

Why Africa's forests are important — for its people, for China, and the world

An infographic presentation
for the China-Africa Forest
Governance Learning Platform

October 2016

Author information

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About the China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform

The China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform was launched in 2013 and thus far brings together forest governance players, including heads of government forest departments, from eight African countries, representatives from the Chinese Academy of Forestry, the Global Environmental Institute, IIED, WWF and some other international organisations. By October 2016 the Platform has held three major international learning events – two in China, one in Cameroon. Participants have recognised its success to date in creating an open dialogue space for Chinese, African and the international community to come together.

The China-Africa Forest Governance project is a multi-country project that seeks to improve forest governance, by promoting sustainable and pro-poor Chinese trade and investment in Africa's forest. Through research, dialogue and joint action with partners in China, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique and Uganda, the project contributes towards improved policy and investment practice in China and Africa, in ways that foster good stewardship of forest resources and benefit local communities.

For more information visit www.iied.org/china-africa-forest-governance-project or contact: James Mayers, james.mayers@iied.org

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AFRICA'S FORESTS ARE CRITICAL FOR FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE



That's **3/4** as much carbon as in the atmosphere



Deforestation and forest degradation cause **10%** of global GHG emissions

17% of the world's forests are in Africa, covering **674 million ha**



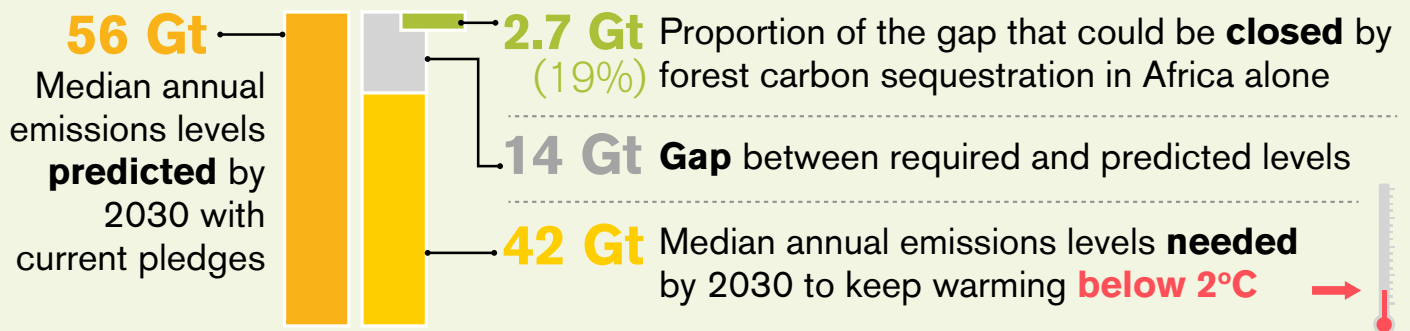
Western and Central African forests store some of the highest densities of carbon, about **120 tonnes/ha**

Africa's forests hold **20%** of the **global forest carbon stock** (about **58 Gt**)



5.5X China's 2014 emissions

How to stay below 2°C: the role for Africa's forests



Data Sources: FAO (2016) Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015. / FAO (20 March 2015) Carbon emissions from forests down by 25% between 2001-2015. Press release. / UCS (2013) Measuring the role of deforestation in global warming. / FAO (2016) African Forestry and Wildlife Commission 20th session: Forest and climate change adaptation and mitigation in Africa, FO:AFWC/2016/3.1 / FAO (2016) Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015. / UK Forestry Commission (2015) Forestry statistics 2015 - International forestry. / Olivier, JGJ et al. (2015) Trends in global CO2 emissions; 2015 report, The Hague. / FAO (2016) Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015. / UNEP (2015) The emissions gap report 2015, Nairobi.

AFRICA'S FORESTS ARE VERY IMPORTANT FOR ITS PEOPLE

Over **2/3** of Africa's **600 million** people rely on forests for their livelihoods



70%

of African households use **wood** as a primary energy source

823 million

people are expected to rely on wood energy by **2030**

Diverse forests = critical sources of livelihoods

Forests are multi-functional, **supporting livelihoods** in many ways. They...



provide **food, medicine** and **fuel**



resist **pests**



nourish **soils**



attract **insects** to **fertilize crops**



regulate **water flows**



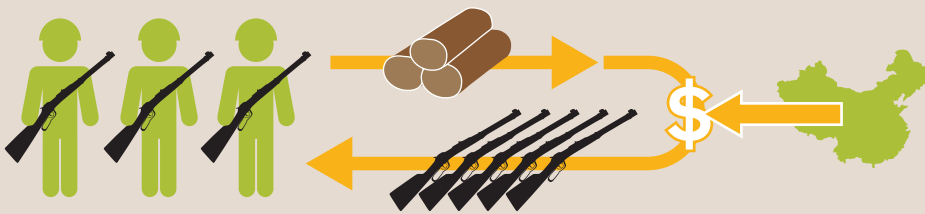
provide alternative incomes through **non-timber forest products**

AFRICA'S FORESTS ARE VERY IMPORTANT FOR ITS PEOPLE

Story: Forest Conservation Decreases Conflict

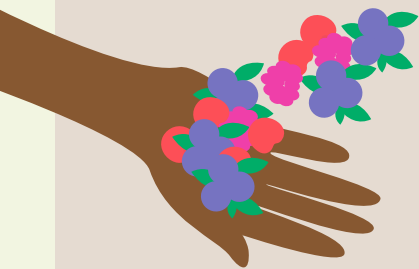


A **30-year civil war** in **Casamance**, on Senegal's southern border with **Gambia**, has turned its forests into **battlegrounds**.



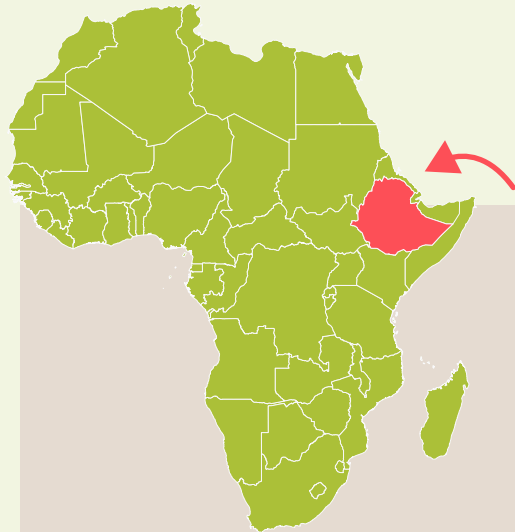
Rebels **illegally log and sell** prized hardwoods to buy arms: an illegal timber trade fueled by **demand from the world's tropical hardwood market**.

Deforestation has caused **declines in rainfall, desertification, and conflict** between rebels and communities that can no longer use the forests for sustainable livelihoods and must eke out an existence **burning trees for charcoal**.



In **Koudioubé village**, community forest restoration has helped to overcome conflict. Illegal logging has **stopped**, fruits and wildlife are **plentiful**, locals are again able to sell **forest products**, livelihoods have been **rejuvenated** – and communities that previously fought each other **now work together**.

AFRICA'S FORESTS ARE VERY IMPORTANT FOR ITS PEOPLE



Story: The Birthplace of Coffee



Wild coffee originated in the cloud rainforests of Ethiopia's Kafa Biosphere Reserve a **thousand years ago**, and it is the only place where it **still grows wild** today.

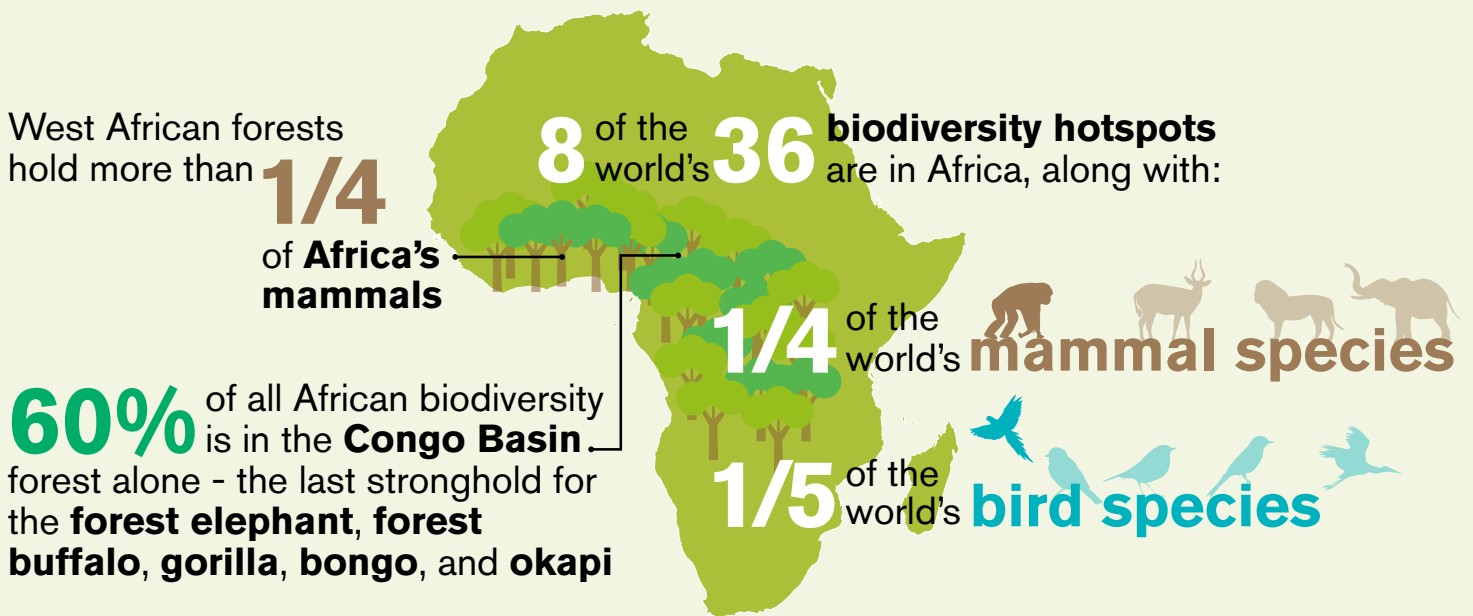
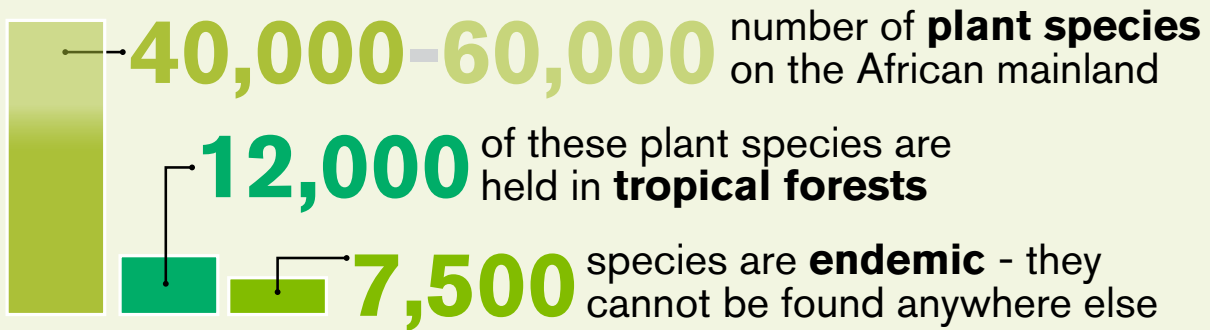


Locals rely on the ecosystems of these cloud forests for **food, fuel, housing, medicine, spices, fodder, wild honey, and of course coffee** – plus to **cool** the local climate, supply **water** to agricultural areas, and feed Ethiopia's **rivers**.



But **deforestation** is hurting the forest's ability to function. Conservation programs have helped restore the forests, improving **climate resilience, food security, and local livelihoods**.

AFRICA'S FORESTS ARE TREASURES OF BIODIVERSITY



Climate change and deforestation are serious threats

Africa could lose **30%** of its animals & plants with a **1.5°C** rise in global temperature. The risk is worse without forests as a buffer.

Deforestation threatens countless species, such as the recently discovered **forest lion**, the **mandrill**, the **chimpanzee**, and the **pygmy hippopotamus** – & several prized **species of trees**...

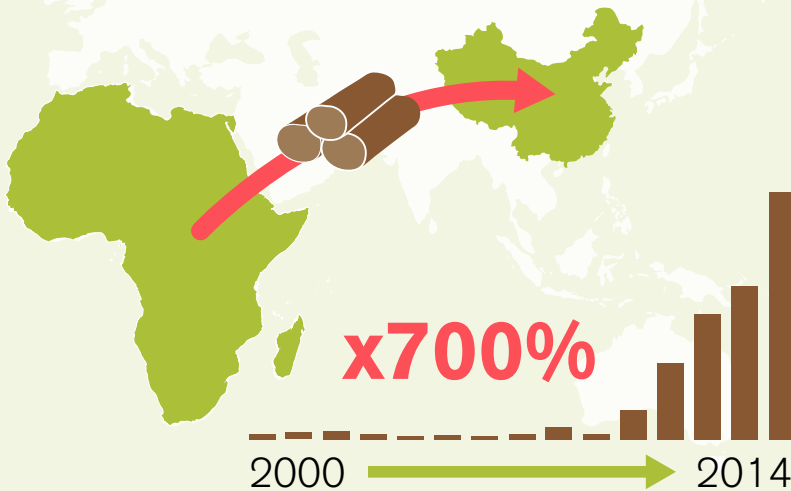


AFRICA'S FORESTS ARE VERY IMPORTANT FOR TIMBER TRADE



...Africa's forests hold woods very valuable to China, particularly **rosewood**, **teak**, and **mahogany**.








Rosewood imports from Africa have increased 700% since 2000



Rosewood (*hongmu* species) is valued as the traditional material for antique furniture and decor.

It was traditionally found in Southeast Asia, but these forests have already been depleted. If Africa is next, **what will the next source of rosewood (hongmu) be?**

There are many other African trees valuable to China and the world market...

 <p>Moabi oil, furniture</p> <p>Extinct in parts of Cameroon due to harvesting for export</p>	 <p>Mukula exceptional hardwood</p> <p>Native to Zambia. Faces extinction</p>	 <p>Afrormosia construction, furniture</p> <p>Endangered. Populations have decreased 50% in the last 3 generations</p>	 <p>Wenge drums, canes, paneling</p>	 <p>Okoume boats, guitars</p> <p>Vulnerable. Populations have decreased 20% in the last 3 generations</p>	 <p>Sapele doors, musical instruments</p>	 <p>Iroko boats, furniture</p>
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... but many are threatened or endangered by over-harvesting



Data Sources: Treanor, N (2015) China's Hongmu Consumption Boom. Forest Trends. / Breeze FM (29 September 2015) Zambia's Pterocarpus chrysothrix faces extinction. / WWF, Moabi. / WWF (2015) Country Profiles: Bolivia, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Panama, Peru, Russian Far East, Vietnam. / The Wood Database.

Scientific names for trees: Moabi/Baillonella toxisperma, Mukula/Pterocarpus chrysothrix, Okoume/Aucoumea klaineana, Sapele/Entandrophragma cylindricum, Iroko/Milicia spp./Chlorophora spp., Afrormosia/Pericopsis elata, Wenge/Millettia laurentii

HOW IS AFRICA LOSING ITS FORESTS?

Deforestation in Africa is

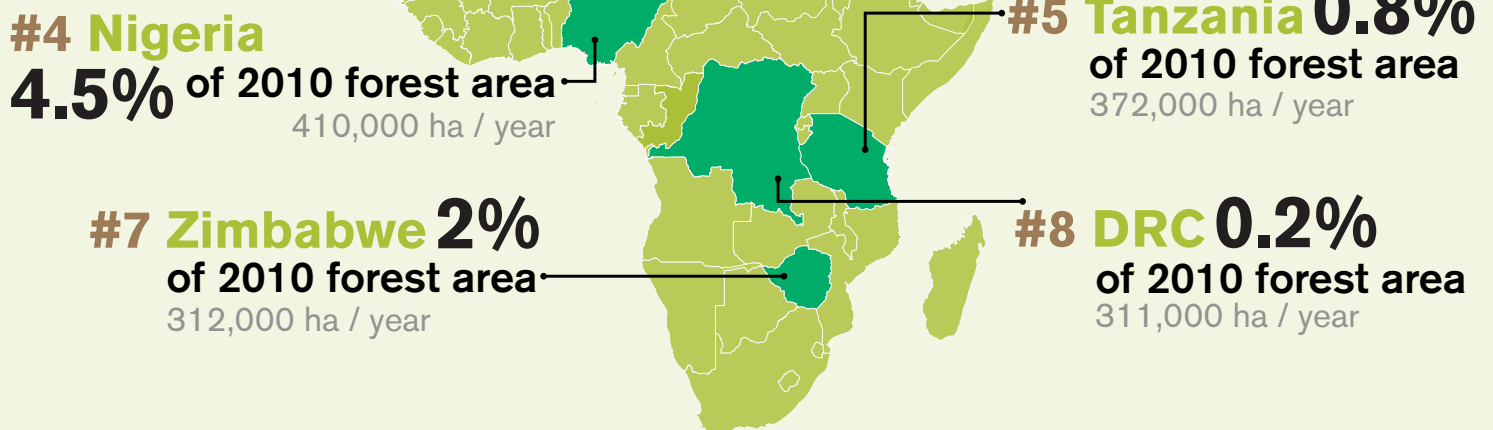


1990 to 2015

Africa **81.6** million ha of **lost forest** (2x the area of Germany)

= 11% of the 1990 forest area and **> 60%** of global decrease in forest area over this period

Of the 10 countries with the highest annual forest area reduction in the world, **4 are African:**



The **Congo Basin** and **East Africa** alone are each projected to lose **12 million ha** between 2010 and 2030. **Plantation development**, the **timber industry**, and **mining** are all growing rapidly in influence.

Causes of forest loss and/or severe degradation

primary causes



important secondary causes



less important causes



Congo Basin

East Africa



CHINA HAS MAJOR INFLUENCE ON AFRICA'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

2012:
More than **1/3**
of African
timber
imported
by China
came from
Central Africa

2013:
Mozambique
exported **~90%**
of its timber to
China.



2009:
Timber was the
3rd largest
commodity China
imported from
Africa, and **78%**
of Africa's
timber exports
went to China



In **Gabon**, Chinese
logging concessions
cover more than **50%** of the
forested area



3/4 of China's foreign
investment in **mining**
went to Africa in 2011



It grew from **\$15 billion**
to **\$155 billion** in 1 year



Out of
301 infrastructure
projects in Africa
(total value **\$375 billion** in 2015)

Chinese companies were
involved in the building of **42** (15%)
contributed to the funding of **13** (4%)
and owned **1**

FORESTRY SECTOR: WHAT CAN CHINA DO?

Irregular operations such as:

- ⊘ tax avoidance
- ⊘ illegal logging
- ⊘ obtaining permits through loopholes

} common among businesses operating in many African and other developing countries with poor governance

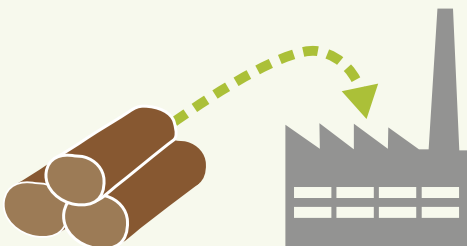
- ✗ overexploitation
- ✗ forest and biodiversity losses
- ✗ livelihood degradation

LINKED TO



Action 1: Invest in Africa's value-added timber processing industry

The growth of a **value-added timber processing industry** is closely linked to **sustainability** and **livelihoods**, but massive investment is needed in Africa. Without this, the Africa-China timber trade will continue being dominated by **raw logs**, which will continue to hinder growth of the processing industry.



Example Chinese timber enterprises in **Gabon** are involved in both harvesting and processing, and take sustainable management and local laws very seriously

China's **advanced technology & efficient processing** capacity in the timber sector



Opportunity to help Africa's timber sector **leapfrog in technology**

FORESTRY SECTOR: WHAT CAN CHINA DO?

China can:



Action 2: Promote legality through traceability, community forestry and certification



As the world's **biggest exporter** of wood products, being unable to verify supply legality could cause **market risk** due to legality laws in destination markets plus reputational impacts from social conflicts. **Enhancing traceability in Chinese supply chains as well as raw materials** feeding those supply chains will be critical in reducing market risks.

Legality should not mean excluding locals...



In some African countries, **9 out of 10** people work in the **informal sector**



in others, it is responsible for **38%** of the **national GDP**

In countries where legislation is in place, promoting **community forestry** for commercial timber integrates the informal supply chain, simultaneously addressing its **legal ambiguity** and obtaining **social license**. **Certification** can also lower the **cost of capital**, support **resilient local economies**, and ensure long-term **management quality**.



Action 3: Work with communities

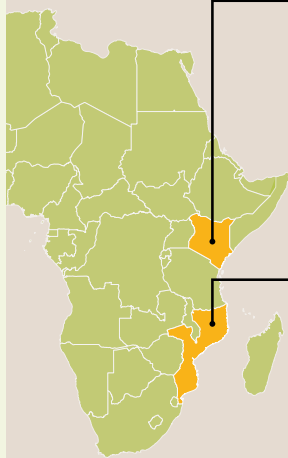
NGOs and **development organizations** usually have extensive local expertise and can facilitate community engagement and project initiation. Working with these organisations to promote legal timber also increases **social license** through improved **local livelihoods** and **poverty alleviation** – there may even be synergies with Chinese **development assistance**.

LAND-USE SECTORS: WHAT CAN BUSINESSES AND GOVERNMENTS DO?



Investment Risk: understand land tenure complexity

Rural land rights are often undocumented and customary. This often causes uncertainty of tenure and conflict – e.g. when concessions are granted without regard for customary rights. This can cause investment and reputational risk.



The **Kenyan** government has been forcibly evicting the **forest-dwelling Ogiek people** from their ancestral homeland, the **Mau Forest**, for commercial interests such as **logging** and **tea plantations**. The Ogiek are **suing** the Kenyan government for violation and denial of land rights, and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights has ordered the Kenyan government to **stop land transactions** until the case is resolved

In **Mozambique**, **Chikweti Forests** dispossessed farmers from their lands to create plantation forests – but failed to provide promised seeds for replanting, resulting in a risk of starvation for the community. The **resulting conflict** created a **major scandal** for Chikweti's **European and US investors**, and villages are **pressing for damages**

Similar conflicts appear for mining, infrastructure, agriculture & other types of investment

What can businesses, governments and NGOs do?



Conduct **due diligence** of supply chain, ensure sustainability and legality

Investor

Government

Trader

NGO



Collect comprehensive information on **land use by community members** and their **traditional rights**



Engage community members in stakeholder consultation and **respect traditional rights in land transactions and compensation**



Help communities **secure modern commercial rights** so that they can protect their resources against illegitimate land dealings



This set of infographics illustrates the importance of Africa's forests for its people, for China, and the world. It shows the vital role of Africa's forests for livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and the global timber trade. The infographics also indicate the key paths people in Africa, China and the global community should travel to help both stimulate thriving local economies and conserve Africa's forests.

IIED is a policy and action research organisation. We promote sustainable development to improve livelihoods and protect the environments on which these livelihoods are built. We specialise in linking local priorities to global challenges. IIED is based in London and works in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific, with some of the world's most vulnerable people. We work with them to strengthen their voice in the decision-making arenas that affect them — from village councils to international conventions.



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Project Materials

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