



ASSOCIATION SURVEYS FOR KNOWLEDGE (ASK) – CAMEROON, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO & MOZAMBIQUE

(Summary)



Prepared by GTF

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This Survey seeks to better understand the challenges faced by forest and wood-based industry and trade associations around the world. The responses from associations in Asia, Africa, Europe and South and North America will inform GTF's, and our project partners, knowledge about the skills and capabilities of associations and identify future support programmes particularly focused on priority countries.

The survey was developed in collaboration with our project partners: FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations) and WRI (World Resources Institute). The survey results are anonymised and non-attributable except at regional level.

The survey of trade associations in Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo and Mozambique was conducted in April 2018.

This survey includes interviews with 6 associations primarily working with smaller operators in Cameroon, Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Between them they work with nearly 1,600 companies of which 98% have less than 250 employees.

In general, SME across the three countries play an important role in supplying domestic demand and feeding regional markets.

The informal forest sector in **Cameroon** is dominated by micro, small and medium sized companies. In the past decade Chinese investment has changed the dynamic of the industry with traditional European export markets now challenged by exports to China and other Asian markets.

The **Democratic Republic of Congo** has gone through two turbulent decade of change in its forest sector and with major changes to its forest laws and concession system. Only around 5% of the wood harvested is exported and domestic markets are therefore important to the industry.

Mozambique is Africa's largest exporter of timber to China and this trade overshadows the industry generally. The informal sector and small and medium sized operators form the backbone of the industry.

Broadly the **constraints** of the surveyed associations are:

- i. lack of resources and technical skills to build capacity
- ii. insufficient funding
- iii. lack of knowledge of their membership
- iv. lack of tools to support their membership

The full report is available upon request. Please contact GTF at: ASK@gtf-info.com



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