



ASSOCIATION SURVEYS FOR KNOWLEDGE (ASK)

WEST AFRICA

(Summary)



Prepared by GTF

July 2018

This Survey seeks to better understand the challenges faced by forest and wood-based industry and trade associations around the world.

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 15 associations interviewed have a combined membership of in excess of 9,000 companies, ranging from micro to small and medium sized companies.

The associations typically organize meetings to discuss concerns and challenges in the industry, advocate or intercede on behalf of their members and support them to gain resources including wood supply.

About two-thirds of member organisations in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire are micro in size, engaged in primary forestry of logging and/or milling.

Timber from natural forests of individual countries (and very little plantation timber) predominate what is processed, and they are controlled by national laws by which access to timber is regulated.

The associations are weak across the three countries and need to be strengthened to advocate for and to deliver the services that meet the aspirations of their members.

Key **challenges** include:

- the need for effective and sustained training schemes to ensure that industry can comply with requirements of legality and sustainability systems
- adoption of best operational practices aimed at enhancing and sustaining business operations
- introduction of technologies to utilize all species of wood, including plantation timber
- lack of knowledge in applying appropriate marketing tools and opportunities.

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



F A O - E U F L E G T P R O G R A M M E



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



SWEDEN



This material has been funded by FAO EU-FLEGT Programme and the views expressed do not reflect the views of the European Union, Swedish government, UK government or the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

