



Project Profile

China-Africa forest governance project

Evidence, capacity and joint action for improved Chinese investment in Africa's forests

Countries: China, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique and Uganda

Budget: £3.6million from UKaid's Forest Governance, Markets and Climate Programme

Timeframe: 1st June 2014 to 31st May 2017

Project Summary: China's investment and trade in Africa's natural resource sectors have significant implications for Africa's forests. Many investments are in forested or woodland areas, some directly engage in logging and others, such as mining, infrastructure and agribusiness, use timber and affect forests. In the forestry sector, China has become a major export destination for timber-rich African countries in the Congo Basin and in Southern and Eastern Africa. By one estimate, 75% of Africa's timber exports are destined for China. Despite the significance of the trade, there is a shortage of information about the impacts. There is also a lack of dialogue between Chinese and African stakeholders to address emerging critical issues such as sustainable investments, illegal logging and rural livelihoods. IIED's project will build on a China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform, launched in 2013, in three main ways:

1. **Generating evidence.** Despite the growth and significance of Chinese forest-related investments in Africa, many Africans feel they lack information about the scale and dynamics of these investments in their countries. With in-country partners, we aim to generate reliable knowledge about the current status and trends of China-linked investments in the forests of the four African countries, and on the key issues that arise from them.
2. **Strengthening capacity and dialogue.** Without good dialogue in, and between, China and Africa it is difficult to assess and make progress beyond international media coverage which tends to focus on negative environmental and social outcomes of Chinese investments. We aim to build capacity amongst stakeholders for Chinese investment in resilient African land use and a sustainable forest product trade, through dialogues, journalist exchanges and training.
3. **Improving policy and investment practice.** We aim to create opportunities in China and Africa, and in key international processes, for better:
 - Adoption and monitoring of implementation of codes of practice by Chinese investors
 - Support to companies for achieving verification of good legal practice
 - Engagement to change particular policies and investment and organisational practices in support of resilient African land use and a sustainable China-Africa forest products trade

Lead partners with IIED in each of the project countries, and internationally, are as follows:

China	Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information at the Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF), and the Global Environmental Institute (GEI)
Cameroon	Centre for Environment and Development (CED)
Democratic Republic of Congo	Reseaux Ressources Naturelles (RRN)
Mozambique	Terra Firma
Uganda	Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE)
International	World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

Website: <http://www.iied.org/china-africa-forest-governance-project>

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