

China-Africa Cooperation on Forest Resource Management

GEI Investment, Trade and Environment

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Cameroon, Congo (DRC), Mozambique, Uganda; Africa

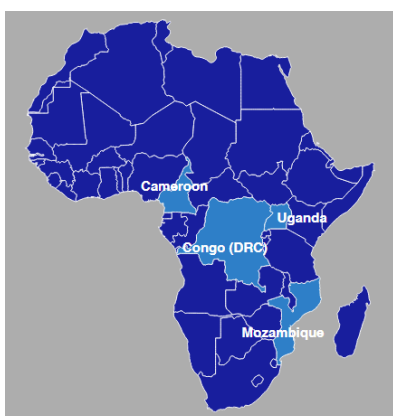


GEI project officers with local partners visit the National Forest Park in Cameroon after the Dialogue – 2015 GEI

An estimated 75% of Africa's timber is exported to China but issues like sustainable investing, illegal logging and rural livelihoods have yet to be addressed by either country

To open stakeholder dialogues, in 2014, GEI began cooperating with local partners on the '**China-Africa Cooperation for Forest Resource Management**' project.

This project focuses on China's timber activity in Cameroon, Congo (DRC), Uganda and Mozambique, each of which have large-scale Chinese investment as well as external conditions, (political, economic, societal, etc.) that may hinder sustainable China-Africa cooperation.



The 4 African nations in GEI's Report

In 2015, GEI worked in the diplomatic and public spheres to raise awareness of China-Africa cooperation and to help achieve optimal forest resource management and investment cooperation.

DIPLOMACY: In June 2015, GEI held and participated in the 2nd session of the "**China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform**" in Cameroon. This high-level meeting joined 100+ representatives from the Chinese government, research institutions and NGOs with Forestry Ministers from Cameroon, Congo (DRC), Uganda, Mozambique, Madagascar, Gabon and other African countries.

At the meeting, GEI shared its report on Africa's public forestry customs and trade data; China-Africa import- export wood origin data; and commodity trade structure and trends. **Our main finding is the significant discrepancy between Chinese and African Customs data**; which we will continue monitoring in 2016.

MEDIA: GEI discovered that many media reports on China-Africa timber issues were imprecise and gave inaccurate representation of forestry issues. In fact, GEI reported that deforestation in Africa was caused by rural household activities like firewood collection – as such, large industries had yet to have serious impacts on Africa's forests.

To enhance understanding of the China-Africa trade and generate a long-term focus on China's overseas investment in Africa, **GEI invited Chinese senior reporters to Africa to gain a first-hand in-depth exposure to the field.**

After the trip, two separate articles on China-Africa trade were published: "Here comes China's Gold Rush" in *Phoenix Weekly* and "The Congo (DRC) Election Hurts Chinese Businesses" in *South Reviews*. A second stage of this project with new reporters will occur in 2016. Since Africa's industry is growing, GEI believes monitoring industry activity will be increasingly crucial.