In Africa, the impacts of COVID-19 were on the production and transport of wood products to various destinations, the ability of companies to export products, price fluctuations, species preferences for wood products, employment and overall management of forest estates. For instance, in 2019, 122 timber companies (over 90% with foreign capital investments) in Cameroon exported 1,459,410 m³ of primary wood

products (logs 38%, sawnwood 55.7%, plywood 0.6%, and veneers 5.7%) to 71 countries around the world.³⁹ However, over 60% of these products went to Asia with China and Vietnam importing 33% and 24.6%, respectively. Within Africa, Senegal was a main importer of wood products from Cameroon with 5.6%. This international export practice holds true for other African timber-producing countries⁴⁰ demonstrating how the pandemic-linked changes in demand and logistics arrangements in importing countries can indirectly affect trade. Some of the impacts of the pandemic in the African forestry sector are discussed in terms of the dynamics of timber exporting companies in countries, changes in unit prices of timber, changes in export destinations, export volumes and values, and timber species preferences.

3.2.1 Number of timber exporting companies

The coronavirus pandemic has led to changes for timber-exporting companies in Africa. For instance, in Liberia, for the period of December 2018 to March 2019, seven companies⁴¹ exported timber, while by the period of December 2019 to March 2020 the number had risen to 13 companies⁴² exporting. However, only four of those that exported in December 18 to March 2019 period also exported in the December 2019 to March 2020 period. Their varying volumes and values are shown below (Table 1). Three exporters went out of business and nine started business as exporters of timber in Liberia in 2020.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ ITTO TTM Report: 24:8 16 –30 April 2020.

³⁵ ITTO TTM Report: 24:10 16 – 31 May 2020.

³⁶ ITTO MIS Tropical Timber Market Report 24(7).

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ ITTO MIS Tropical Timber Market Report 24(7).

³⁹ Traore M. and J.C. Tieguhong. 2018. *How Forestry Contributes to the African Development Bank's High 5 Priorities: Challenges and Opportunities*. Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire: African Natural Resources Center, African Development Bank.

⁴⁰ Traore M. and J.C. Tieguhong. 2018. *Op. cit.*

⁴¹ ALMAWOOD, Monrovia (Liberia), Alpha Logging and Wood Processing Inc, Freedom Group Liberia, Inc., Monrovia (Liberia), International Consultant Capital (ICC), Mandra Forestry Liberia Ltd, Monrovia (Liberia), SING AFRICA PLANTATIONS LIBERIA INC, Tetra Enterprise Inc., Monrovia (Liberia).

⁴² AFRICAN WOOD & LUMBER CO, MONROVIA (Liberia), Akewa Groups of Companies, Paynesville (Liberia), Alpha Logging and Wood Processing Inc, Monrovia (Liberia), BOOMING GREEN, MONROVIA (Liberia), East Atlantic Ridge Ltd., Monrovia (Liberia), Geblo Logging Inc, Monrovia (Liberia), International Consultant Capital (ICC), Monrovia (Liberia), Mandra Forestry Liberia Ltd, Monrovia (Liberia), Regnals Internationals Inc, Monrovia (Liberia), SING AFRICA PLANTATIONS LIBERIA INC, MONROVIA (Liberia), STADIUM INC., Buchanan (Liberia), WEST AFRICAN FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT INC, WESTNAF LIMITED, Monrovia (Liberia).

TABLE 1: Comparisons of four companies Dec 2018-March 2019 vs (Dec 2019-March 2020)*

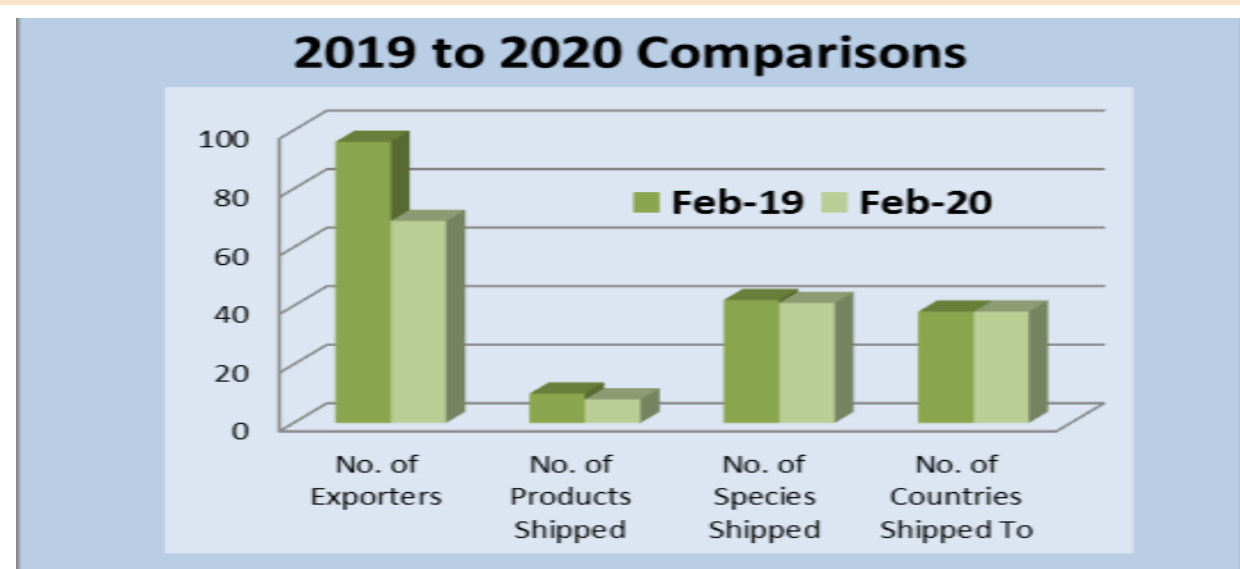
Company	Volume (m ³)	Total cost (US\$)	Value/vol. (US\$/m ³)	% volume	% value	Difference (% value - % volume)
Alpha Logging and Wood Processing Inc,	4539 (4773)	59640 (104535)	13.1 (21.9)	11.9 (9.4)	12.1 (11.5)	0.1 (2.1)
International Consultant Capital (ICC),	21093 (34286)	228346 (561280)	10.8 (16.4)	55.4 (67.6)	46.1 (61.6)	-9.3 (-6.1)
Mandra Forestry Liberia Ltd, Monrovia (Liberia)	11077 (10409)	192541 (218118)	17.4 (21.0)	29.1 (20.5)	38.9 (23.9)	9.8 (3.4)
SING AFRICA PLANTATIONS LIBERIA INC,	1370 (1240)	14387 (27965)	10.5 (22.5)	3.6 (2.4)	2.9 (3.1)	-0.7 (0.6)
Total	38078 (50709)	494914 (911899)	13.0 (18.0)	100.0 (100.0)	100.0 (100.0)	0.0

*values in brackets () are those of the Dec 2019-March 2020 period

In Ghana, while comparing 2019 and 2020 in terms of the number of exporters, the number of products shipped, the number of species shipped, and the number of countries

shipped to, the general trend showed a decrease in February 2020 compared to February 2019 for the first three variables and no change for the last (Figure 3).

FIGURE 3: 2009 to 2020 comparisons of exporters, products shipped, number of species and number of importing countries.



Source: ITTO TTM Report: 24:7 1 – 15 April 2020

TABLE 2: Timber exports per destination during December 2018-March 2019 vs (December 2019-March 2020)

Destination	Volume (m ³)	Value (US\$)	Unit prices (US\$/ m ³)	% volume	% value	Difference (% value - % volume)
China	21437 (33966)	232691 (486666)	10.9 (14.3)	50.8 (48.5)	42.3 (38.9)	-8.5 (-9.6)
Bangladesh	19207 (32495)	299830 (701193)	15.6 (21.6)	45.5 (46.4)	54.5 (56)	9.0 (9.6)
France	322 (2192)	4781 (48771)	14.9 (22.2)	0.8 (3.1)	0.9 (3.0)	0.1 (0.8)
India	1250 (1355)	12688 (15444)	10.1 (11.4)	3.0 (1.9)	2.3 (1.2)	-0.7 (-0.7)
Grand Total	42216 (70007)	549990 (1252074)	13.0 (17.9)	100.0 (100.0)	100.0 (100.0)	0.0

*values in brackets () are those of the period December 2019-March 2020

3.2.2 Changes in export destinations

Predicted or not, the COVID-19 pandemic led to changes in the export destination of timber, favouring countries with fewer restrictions on imports. For instance, for the period from December 2018 to March 2019, Liberia exported timber to four international destinations (China, Bangladesh, France and India) but in the period December 2019 to March 2020, timber was exported to seven destinations, including three new destinations (Vietnam, Turkey and Hong Kong). Over these year-on-year periods, varying volumes and values of timber products were imported from Liberia by the destination countries (Table 2).

3.2.3 Dynamics in export volumes and values

Year-on-year or period-on-period decreases or increases in shipments of wood products reflect the impact of the pandemic in the forestry sector. This could be associated with market distortions, delayed orders and supplies or cancellation of orders. Examples are drawn from Ghana, Liberia and Gabon that show contrasting outcomes.

In 2019, Ghana's timber exports of a total 300,445 m³ of wood products worth Euros 150.63 million were shipped to five regular major markets, which were: Asia (67%), Europe (16%), Africa (11%), America (4%) and the Middle East (2%).⁴³ All these regions

⁴³ ITTO TTM Report: 24:7 1 – 15 April 2020.

were impacted by the pandemic: Ghanaian producers were braced for sharply weaker demand.⁴⁴ For instance, in the first two months of 2020, Ghana exported a total of 35,508 m³ of wood products, earning Euro 17.64 million, compared to the 2019 respective figures of 53,171 m³ valued at Euro 28.04 million, showing a decline of over 30% in volume and value.⁴⁵ The steep drop clearly illustrates the impact of the pandemic, especially on demand from China where businesses were seriously affected. Nonetheless, exports to other markets such as Europe, America, and regional African markets were sustained in January and February 2020, relative to previous years.⁴⁶

Contrary to the decline in Ghana, the period December 2019 to March 2020 saw an increase in shipments of logs (82,831 m³ valued at \$1,463,816) from Liberia over the same period in 2019 (42,216 m³ valued at \$549,990). This gives a 96.2% and 166% increase in volume and value of Liberian logs exported in first quarter of 2020. Given that China is a major importer of logs from Liberia, the sharp rise of 400% in tropical log imports through Qingdao Port in the first two months of 2020 could have included imports from Liberia. The volume of tropical logs handled at Qingdao Port rose over 400% year-on-year to 324,000 m³ valued at \$74 million.⁴⁷

3.2.4 Unit timber price changes

The unit prices of timber exports vary with destination, export company and the timber species being exported. Using data from Liberia, the unit prices of logs saw an increase in the period of December 2019 to March 2020 over the same period in 2019 for both destination countries, the export companies and flagship timber species (Figure 4, Figure 5 respectively).

Still in Liberia, the demand for logs from 10 flagship tree species saw a 38% increase in price per m³ in the first quarter of 2020 compared to the first quarter in 2019, indicating their competitiveness in the markets. Overall, during the first quarter of 2020, the volume of logs exported was represented by 69 species as compared to 60 species during the same period in 2019. Indeed, logs from tree species such as *Azizia* spp. (AFZ), *Entandrophragma cylindricum* (ENTCY), *Heritiera utilis* (TAR) and *Entandrophragma utile* (ENTU) saw increases of over 60% in unit prices in the first quarter of 2020, compared to the same period in 2019. The unit prices of most other species including *Brachystegia leonensis* (BRA), *Terminalia ivorensis* (TEI) and *Tetraberlinia tubmaniana* (TET) did not vary much but those of *Lophira alata* (LOP), *Nauclea diderrichii* (NAU), *Chlorophora* sp. (CHL) also saw significant increases in 2020 compared to 2019 (Figure 6).

FIGURE 4: Comparison of 2019 and 2020 FOB prices per m³ of logs by importing countries from Liberia

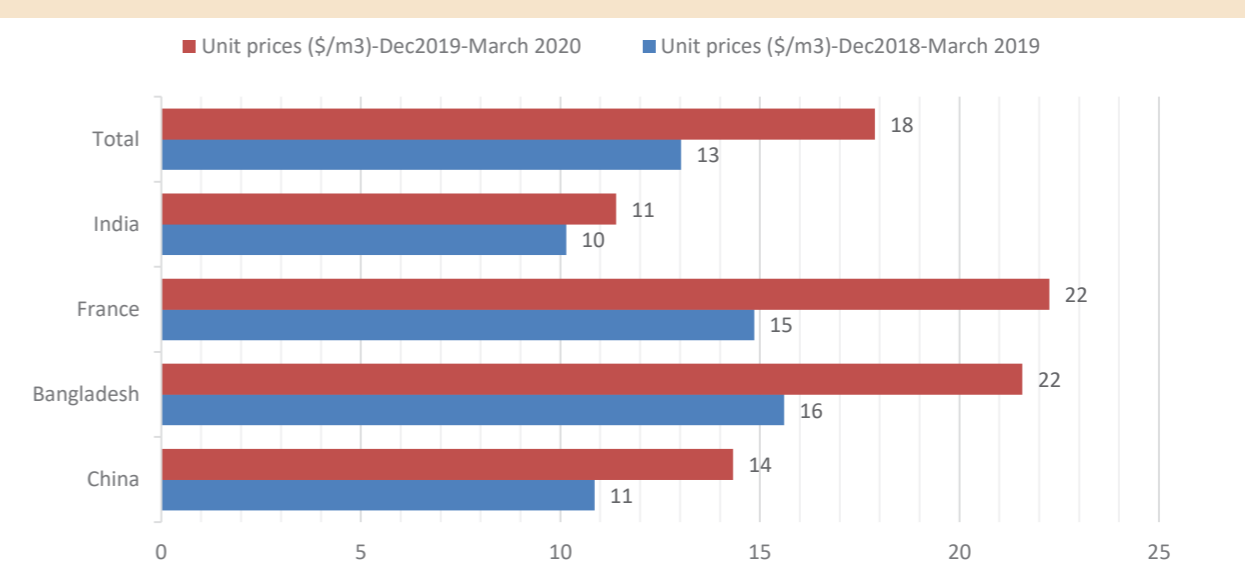


FIGURE 5: Comparison of 2019 and 2020 FOB prices per m³ of logs exported by companies from Liberia

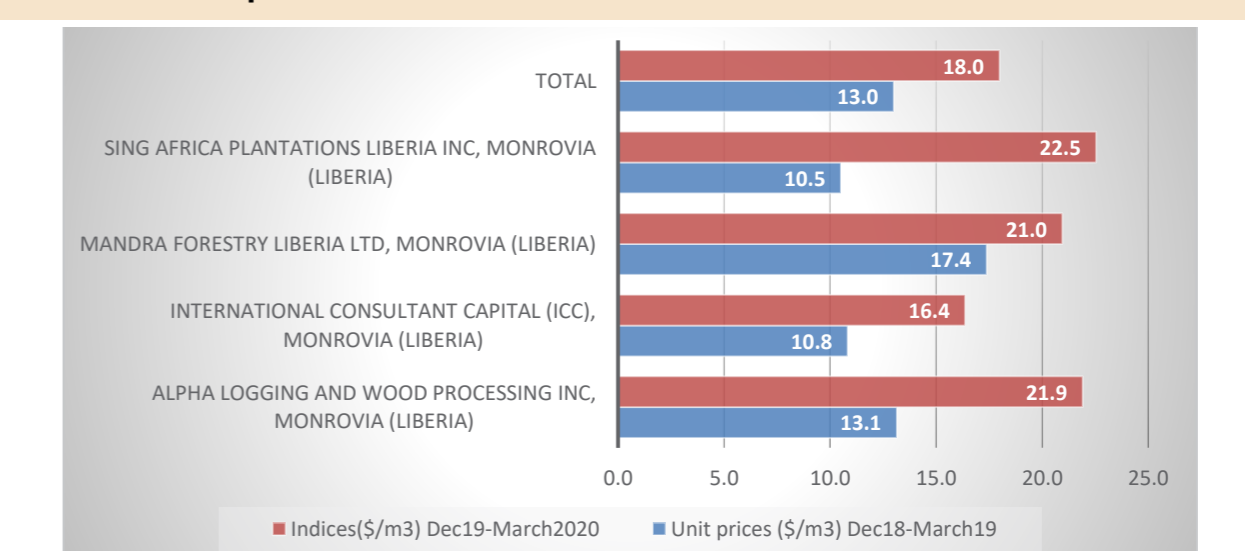
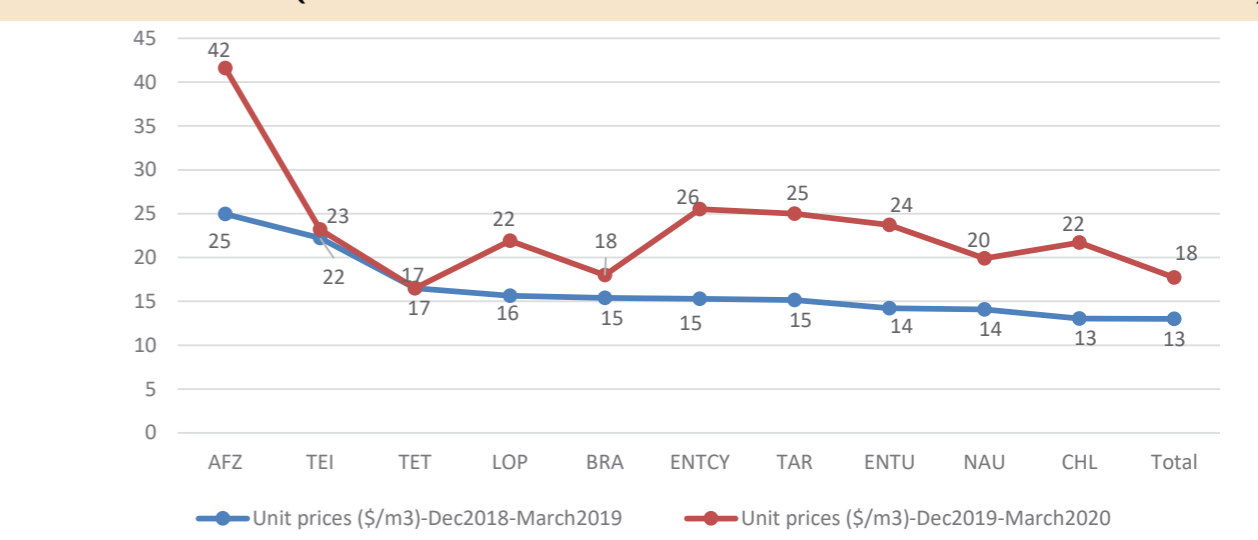


FIGURE 6: Comparison of unit prices of ten top timber logs by species exported from Liberia (December 2018 to March 2019 vs December 2019 to March 2020)



⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ ITTO TTM Report: 24:9 1 –15 May 2020.

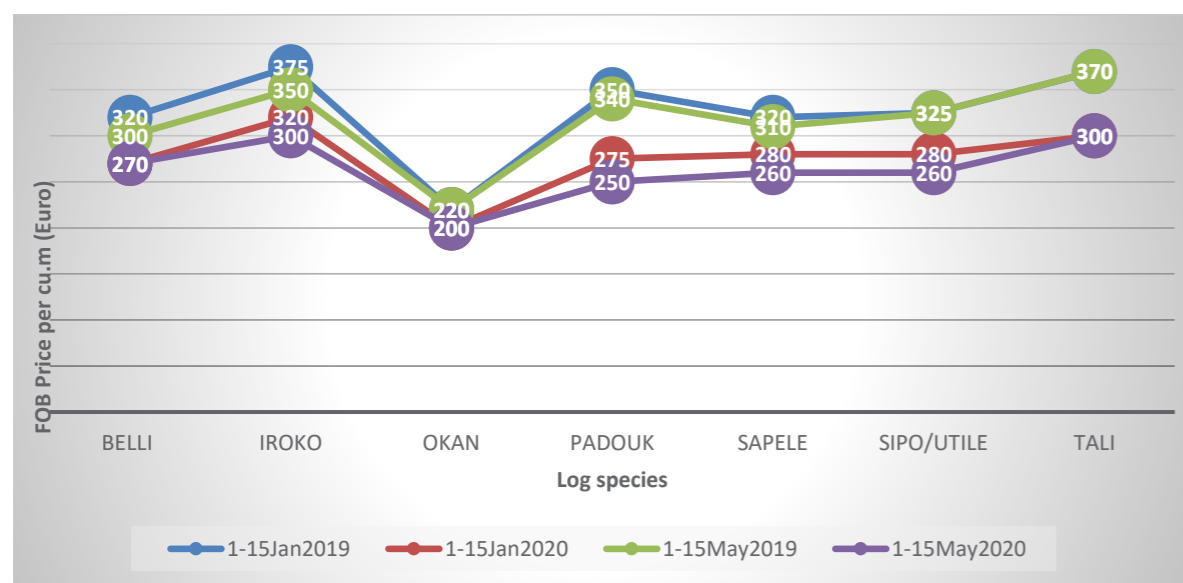
⁴⁶ ITTO TTM Report: 24:10 16 – 31 May 2020.

⁴⁷ ITTO. 2020. Tropical Timber Market Report. ITTO TTM Report: 24:6 16 – 31 March 2020.

Contrary to the trend in Liberia, the overall impacts of the pandemic in West/Central Africa on unit prices for both logs and sawnwood by tree species were on the decline. When unit FOB prices of logs were compared by tree species (bilanga-Nuclea diderrichii, iroko-Militia excelsa, okan- Cyclocodiscus gabunensis, padouk-Pterocarpus soyauxii, sapele-Entandrophragma cylindricum, sipo/utile-Entandrophragma utile and tali-Erythrophleum ivorense) for the period January - May 2019 and those of the January - May 2020 period in West/Central Africa, we saw consistently higher prices for the pre-COVID-19 period in 2019. For example, the unit price of bilanga was \$320/ m3 in January

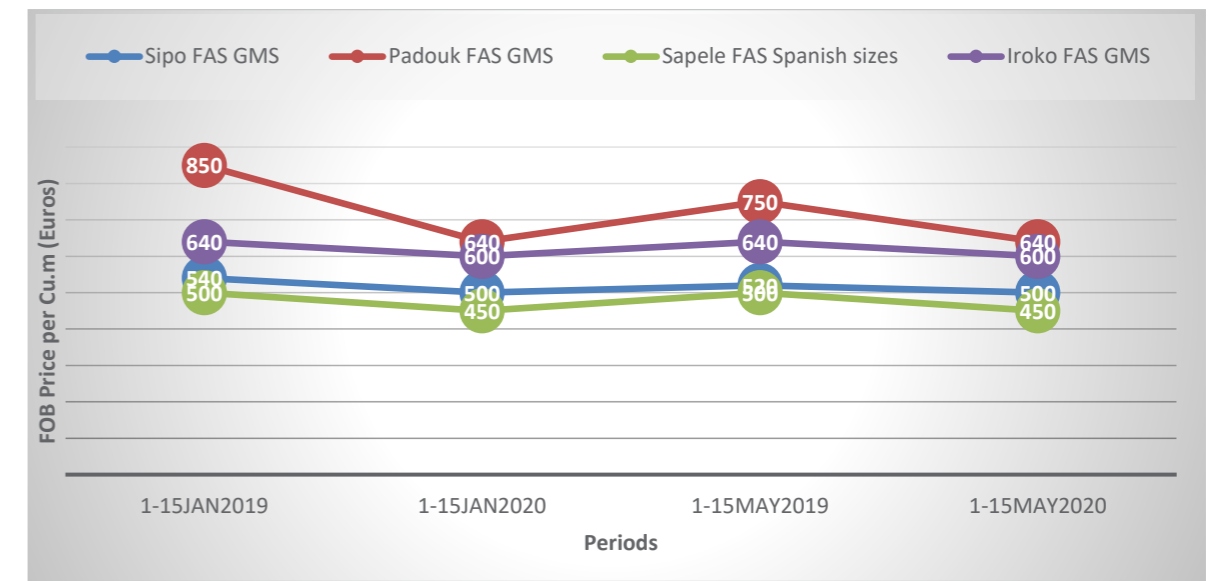
2019 but dropped to \$270/m3 in the January-May 2020 period. The price of Tali was consistently higher in 2019 at \$370/m3 than in January-May 2020 at \$300/m3 (Figure 7). This trend holds true for sawnwood prices over the same comparable periods in 2019 and 2020, depicting the direct impact of the pandemic on the value of timber products in West/Central Africa (Figure 8). Other analysts confirm the drop of price indices for grade logs of ayous-Triplochiton scleroxylon, bilanga, sapelli and iroko between January and March 2020 as compared to the same period in 2019 with similar trends for the sawnwood from ayous/obeche, okoume-Aucoumea klaineana, sapelli and iroko.⁴⁸

FIGURE 7: Comparison of 2019 and 2020 FOB prices per m³ of logs by species from West/Central Africa



⁴⁸ ITTO TTM Report: 24:8 16 –30 April 2020.

FIGURE 8: Comparison of 2019 and 2020 FOB prices per m³ of sawnwood by species from West/Central Africa For Jan-May 2019 and Jan-May 2020.



3.2.5 Impact on forest management

The three principles that guide today's concept of ecologically sustainable forest management dwell on the need to maintain the ecological processes within forests, preserve their biological diversity and obtain for the community the full range of environmental, economic and social benefits from all forest uses within ecological limits.⁴⁹ This implies that with social distancing and lockdown measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, direct and indirect impacts are expected for sustainable forest management in Africa. An understanding of these potential impacts is envisaged to help forest owners and managers to better prepare for present and future mitigation actions and resilience linked to any pandemic-associated demand

and supply shocks.

Indeed, during the coronavirus pandemic, forest biodiversity is expected to increase due to the suspension of logging that leads to deforestation and forest degradation.⁵⁰ Silvicultural practices including tree planting and tending operations are expected to halt altogether with complete lockdowns in some countries. Forest goods and services are expected to remain the same in some cases, in some cases increase and in others decrease, depending on the level of forest monitoring and supervision. Weak supervision may lead to illegal logging as shown by the Ghanaian Forestry Commission Illegal Timber Task Force that intercepted and impounded trucks loaded with illegal timber in the Oti Region.⁵¹

⁴⁹ <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/forestry/policies/rfa/about/esfm>.

⁵⁰ Richard T. Corletta, Richard B. Primack, Vincent Devictorc, Bea Maasde, Varun R. Goswami, Amanda E. Bates, Lian Pin Kohh, Tracey J. Regani, Rafael Loyolaj, Robin J. Pakeman, Graeme . Cumming, Anna Pidgeonn, David Johnso, Robin Rot. 2020. Impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on biodiversity conservation. *Biological Conservation*. 246 (2020) 108571.

⁵¹ ITTO TTM Report: 24:9 1 –15 May 2020.

Studies show that deforestation and human intervention in nature can lead to the emergence and spread of certain viral or infectious diseases throughout the world.⁵² For instance, a significant link between forest loss and fragmentation and outbreaks of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in humans has been documented in terms of possible alternance of the natural circulation of viruses and changes in the composition, abundance, behaviour and possibly viral exposure of reservoir species that might increase contact between infected animals and humans.⁵³ A recent nationwide study in the USA shows that a small increase in long-term exposure to particulate matter (PM2.5), which is a major source of pollution, leads to an 8% increase (95% confidence interval: 2%, 15%) in the COVID-19 death rate, underscoring the importance of continuing to enforce existing air pollution regulations to protect human health both during and after the COVID-19 crisis.⁵⁴ Equally, the role of forests and trees in mobbing particulate matter and other pollutants from the air in both urban and peri-urban environments cannot be

overemphasised. This suggests more than ever before the need for increasing tree cover in the pursuit of resilient and green infrastructure for better linkages between the economy, society and environment.⁵⁵ For instance, it is estimated that the restoration of 350 million hectares of degraded land between now and 2030 could generate \$9 trillion in ecosystem services and take an additional 13 to 26 gigatons of greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere.⁵⁶

Labour productivity in forest management operations is expected to be negatively affected by ill-health, absenteeism, insecurity, fear and emotional instability. Workforce availability is expected to decrease, associated with lockdowns, death, lapse of recruitment or layoff of part-time/ permanent staff and relocation. These will fragment and reduce the efficiency of logging and tree planting crews, generally bringing down production levels. For example, in Gabon, logging operations' efficiency at 70% are partly blamed on the pandemic and partly due to heavy rains.⁵⁷

⁵² Rogalski MA, Gowler CD, Shaw CL, Hufbauer RA, Duffy MA. 2017. Human drivers of ecological and evolutionary dynamics in emerging and disappearing infectious disease systems. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London, Series B* 372: 20160043.

⁵³ Jesús Olivero, John E. Fa, Miguel Á. Farfán, Ana L. Márquez, Raimundo Real, F. Javier Juste, Siv A. Leendertz, Robert Nasi. 2019. Human activities link fruit bat presence to Ebola virus disease outbreaks. *Mammal Review* 50. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mam.12173>.

⁵⁴ Xiao Wu, Rachel C. Nethery, Benjamin M. Sabath, Danielle Braun, Francesca Dominici. 2020. Exposure to air pollution and COVID-19 mortality in the United States. A nationwide cross-sectional study. *medRxiv* 2020.04.05.20054502; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.04.05.20054502> (Updated April 24, 2020).

⁵⁵ Forest Research (2010). *Benefits of green infrastructure. Report to Defra and CLG.* Forest Research, Farnham.

⁵⁶ <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/new-un-decade-ecosystem-restoration-inspire-bold-un-environment-assembly>

⁵⁷ ITTO TTM Report: 24:8 16 –30 April 2020.

3.2.6 Impacts on the performance of investors, financing and shipment operations

Private investments are expected to be negatively affected as most managers and owners of forest concessions left for their home countries during lockdown and were blocked in returning by the restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, in Liberia most of the Asian and European investors responsible for over 90% of timber produced in the country were unable to come back from holidays to commence production operations. This grounded timber production in 2020 and meant that what was exported in the first quarter of 2020 were stocks from the 2019 production season. Sawmills in Cameroon were reportedly not operating because of fewer orders and no log supply due to COVID-19 control measures that delayed processing of documents as government offices functioned without the normal staff levels. With the border between Central African Republic and Cameroon closed, producers, while still milling, could not transport products to the port in Cameroon.⁵⁸

Indeed, in Ghana, local mills outside the lockdown zones with available raw materials and orders were still in production and no employees of timber companies were laid

⁵⁸ ITTO TTM Report: 24:9 1 –15 May 2020.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

⁶⁰ ITTO TTM Report: 24:7 1 – 15 April 2020.

⁶¹ ITTO TTM Report: 24:8 16 –30 April 2020.

⁶² ITTO TTM Report: 24:9 1 –15 May 2020.

⁶³ *Ibid.*

off. Wood product shipments did not suffer any setback but arrivals at destinations in China, the EU, the US and others have suffered from delayed port clearances.⁵⁹ This suggests the importance of developing local markets to absorb timber products in the light of external shocks. The only challenge was that the production run could take a little more time to complete due to social distancing which could affect the number of shift workers at any point in time.⁶⁰ Producers were asked to hold back on exports until the opening of ports in importing countries. The main challenge for revamping the timber sector will entail looking for new orders and markets in current and emerging markets.⁶¹ In the Central African Republic, producers are unable to transport due to border closure with Cameroon.⁶² In Cameroon, shipments that have been delayed are slowly being loaded and dispatched to ports in Europe that are still operating and to China.⁶³

In DR Congo and the Republic of Congo there are slowdowns in activities with sawmills operating at half speed and more so in forest production crews with many of them remaining technically unemployed. Decreases in exports remain linked to the level of company operations during this period, especially where orders have been cancelled. In Cameroon, the ports of Douala and Kribi are setting up health checks for ships, and loading rates are therefore being

slowed down, leading to lower turnover. The port of Gabon is taking all the necessary steps to ensure the continuity of operations with measures taken for the transport of personnel for night shifts and operations continue 24 hours a day.⁶⁴ Producers in Gabon are thankful for the steady demand in the Philippines that is helping their cash flow as demand in the EU has fallen.⁶⁵ In Ghana, the volume of cargo handled by the country's two seaports, Tema and Takoradi, declined by some half a million metric tonnes in the first quarter of 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. The pandemic continues to restrict global trading activities, with a 15% fall from the 3.5 million metric tonnes recorded in the first quarter of 2019 at the Tema and Takoradi ports.⁶⁶ This downward export trend is because Asia continued to be the major market for Ghana's wood products with a 69% growth in 2019 compared to 2018, followed by Europe which recorded a 15% year-on-year increase.⁶⁷ However, it is

expected that when the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) becomes operational, intra-Africa trade could greatly expand to reduce the impacts of cross-continental pandemics.⁶⁸

With respect to forest finance, governance and investments, there is a standstill as safety measures are given priority over monitoring and reporting on forest management and operational activities in the field. For instance, in Cameroon as well as in many other countries in central Africa, the process of concession re-negotiation has been stalled as a result of this uncertainty. Many concession areas have not been taken up so are reverting to the government. Producers say production rates have fallen especially for those species and specifications for the EU market with ports, and particularly in the southern European countries that open exceptionally for essential goods and food.⁶⁹

⁶⁴ ATIBT 2020b. *Impact of COVID 19 on the wood market*. 27/03/2020. <https://www.atibt.org/en/impact-of-COVID-19-on-the-wood-market/>.

⁶⁵ ITTO TTM Report: 24:6 16 – 31 March 2020.

⁶⁶ ITTO TTM Report: 24:9 1 – 15 May 2020.

⁶⁷ ITTO TTM Report: 24:1 1 – 15 January 2020.

⁶⁸ ITTO TTM Report: 24:9 1 – 15 May 2020.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*



04

Relief Measures

In most African countries, containment measures or response strategies to address the state of health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have been established in terms of economic and social support mechanisms as well as the creation of solidarity funds to assist vulnerable communities and businesses. However, in almost all the countries, timber companies do not benefit directly from government support but indirectly from general government measures to facilitate trade such as providing advice and easing restrictions.⁷⁰ For instance, in Gabon it is reported that some 20% of local staff and 5% of experts have been laid off to meet safety, reduction of crowding and social distancing measures, but they are still receiving 50% of their basic salaries for upkeep.⁷¹ Timber companies continue to operate in Gabon with support from a team from the Ministry of Forestry that provides

travel restriction waivers for essential company operatives and management.⁷² The Ministry also provides detailed instructions on how forest-based and processing mills should be managed during the crisis, such as how to deal with workers' movements and sanitation measures to prevent the spread of the virus.⁷³

In Ghana, there are no known layoffs in the public sector, so workers are still receiving their wages and salaries, but the government has announced three-months' water and electricity reliefs for Ghanaians. The Ghanaian Government has received parliamentary approval to spend an additional GH¢1.2 billion (\$210 million) for 2020 (April to June) through the Coronavirus Alleviation Programme (CAP). The CAP aims at providing financial support or stimulus package to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in order to minimise job

losses and address the economic downturn. This is expected to be achieved by offering low interest loans to 200,000 SMEs through the National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI).⁷⁴ The government also pushed forward the payment of taxes and plans to support companies by absorbing 100% of water and 50% of electricity tariffs for the months of April to June 2020. The Ghana Association of Bankers also announced a 2% cut in interest rates on loans.⁷⁵

In the Republic of Congo, the Ministry of Finance and Budget developed and published customs, fiscal and financial measures to support businesses, including forest-based companies. Furthermore, the Government has taken strong measures in response to the pandemic, including the containment of the entire population. This was followed by decrees on the organisation of the public service and memos signed by the Minister of Forestry to regulate activities.⁷⁶

Outside Africa, the relief measures put in place by the USA, EU and other countries in Asia and Latin America are copious but not directed at the forestry sector alone. For instance, the U.S fiscal policy envisaged to maintain extremely low-interest rates

to speed the recovery, which could as well benefit the forest products industry. To shore up the economy, Congress and the White House allocated \$2.7 trillion in emergency spending, including nearly \$650 billion for the Paycheck Protection Programme concerning small businesses to keep workers employed.⁷⁷

As of mid-2020, European governments committed at least \$1.5 trillion in spending and loan guarantees in a desperate bid to protect business, workers and families from the worst of the pandemic-induced pain. National measures undertaken involved similar interventions across Europe that included a combination of direct fiscal stimulus, short-time work schemes, and guarantees and liquidity support for companies with financing problems. Eurozone member states, on average, adopted fiscal stimulus measures of some 2% of GDP and guarantee schemes of some 13% of GDP.⁷⁸ In Myanmar, the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) announced two relief measures, an interest rate reduction and extension of loan repayment schedules for many companies beyond original deadline, August 2020. Interest rates were lowered from 8.5% to 7.0% and loan periods extended up to August 2023.⁷⁹

⁷⁰ ITTO TTM Report: 24:8 16 –30 April 2020.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² ITTO TTM Report: 24:9 1 –15 May 2020.

⁷³ ITTO TTM Report: 24:8 16 –30 April 2020.

⁷⁴ ITTO TTM Report: 24:9 1 –15 May 2020.

⁷⁵ ITTO TTM Report: 24:7 1 – 15 April 2020.

⁷⁶ ATIBT 2020. Impact of COVID 19-on the wood market. <https://www.atibt.org/en/impact-of-COVID-19-on-the-wood-market/> 27.03.2020.

⁷⁷ ITTO TTM Report: 24:8 16 –30 April 2020.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

05

Conclusion and recommendations

The COVID-19 outbreak is said to have set off the first recession in the sub-Saharan Africa region in 25 years, with growth forecast at between -2.1 and -5.1% in 2020 from a modest 2.4% in 2019.⁸⁰ It is estimated that economies in sub-Saharan Africa could lose between \$37 billion and \$79 billion in output losses in 2020 due to COVID-19.⁸¹ The output losses will affect different economic sectors in varying forms and proportions. This is the case for the forestry sector for many African countries that produce and export timber to different destinations in the world. Wood products constitute essential and versatile materials for housing, construction, shipbuilding, furniture, household and sanitary paper, packaging cases, among many other applications. The multiplicity

of destinations and applications of wood products implies that the impacts of global efforts to address the COVID pandemic will directly or indirectly affect their demand and supply as well as their distributional channels. The case of China, Africa's largest single trade partner, is a vivid example, with a slowdown in Chinese demand negatively impacting African commodity exports.

This paper has highlighted some of the perceived impacts on forest management, timber production and export of forest products by African countries. The production levels, flows and prices of wood products have all been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, raising questions about economic resilience and sustainable green economies. Sanitary and health

safety measures (travel restrictions, border closures, quarantines, lockdowns) have led to a reduction in demand and difficulties in exporting primary wood products. However, due to mass panic-buying, the only finished forest product-related industry that found a surge in demand could be the sanitary papers industry that produces toilet paper, paper towels and other household paper goods. Others, such as furniture and packaging containers, saw a weaker demand compared to the same period in 2019.

Some argue that although the forest sector is traditionally seen as more resilient, the multi-faceted contribution of the sector to broader development targets shows the central role forests can play in social and economic recovery after the crisis.⁸² This may consist of sustaining jobs, avoiding deforestation and forest degradation, increasing biodiversity and making additions to national incomes alongside other social and environmental benefits.

At the national and international levels, dialogues are ongoing on the impacts of the pandemic on people and forests in terms of the response, needs and opportunities to help mitigate and address the situation in the short-term while contributing to building a more resilient and sustainable

future. Such a future is expected to address the vulnerabilities of communities to shocks, provide support responses to enterprises, provide good governance and financial measures in handling future crises as well as capitalise on the ways that the forestry sector can contribute to building sustainable and resilient societies.⁸³ It is hoped that efforts such as forest and landscape restoration can become an important recovery support measure in forestry to create jobs and raise income as well as construct a more resilient and sustainable future. Building such a future through forestry will require greater commitments by governments, regional and international development support systems and the private sector to seek viable solutions and actions. It is expected that sustainable supply chains will require: sufficient technical expertise, capacity building and know-how; fiscal and other macro-economic incentives for good business; access to finance at affordable interest rates; the availability of information and data for decision-making; stable legislation; transparency and good governance.⁸⁴ Based on this understanding, four key recommendations are offered:

African governments should conduct detailed surveys on the social and economic impact of COVID-19 on the forest wood sector companies in each African country

⁸⁰ Calderon, Cesar; Kambou, Gerard; Zebaze Djiofack, Calvin; Korman, Vijdan; Kubota, Megumi; Cantu Canales, Catalina. 2020. "Africa's Pulse, No. 21" (April), World Bank, Washington, DC. Doi: 10.1596/1978-1-4648-1568-3. License: Creative Commons Attribution CC BY 3.0 IGO.

⁸¹ ATIBT 2020. *Impact of COVID-19 on timber trade*: <https://www.atibt.org/en/impact-of-COVID-19-on-timber-trade-3/>.

⁸² FAO. 2020. *The impacts of COVID-19 on the forestry sector: How to respond?* Rome.. <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca8844en>.

⁸³ FAO. 2020. *The impacts of COVID-19 on the forestry sector: How to respond?* Rome.. <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca8844en>.

⁸⁴ ITTO 2020. *Report of the International Forum: Together Towards Global Green Supply Chains*. International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Yokohama, Japan.

and identify the difficulties of implementing health and relief measures related to the pandemic. This will help generate ideas for dialogue on how best to promote jobs, production and exports.

African governments should collaborate with the forestry sector to develop forestry safe working guidance and ensure business restart, continuity and resilience plans.

African governments and private sector businesses should recognise the need for international market diversification to reduce dependence on one specific market such as China for trade in forest products. This could be done by developing, promoting and expanding local and regional market

destinations. Diversifying supply chains to eliminate dependence on one specific country has been dubbed an “Economic Prosperity Network” of trusted partners.⁸⁵

African governments and private sector business operators should recognise and invest in modernising secondary and tertiary wood processing capacities for more value-added products and jobs creation to meet national and regional demands. With finished wood products, intra-regional trade could be promoted and enforced through the seven Technical Working Groups (TWGs) of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) that becomes operational this year. The TWGs are expected to design national action programmes for boosting intra-African trade.

Annex I

Value of primary wood products exported by 13 African ITTO producer member countries (2009-2018)

Product/ country	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total value (US\$* 1000)
Ind. roundwood	1238471	1391072	1223824	1322861	1328320	1683977	1420175	1293229	1333703	1399161	13634793
Bénin	23933	35253	86204	114922	110980	166734	72577	43160	23067	29885	706715
Cameroon	168662	248844	292870	269306	272146	308018	384959	331090	323324	367790	2967007
Central African Republic	69305	51420	67532	51104	42186	44800	49546	65623	74784	104082	620382
Congo	165321	268915	352370	326321	269286	297718	268235	229334	312558	324035	2814092
Côte d'Ivoire	52624	57794	49830	60950	152709	104059	59091	34214	10659	2301	584232
Democratic Republic of the Congo	57425	77435	110626	102396	87764	93946	67879	45320	42965	40996	726751
Gabon	553113	399272	24776	24474	13405	6449	12428	5355	15485	19119	1073875
Ghana	51157	54942	64879	117487	122326	221787	123607	186179	163725	168286	1274374
Liberia	1049	3338	23094	56795	53664	36946	45205	33746	36155	51429	341421
Madagascar	14131	46213	6852	6950	451	11916	133	37	53	69	86806
Mali	271	146	430	177	334	1826	5431	4743	31585	37032	81975
Mozambique	53528	103400	104441	151175	170778	339154	293914	296309	280550	244959	2038208
Togo	27952	44101	39922	40803	32292	50626	37169	18120	18791	9179	318954
Plywood	86147	104766	110496	164743	108719	89647	74994	66597	62253	53336	921698
Bénin	11	3	33	0	8	18	11	30	34	0	149
Cameroon	4574	4754	5572	6400	8070	7164	3969	2401	3005	3507	49416
Central African Republic	69	1	0	21	6	85	3	0	13	35	234
Congo	144	243	1147	2164	462	431	92	34	94	158	4968
Côte d'Ivoire	22939	19207	19625	19094	19867	21768	17840	22224	21305	20487	204355
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2	24	8	0	0	32	154	7	5	74	306
Gabon	42530	48497	40073	36013	42190	40798	30740	34711	27939	21466	364958
Ghana	15745	31894	43300	100820	37854	19017	18850	6787	9735	6311	290313
Liberia	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	29	90
Madagascar	0	13	35	2	0	0	3113	14	0	41	3219
Mali	0	12	19	0	19	15	14	187	1	0	266
Mozambique	3	1	423	1	2	39	4	11	1	60	546
Togo	71	117	261	227	239	279	204	190	120	1170	2878
Sawnwood	767784	886083	1175552	1152950	1182851	1258653	1263647	1185256	1230442	1392332	11495550
Bénin	3154	5742	12923	13242	25408	41525	26792	14082	18965	18907	180740
Cameroon	316323	358335	465833	476914	447804	449673	479749	484768	445785	565063	4490247
Central African Republic	35235	30513	31288	32347	33603	16179	16601	18660	10670	7630	232727
Congo	50285	52445	55983	62031	94763	108614	126420	125766	164764	119030	960099
Côte d'Ivoire	132990	147366	130519	135479	119241	131963	102885	92827	76320	70846	1140436
Democratic Republic of the Congo	40813	41252	47245	38480	45805	42173	40577	36751	21406	30613	385114
Gabon	66729	116837	231285	237705	257302	300908	366367	319795	397506	464995	2759428

⁸⁵ ITTO TTM Report: 24:10 16 – 31 May 2020.

**Value of primary wood products exported by 13 African ITTO producer member countries
(2009-2018) continued.**

Ghana	71116	80259	123220	77468	69659	74809	71946	64636	59722	72874	765711
Liberia	376	129	984	1716	1419	1374	468	348	532	831	8176
Madagascar	19980	7671	6612	6065	7100	9134	6141	3208	6016	5996	77923
Mali	223	19	1	5	108	305	0	0	1659	5	2325
Mozambique	29493	43628	65573	68964	77913	79972	24723	24263	27053	35332	476915
Togo	1068	1886	4087	2534	2726	2024	978	153	44	210	15711
Veneer	233701	274179	295675	245207	237274	234841	228601	269749	245568	277374	2542170
Bénin	17	0	538	1	0	13	0	30	0	0	599
Cameroon	45419	49532	50834	45149	36097	32173	34628	37377	43173	48134	422516
Central African Republic	44	174	272	308	231	130	326	101	12	242	1838
Congo	13093	10354	16708	13626	16335	14230	12303	13444	13417	15167	138676
Côte d'Ivoire	37464	48345	47636	47371	45041	48881	45567	74692	39351	42816	477165
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2112	347	388	925	2193	2597	2716	2731	4476	2460	20945
Gabon	94006	117272	147847	112210	109701	115127	96805	109217	117625	143769	1163578
Ghana	41109	47889	30940	25334	27177	21026	35825	31508	26809	24082	311700
Liberia	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	0	0	40
Madagascar	312	5	66	59	190	144	83	369	573	523	2323
Mali	2	0	0	1	0	246	0	0	0	1	250
Mozambique	75	76	325	103	269	242	285	280	126	179	1960
Togo	49	185	121	121	42	31	24	0	6	1	580
Grand Total (US\$*1000)	2326103	2656101	2805547	2885761	2857165	3267118	2987417	2814831	2871966	3122204	28594212



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