

October 2014

China-Africa Forest Governance Project

Democratic Republic of Congo
Work plan – Draft October 2014



Author information

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About the project

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China-Africa forest governance project¹

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Work Plan – Draft October 2014

SUMMARY OF THE WORK PLANNED 2014 TO 2017

(A) MAIN EMPHASIS OF THE WORK

There has been a huge increase in Chinese investment in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and many other countries in Africa. Chinese enterprises are a growing presence in various sectors, from the construction of infrastructure to the exploitation of natural resources. They are highly visible in road building, agro-industrial developments and mining operations, but harder to identify in the forestry sector as none of these Chinese investors have forest concession contracts. Partnerships with existing companies are equally low-profile, even though several Chinese operators are involved in forest exploitation in DRC. What is known is that timber exports to Asia – and China in particular – have risen sharply in recent years, making China an increasingly important economic partner for DRC.

While it is not always possible to obtain information about the nature and scope of Chinese investments in DRC, questions are increasingly asked about their environmental, social and economic impacts.

This project is an excellent opportunity to work with Chinese investors operating in DRC to improve forest governance, and to help improve cooperation between DRC and China in the cause of sustainable use of land and natural resources.

Project objectives include (1) enhancing knowledge about Chinese investments in DRC; (2) improving the practices of Chinese enterprises in order to minimise their negative environmental and social impacts in DRC; (3) strengthening the relevant policy and regulatory framework for the exploitation of natural resources in DRC.

The project will contribute to ongoing discussions on VPA /FLEGT and to the further development of forest certification in DRC, while taking account of standards developed in China that apply to Chinese enterprises operating overseas.

On the ground in DRC, the project will mainly be executed by WWF-DRC and the Réseau Ressources Naturelles (RRN). The participation of other key governmental and non-governmental actors, as well as specific private sector enterprises and associations will also be sought.

¹ This document describes a working partnership which is part of an international project managed by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). See <http://www.iied.org/china-africa-forest-governance-project> for a description of this wider project.

(B) MAIN ACTIVITIES

Output 1. Evidence

A situational analysis and further detailed research will be undertaken, documenting the involvement of Chinese investors in the forestry sector and the impacts of non-forest activities on forests, with a focus on the trade in Congolese timber to China.

Output 2. Capacity and dialogue

Here, the project will seek to improve dialogue between stakeholders in order to encourage Chinese investment in productive and resilient African land use and sustainable trade in forest products between China and Africa. The plan is to establish frameworks for dialogue bringing together practitioners and experts, and encourage exchanges between Chinese and Congolese journalists in order to improve forest governance in both China and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Output 3. Policy and investment practice.

The aim of the project is to improve Chinese investment policies and practices in DR Congo. In order to do this, it will implement activities to encourage and push Chinese enterprises, their Congolese partners and government and non-government organisations that shape investment frameworks, to adopt policies and practices that are both legal and sustainable.

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DRC Detailed Work Plan Part A: Baseline, 2015 Milestones and Targets [New Milestones to be added each year]

Project-wide Outputs	Project-wide Indicators	DRC Baseline 2014	DRC Milestones 2015	DRC Targets 2017
Output 1: Evidence on constraints and opportunities for forest resources in productive and resilient land use and trade generated and verified by relevant stakeholders in China and Africa	1.1 Detailed work plan for the project and number of country diagnostics, baselines and work plans in focal countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0 action plan 0 diagnostic report 0 baseline data Forests in post-conflict DRC, analysis of a priority agenda, CIFOR, WB and CIRAD, 2007 DRC Diagnostic trade integration study, WB, 2010 FLEGT VPA in DRC (legal versus illegal timber procedures) Road infrastructure maps DRC mining registry data agricultural concessions data Experience of the fishing industry of relevance to governance in the NRM sectors (procedure for entry or contact with the Congolese government) Ability to trace mining products taken out of the country to estimate impact of mining not recorded in the registry Possible lessons and data generated from National Programme for Forests, the Environment, Water and Biodiversity (January 2014) REM reports (2013) WWF DRC Report on what the mining industry can learn from the forestry industry WWF Uganda Report on Congolese timber exports to Uganda and elsewhere 	1.1.a Detailed work plan (this document) 1.1.b Country diagnostic / situation analysis (to be completed Q1 FY16) 1.1.c Reports on work plan implementation 1.1.d Work plan updated and detailed for 2 nd year 1.1.e. Map of the location of Chinese investments in the country (included in the diagnostic report)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Plan fully implemented
	1.2 Number of collaborative research products on: Guidelines; forest management; non-forest sector investments; timber trade; Chinese domestic market and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CIFOR study on Chinese investments in the Congo Basin Forests in post-conflict DRC, analysis of a priority agenda, CIFOR, WB and CIRAD, 2007 DRC Diagnostic trade integration study, WB, 2010 	1.2.a Written analysis of conflicts of law relevant to Chinese investment (conflicts of sector-specific legislation, within the forestry industry and across sectors) (to be completed Q1 FY16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 6 research products completed Contributions to at least 4

Project-wide Outputs	Project-wide Indicators	DRC Baseline 2014	DRC Milestones 2015	DRC Targets 2017
	policies; legal frameworks in forestry; forest enterprise guides; and lessons from other countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green carbon, black trade, UNEP, 2012 • Study on taxation in the Congo Basin, A. Karsenty. • Mining taxation (data) • Commercial court statistics on Chinese presence in the commercial sector • Taxation report – REM • CIFOR report on artisanal logging (March 2014) • (Preliminary) report on palm oil (Didier Kalala) • Preliminary report on forest monitoring by national NGOs (Jean-Marie) – 2012-2013, for publication by the end of 2014 • CIFOR – social impact of forest stewardship certification in the Congo basin (excludes DRC but possible relevant recommendations) • Timber – artisanal, logging (2012) • List of operators – DGF 	<p>1.2.b Report on the scale and practices of Chinese operators in the forest sector (involvement in artisanal logging and where identified links with the industrial logging sector) (to be completed in FY16)</p> <p>1.2.c Report on timber exports to China, and on exports by Chinese operators (to be completed Q1 FY16)</p> <p>1.2.d Report on Chinese investments in non-forestry sectors impacting on forests (to be completed Q1 FY16)</p> <p>1.2.e Database updated</p>	research products by others
	1.3 Number of sets of findings verified in the China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform, and numbers and types of stakeholders to whom research products disseminated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum on forest governance (Wolverhampton University 2011, 2013) • Forum on forests in DRC (2011) • International conference on forests in DRC, Brussels (2007) • Report from the MECNT workshop on combating illegal logging (2013) • National round table – involving stakeholders in forest certification schemes in DRC – WWF and CEFDHAC 	1.3.a Existing national and sub-national level forest governance platforms, and how the project could use them to drive momentum, identified and reported on (no Platform event in FY15).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 6 research product from DRC shared and verified by the China-Africa Platform
Output 2: Capacity and dialogue improved amongst relevant stakeholders for Chinese investment in productive and resilient	2.1 Number of practitioner teams established, with improved capacity and implemented work plans through life of project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RRN a major platform, Coalition against illegal timber, RRN/social dialogue forum dynamic has existed since 2011 (reports from stakeholder awareness workshops on forest governance, VPA and FLEGT) 	<p>2.1.a Reports from at least two practitioner team meets that present the project, and input to diagnostic study and diagnostic report.</p> <p>2.1.b Communication plan formulated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further capacity built and work plan fully implemented

Project-wide Outputs	Project-wide Indicators	DRC Baseline 2014	DRC Milestones 2015	DRC Targets 2017
African land use and sustainable forest product trade between China and Africa.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultative forum on forests – at the provincial level (Equateur, Bandundu and Orientale Province) • Establishment of the provincial consultative forum on forests (CCMF) – on forest governance and legality – CODELT • Round table on forest stewardship certification • RRN initiated a dialogue on agrarian land reform (mapping of rights) – in partnership with Rainforest Foundation UK • Conference session – current trends in the forestry industry (excluding gov.); a means of putting forward recommendations 	<p>2.1.c Reports from fora and meetings produced and circulated to stakeholders. Reports of grass-roots dialogue compiled to feed into project</p> <p>2.1.d Results of analysis of policies on management of natural resources (forest, environment, energy, agriculture, mines, etc) presented and discussed in the team for the purposes of preparing recommendations to the various forums</p>	by country team
	2.2 Number of dialogues and learning events generating increased preparedness for improved policy and investment decision making amongst key African and Chinese stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RRN a major platform, Coalition against illegal timber, RRN/social dialogue forum dynamic has existed since 2011 	<p>2.2.a At least 1 dialogue or training events organised between stakeholders and Chinese enterprises where tools in how civil society can engage with Chinese enterprises are deployed</p> <p>2.2.b Forest monitoring and support missions tailored to the context and individual situations of Chinese enterprises following training (in 2.2.a)</p> <p>2.2.c Knowledge about the China Africa Forest Governance Project and related thematic issues communicated using existing forest governance learning platforms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 6 dialogues or training events • At least 8 programmes of interaction with stakeholders
	2.3 Number of trainings on timber legality, sustainability and enterprise support in focal countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VPA FLEGT technical committee • Draft legality grid under development • COMIFAC report on VPAs in the Congo basin • Report on legality grid testing in three forest concessions, produced with support from WWF 	2.3.a Preparation made for 1 training session (to be held, with other sessions, in FY16) with Chinese enterprises on legality, traceability and sustainability in the forestry sector-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Number] Chinese enterprises aware of legality and sustainability risks and

Project-wide Outputs	Project-wide Indicators	DRC Baseline 2014	DRC Milestones 2015	DRC Targets 2017
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO report in the VPA process in Central and Western Africa 		engaged to take actions [to be developed in 2016 plan]
	2.4 Number of journalist exchanges and other work visits carried out.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with community radio stations in DRC and Congolese journalists within implemented projects • Set up a forum for exchange between Congolese and Chinese journalists and media • Use of radio, print and broadcast media • Radio phone-in shows to exchange ideas with local communities • Environmental journalists network (RCEN) 	<p>2.4.a List of journalists (at least 10)</p> <p>2.4.b At least 2 investigative reports published on the back of two trips as a result of journalist training (WWF)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 3 collaboration actions with Chinese journalists
Output 3: Policy and investment practice improvement opportunities developed, in China and Africa, and in key international processes, for Chinese support of productive and resilient African land use and sustainable forest product trade between China and Africa	3.1 Number of Chinese investors supported to adopt and monitor the implementation of codes of practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FEC • FIB • Chambers of Commerce • Sino-Congolese chamber of commerce? • List of companies 	3.1.a Business support plan initiated (completed and being implemented in 2016)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Number] Chinese companies have adopted and are implementing codes of practice [to be developed in 2016 plan]
	3.2 Number of companies supported to achieve legal verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of FIB members • List of FEC timber members • Inclusion of Chinese enterprises operating within the forestry industry in the working dynamic alongside other organisations such as FIB and FEC • Identification of Chinese enterprises for dialogue (through the Chinese Ambassador and Congolese state bodies) Engage in dialogue 	[Milestones to be defined in 2016]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Number] contributions – including delivery of tools and guidance - to 3rd party completed legality audits [to be

Project-wide Outputs	Project-wide Indicators	DRC Baseline 2014	DRC Milestones 2015	DRC Targets 2017
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three companies (SUDOFOR, CFT, Sicobois) – confidential reports on their legality • Environmental journalists network 		developed in 2016 plan]
	<p>3.3 Number of programmes of engagement to create opportunities for change in particular policy and investment decision processes in focal countries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OHADA plan • Inter-industry, domains, inter-industry impact • Corporation Programme • Social and economic committee • Human rights committee • SADC (aims) • CEAC (aims) • Equateur province – The Chair of the Provincial Consultative Forum on Forests is from the SC. 	[Milestones to be defined in 2016]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Number] programmes of engagement amongst Congolese and Chinese government agencies and companies which have contributed to improvement in policy and investment decisions [to be developed in 2016 plan]

DRC Detailed Work Plan Part B: Activities, Actors and Timeframe [To be updated each year]

Project-wide indicators	DRC activities	Lead Responsibility	Partners / Collaborators	FY15				FY16				FY17			
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1.1	1.1.1 Develop first draft of the work plan	WWF	RRN, IIED												
	1.1.2 Map key contacts and information sources, published and unpublished information and ongoing initiatives.	WWF	RRN												
	1.1.3 Convert generic terms of reference for the country diagnostic provided by IIED into country-specific ToRs for DRC, decide who will conduct diagnostic study and conduct the study	WWF	RRN												
	1.1.4 Finalise detailed second draft work plan	WWF	RRN, IIED												
1.2	1.2.1 Identify conflicts of law (between different sectors and within the forestry sector) that affect the forestry sector and are relevant to Chinese investment, and produce a written analysis.	WWF	RRN												
	1.2.2. Collect information, analyse and report on Congolese timber exports to China and other markets by Chinese and non-Chinese operators	WWF	GEI												
	1.2.3 Analyse and report on Chinese investments in non-forestry sectors (agribusiness, mines, infrastructure, energy, etc) that impact on the forestry sector, including identification of overlapping operating licences and investments that result directly in forest harvesting	WWF	RRN												
	1.2.4 Undertake study on forest taxation of relevance to Chinese investment, taking into account existing studies by Alain Karsenty and others, and of the FIB study on the list of taxes in the forestry sector (2012)	IIED	WWF, RRN												

Project-wide indicators	DRC activities	Lead Responsibility	Partners / Collaborators	FY15				FY16				FY17			
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	1.2.5 Update the WWF database on forest use, building on existing data on Chinese investment in the forestry sector	WWF													
	1.2.6 Study, analyse, and produce a report on, the scale and practices of Chinese operators in the forestry sector in DRC, including forestry and trading operations, in relation to practices in the forestry sector as a whole. Include assessment of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The involvement of Chinese and Congolese operators in artisanal exploitation and trade with China • Concessionaires switching to artisanal exploitation due to the moratorium, development requirements and corruption, and their links to trade with China • Degree of legal compliance of operations • Possible improvements and ways of supporting them 	WWF, RRN	IIED, Consultant												
1.3	1.3.1 Participate in and contribute, with findings from the above analyses, to the annual China-Africa Platform events (first one possibly in Cameroon in Q1 FY 2016)	RRN	WWF												
2.1	2.1.1 Establish and develop the practitioner team for this project. Include development of a communication strategy to complement this work plan.	RRN	WWF												
2.2	2.2.1 Develop tools and strengthen the capacities of civil society organisations in approaches to working with Chinese enterprises (led by WWF, based on experience of independent forest monitoring in the forestry sector by national NGOs)	WWF	IIED, Consultant												

Project-wide indicators	DRC activities	Lead Responsibility	Partners / Collaborators	FY15				FY16				FY17			
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	supported by WWF and supported by those with Chinese knowledge)														
	2.2.2 Strengthen the capacities of forest monitors in contextualised approaches to forest monitoring	WWF													
	2.2.3 Contribute to annual China-Africa Platform event and regional thematic learning activities and share research evidence with Chinese and international stakeholders	RRN	WWF												
	2.2.4 Organise an annual forum on the political framework and management of natural resources and trade between China and Africa	RRN	WWF												
	2.2.5 Set up a national-level forest governance learning group in DRC working with existing groups	RRN	WWF												
2.3	2.3.1 Prepare legality grid for DRC with reference to those of Cameroon, Congo and Ghana, prepare and conduct training on legality, traceability and sustainability, and on the Chinese Guidelines (based on the assessment gap under 1.1 and 1.2)	WWF with Consultant and IIED	RRN												
2.4	2.4.1 Facilitate exchanges between journalists from DRC and China with the guidance of IIED	RRN	IIED, GEI, WWF												
	2.4.2 Set up a core group of investigative journalists in DRC and support them through two exchange visits (including during preparation of the diagnostic report; and training of RCEN on good practices when reporting on Chinese investments)	RRN	WWF, GEI, IIED												

Project-wide indicators	DRC activities	Lead Responsibility	Partners / Collaborators	FY15				FY16				FY17				
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
3.1	3.1.1 On the basis of activities 2.3, continue to support Chinese enterprises towards adoption and adherence of a code of good practice	WWF	IIED, Consultant													
3.2	3.2.1 Support independent verification of the legality and/or sustainability of enterprises (OLB/FSC/Chinese verification system, etc.)	WWF	IIED, Consultant													
3.3	3.3.1 Create opportunities to change, in particular, decision-making processes and inter-ministerial dialogues to do with policy and investment in the countries concerned	RRN	WWF													



Project Materials

Forests, natural resource management

Keywords:

China, Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), forest governance, China-Africa Forest Governance Platform



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