

# RACEWOOD plenary contribution and side event on technologies for combating illegal logging and associated trade in Central Africa

## TRIP REPORT



*The opening of the plenary session. Photo courtesy ATIBT.*

**RACEWOOD Fourth Meeting**  
**September 29-30**  
**Pointe Noire, Republic of Congo**



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## Summary

- USAID, USFS, and WRI collaborated with Interafrican Forest Industries Association on this year's RACEWOOD trade fair in Pointe Noire, Congo in September 2011.
- Worked with the U.S. Department of State and with private sector partners including the European Timber Trade Federation, International Wood Products Association, Double Helix Tracking Technologies, and Helveta Ltd.
- Plenary session to approximately 400 attendees focused on U.S. Lacey Act and similar demand-side legality policies, with discussion of forest legality as a U.S. foreign policy goal and the interest of U.S. private sector in increasing volume of timber trade with Central Africa.
- Technical workshops to approximately 60 attendees discussed the Lacey Act and European Timber Regulation in greater detail and profiled new and emerging technologies (smart barcodes, DNA tracking, stable isotope analysis, GIS-based forest management systems) to improve transparency and legality in the forest sector.
- A white paper on the applications of these technologies in the Central African context, informed by the workshop outcomes, is forthcoming.

## Introduction

The U.S. Forest Service International Program, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Department of State, the Forest Legality Alliance, and the World Resources Institute collaborated with the Interafrican Forest Industries Association (IFIA) and the Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux (ATIBT) to present information related to the U.S. Lacey Act, the European Timber Regulation, and technologies to promote the trade of legal timber originating in the Congo Basin at the annual RACEWOOD trade fair in September 2011. The fair and conference was held at the Hôtel Elaïs in Pointe Noire on September 29 and 30, 2011 (see Appendix 1 for full RACEWOOD agenda).

RACEWOOD is the largest and best-known event for manufacturers and exporters of forest products from Francophone Central Africa. The World Resources Institute, under the auspices of the Forest Legality Alliance, attended the event last year and found it a useful convening opportunity for major timber producers, African non-governmental organizations working to ensure community rights and sustainable development, and government ministers from around the Central and West African region. In 2011, the Forest Legality Alliance (FLA) and U.S. Forest Service International Programs (USFS), using resources provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), began in the early spring to discuss the potential to speak at the event about the timber market in the United States and to convene a more focused group to discuss policies and technologies related to legal trade.

While the United States is the world's largest importer of forest products, only a small proportion of those imports originate in the natural forests of the Congo Basin. The majority of exports go to Europe, and increasingly to Asia and the Middle East, where the products of many Central African species are prized for their beauty and quality. With the advent of new demand-side forest legality policies, including the U.S. Lacey Act as well as the European Timber Regulation, importers in sensitive markets are increasingly concerned about how to demonstrate the validity of documents that accompany shipments of wood products, how to verify the true identity of the species they are buying, and how to ensure that the products were harvested, manufactured, and transported in accordance with all relevant laws.

## Objectives

Promote good governance and legality in the forest sector through a regional exchange highlighting technologies and systems that specifically relate to efforts to improve due diligence for legality.

## Methods and Results

The FLA and USFS began working with IFIA to discuss how a U.S. delegation might fit into IFIA's goals for the conference and determined that two sessions, including a discussion of the U.S. Lacey Act during the convention's plenary session and a structured workshop presented as a side event, would comprise a valuable contribution to the discussion (see Appendix 2 for the overarching concept note orienting USFS and FLA's approach). IFIA's membership of African producers was particularly interested to hear about ways in which they could improve market share in the United States, including not only issues related to product legality, but also market-specific concerns such as wood quality and dimensions and the cleanliness of containers shipped into U.S. ports. The USFS was particularly interested to discuss emerging and developing technologies that can be

used to provide additional assurance through forest product supply chains, and ways in which these technologies could be deployed to increase consumer confidence in the identification and legality of purchased products.

Working with the Industry Advisory Group and the general membership of the Forest Legality Alliance, FLA and USFS staff identified a number of potential private-sector partners who could help achieve those goals. Ultimately, the delegation to RACEWOOD was joined by representatives of the International Wood Products Association and the European Timber Trade Federation, both associations whose members include importers of forest products into the United States and the European Union, respectively. Helveta, a UK-provider of supply chain management technology that has worked extensively in Central and West Africa, and Double Helix Tracking Technologies, a Singapore-based firm that specializes in applying advances in DNA technology for use in conservation and supply chain security, also accompanied the delegation to present the potential applications of various technologies along the supply chain. Researchers from the World Resources Institute’s Forest Transparency Initiative, a USAID-funded project that works to map and disseminate information about forestry issues and concessions in Central Africa, also presented at the technical session.

According to the organizers, nearly 400 people attended RACEWOOD (a full list of those participants who had pre-registered for the conference is attached as Appendix 3). These attendees primarily represented private-sector companies, industry associations, technical service providers, logistics and shipping specialists, and international non-governmental organizations based in Francophone Central Africa and in Europe. The plenary sessions, in particular, were also attended by a large contingent of government ministers responsible for natural resources, trade, and development portfolios in the Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Cameroon, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda, and Burundi. As a consequence, the plenary session was an excellent opportunity to engage in outreach about legality requirements with a high-level government audience in exporting countries that would generally like to increase the volume of timber they trade to the United States.

The U.S. delegation’s portion of the plenary session on Friday, September 30 lasted one hour. The speakers are listed below:

**Table 1. Speakers from U.S. Delegation, Plenary Session**

Name	Affiliation
Shelley Gardner	U.S. Forest Service International Program
DeMark Schulze	U.S. Embassy, Brazzaville
Adam Grant	World Resources Institute/Forest Legality Alliance
Martín de la Serna	Helveta Ltd.
Brent McClendon	International Wood Products Association

Adam Grant of WRI introduced the panel of speakers and gave a brief overview of the purpose and structure of the plenary session before ceding the floor to Shelley Gardner and DeMark Schulze.

Gardner and Schulze gave a joint presentation on the specifications of the U.S. Lacey Act as amended in 2008 and its role in the larger context of U.S. efforts to improve forest governance, conserve biodiversity, and strengthen legal trade links with partners around the world. Gardner of USFS described the genesis of the Act's amendments, explained their provisions in the context of how exporters could comply, and discussed the role of the Lacey Act in providing market support to help U.S. trading partners enforce their own laws. Schulze, based in Brazzaville with the Department of State, placed the problem of illegal logging in context as a foreign policy priority for the United States. He described its role in undermining governance and the collection of legitimate government revenue, as well as its links with other types of serious transnational crime.

The vast majority of outreach on demand-side legality policies in Africa has been conducted by or on behalf of European organizations, largely in the context of voluntary partnership agreement (VPA) negotiations or the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance, and Trade (FLEGT) program. Partly because of this relative lack of U.S. outreach in the region, the presence of USG representatives was particularly important at RACEWOOD. High-ranking Central African ministerial officials at the meeting, who were numerous, appeared to appreciate hearing about the American interest and role in the issue directly from U.S. officials.



*A partial view of attendees at the opening plenary session. Photo courtesy ATIBT.*

Following the overview of the Lacey Act and the U.S. view of demand-side policies provided by the government representatives, Brent McClendon of the International Wood Products Association described the views of the members of his organization. IWPA represents primarily small businesses that participate in the trade of internationally sourced forest products into and out of the United States. McClendon discussed how his organization had originally opposed the Lacey Act amendments of 2008, but was determined to work within its boundaries to address implementation issues. Traders in wood products, he explained, understand that the supply of valuable and rare woods, such as those found in Central Africa, cannot be guaranteed into the future unless serious efforts are made to support the demand for, and trade of, legal products. He added that American companies such as those he represents are eager to increase the volume of their trade with the countries of the Congo Basin, but now must have additional reassurance from suppliers that the products they buy are truly legal.

Martín de la Serna of Helveta finished the plenary session with a brief introduction to various timber tracking and identification methods that can be used to improve transparency in forest product supply chains. While Helveta is primarily a provider of smart barcode technologies that accompany paper-based chain of custody

systems, de la Serna also introduced the emerging use of DNA and isotope analysis to examine and verify the species and origin of various timber products.

The plenary session ended with a brief question-and-answer period. Unfortunately, as the conference had been delayed at the morning start, there was limited time for discussion. Adam Grant wrapped up the plenary session by advertising the technical workshop session to be held later in the day, and agendas for the later meeting were distributed in French and English to plenary session attendees.

The afternoon technical session and workshop was also significantly delayed, due to circumstances beyond the control of the delegation. Roughly fifty people, including representatives of major timber harvest and processing companies, local non-governmental organizations, and international institutions, attended the technical session. The agenda for this session is attached as Appendix 4.

**Table 2. Speakers from U.S. delegation, technical session workshop**

Name	Affiliation
Caitlin Clarke	World Resources Institute/Forest Legality Alliance
Alan McIlvain	McIlvain Lumber/International Wood Products Association
Rachel Butler	European Timber Trade Federation
Martín de la Serna	Helveta Ltd.
Matthew Steil	World Resources Institute
Roger Mambeta	World Resources Institute
Darren Thomas	Double Helix Tracking Technologies

Caitlin Clarke of WRI introduced the session by briefly outlining the requirements set out for supply chain actors by the U.S. Lacey Act and the EU Timber Regulation. This included a short overview of the background and perceived need for demand-side forest product legality policies and a comparison of the U.S. and European systems.

Alan McIlvain, the currently serving elected president of the International Wood Products Association and the president of the Alan McIlvain Company, which is a dealer of hardwood lumber and custom moldings, discussed the Lacey Act from the perspective of his company’s operations. McIlvain stressed that many importers in the United States have been working with particular suppliers for years and have longstanding relationships, but that new legality requirements mean that buyers need additional reassurance from suppliers that forest products have been legally produced. He also spoke at some length about other issues that are currently preventing Central African timber products from establishing a larger market share in the United States, principally concerning soil contamination in containers shipped from the region.

Rachel Butler, currently at the European Timber Trade Federation, represents a federation of timber trade associations from European Union member states. She stressed that although the EU Timber Regulation requires a standard of “due diligence” while the U.S. Lacey Act mentions one of “due care,” that for suppliers these two terms require basically the same information: scientific species name, country of harvest, volume, and value. Consequently, exporters who were confident in their ability to supply one market should have relatively

few problems supplying the other. She pointed out that many of the African timber supplying nations, due to the multi-year legal review processes and stakeholder engagement sessions undertaken under the auspices of the Voluntary Partnership Agreements with the European Union, are in a good position to supply legality-sensitive, high-value markets.

A short question-and-answer session followed. Delegates from the European Commission clarified the differences between “due care” and “due diligence” from the perspective of the European legal system, and pointed out that the Timber Regulation still must be implemented by each of the 27 member states of the European Union, unlike the U.S. Lacey Act and other federal laws in the United States. Another questioner brought up the question of “leakage” caused by demand-side policies such as the Lacey Act and the Timber Regulation, and suggested that it was possible that African countries would sell directly to less sensitive markets, such as China. He pointed out that the Chinese wood processing and manufacturing industry was particularly opaque, and that even legal wood products that went to such processors could be mixed in with illegally obtained wood and sold fraudulently to markets in the EU and the U.S.

Leakage to China is a concern, but this problem can be substantially addressed by the use of new technologies that track timber products through the entire supply chain. The development, deployment, and potential applications of such technologies were the focus of the second panel.

Clarke again briefly introduced the panelists and described the interest of the World Resources Institute and other institutions, including the U.S. Forest Service, in understanding and making use of the value of these technologies to address the problem of illegal logging and associated trade. She announced the forthcoming white paper on technology applications in the Central African context, commissioned by the U.S. Forest Service, and made draft copies in English and French available for comment to the audience.



*The exhibition tents in the courtyard of the Hotel Elais. Photo: World Resources Institute.*

Martín de la Serna of UK-based Helveta gave the first technical presentation, concerning timber tracking through supply chains using smart barcodes and other physical attachments to the harvested trees. He discussed Helveta’s experiences in Central and West Africa, presenting Helveta’s barcode and similar “smart” barcode systems as proven technologies that are already in relatively wide distribution in many of the Central and West



African countries. Barcode systems are best used as a complement to traditional paper-based chain of custody systems within supply chains that are already relatively well understood and well managed.

The Helveta presentation was followed by that of Darren Thomas from Double Helix Tracking Technologies, an applied genetics firm based in Singapore. Thomas discussed the applications of wood anatomy, stable isotope analysis and DNA science to verify claims of origin, species and other supply chain documentation. Wood anatomical analysis is useful for the identification of wood samples down to genus and sometimes species level. Stable isotope analysis can be used to identify the geographic origin of wood products, based on naturally occurring chemicals absorbed by the tree during its growth. DNA science is based on analysing the unique genetic profiles of trees and their resulting wood products. DNA is inherent in wood, cannot be tampered with and is consistent at all stages of processing. Based on this approach, three applications were presented:

DNA 'fingerprinting' uses methods similar to those established in human paternity testing. It is used to verify that a particular log or timber product came from a designated tree. This approach is used to verify existing paper-based Chain-of-Custody documentation and is useful to identify and deter fraud in certified supply chains. Another approach, DNA 'barcoding' can be used to identify species of wood products with applications for CITES enforcement and other cases where species may be misdeclared. Through DNA 'population analysis' it is possible to determine with fair accuracy the location of harvest of unknown or suspicious timber samples.

DNA methods are well established and DNA fingerprinting is already in commercial use. The genetic data needed to enable species identification and population analysis is being generated through several international collaborative projects. In particular Thomas spoke about a new ITTO-funded project in collaboration with the von Thünen-Institut in Germany, which will work with a number of local partners in Africa to demonstrate the applications of both DNA and isotope work in the Congo Basin. The project's goals include a working timber tracking system, using both DNA and isotope analysis, for five commercially important African timber species, along with reference databases for the species in question.

Finally, Roger Mambeta and Matt Steil of the World Resources Institute spoke about their innovative mapping work in Central Africa and its contributions to improving transparency in the sector. WRI's Central Africa work is split into two projects: interactive forest atlases for the countries of the Congo Basin; and the Forest Transparency Initiative. The atlases are designed primarily for government users, and comprise the first publicly available maps of forest concessions in the region. They are intended to assist in sustainable land-use planning by making decision makers aware of land use conflicts (for example, reducing instances where logging and mining concessions are granted to two different companies on the same land).

The Forest Transparency Initiative works to make relevant, credible and up-to-date information on logging, wood processing and timber trading companies operating in Central Africa publicly available through a one-stop shop website. Steil and Mambeta demonstrated the types of information available to stakeholders from government, civil society, and private sector users and stakeholders in Cameroon, Congo, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Gabon. The maps and data are intended to aid in the understanding of the legal responsibilities of operators in the region. They also help to recognize companies operating legally and according to recognized social and environmental norms, by offering all actors a verified means to communicate the nature and specific content of their operations.

The following question and answer session focused primarily on the potential of technologies such as DNA and stable isotopes, which are attractive to many end users because they can easily be integrated into existing chain of custody systems and industry initiatives or used independently to scientifically verify legality anywhere along the supply chain. Because DNA and stable isotopes are inherent to the wood and cannot be falsified, they are much less vulnerable to tampering and governance failure than existing methods of verification. Although these systems have been piloted in south-east Asia and in tropical South America, many questions concerned the commercial viability of these newer, scientifically based verification and tracking systems, including the cost. Thomas responded by describing the new ITTO project that will focus on Central African timbers and forests, helping to demonstrate viability in the region, and said that costs will decrease as interest increases in these methods. The overall tone of the response was very positive, as these methods do offer a means of resolving the problems of leakage and opacity that currently make supply chains difficult to understand.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

Both the plenary session panel and side event resulted in a tremendous amount of interest, questions, and discussion around technologies for combating illegal logging and associated trade and the application of these technologies in the context of both the US Lacey Act and EU Timber Regulation. Understanding what these technologies can offer seemed to bring real hope to resolving many issues that currently make supply chains extremely difficult to understand and manage. Understanding and managing supply chains using existing common sense practices are often explained as overwhelming, intangible, frustrating, and impossible. Technologies like DNA science and stable isotope analysis offer a tangible way to reduce exposure to risk by scientifically verifying legality as part of a timber tracking system or at any place along the supply chain.

It was, however, apparent that even with this overwhelmingly positive response, interest, and discussion, there is still a need for greater understanding of the technologies themselves and how to go about applying them for both compliance and enforcement purposes. More outreach is needed to increase this understanding and in order for technologies to be more widely incorporated into current practices as well as to increase the interest in and support for research and development in this area. More research is needed in order to develop the global databases that are necessary to make the widespread use of these technologies commercially feasible.

A white paper on the applications of these technologies in the Central African context, informed by the workshop outcomes, is forthcoming and among other items will address:

- gaps and opportunities
- identification of specific steps needed to promote wider adaptation of promising systems and technologies
- identification of specific areas where capacity building and technical assistance are needed

## Appendix 1. RACEWOOD full agenda



*This event is organized by IFIA with the Republic of the Congo, ITTO and FAO support.  
Donors: PROINVEST European Commission program for ACP countries support.  
Cofunding: Republic of the Congo, ITTO, NFP and ACP/FLEGT FAO programs, EFI, USFS*

### **RACEWOOD AGENDA, Pointe Noire, Congo Republic 29th- 30th September 2011 Elaïs Hotel Boulevard Charles De Gaulle**

August 2011, the 30<sup>th</sup>

**This agenda may be changed by the organizers**

#### **Tuesday, 27 September 2011**

Pre-registration to the event

#### **Wednesday, 28 September 2011**

Pre-registration to the event  
ATIBT General Assembly followed by a cocktail

#### **Thursday, 29 September 2011**

08:00-08:45	Reception, registration and badges to be given to the participants Welcome, coffee will be served
08:45-09:00	<b>Welcome speech by the Mayor of Pointe Noire</b>
09:00-10:30	<b>Opening ceremony - Commentator Guy Barthélemy Moussoki</b>
09:00-09:15	<b>Ralph Ridder</b> President, Interafrican Forest Industries Association (IFIA)
09:15-09:30	<b>Marcel van Opstal</b> Ambassador, European Union
09:30-09:45	<b>Representative</b> FAO
09:45-10:00	<b>Emmanuel Ze Meka</b> Executive Director of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)
10:00-10:15	<b>His Excellency Henri Djombo</b> Minister of Forest Economy
10:15-10:30	Toward a national program for wood house construction <b>Alain Marius Ngoya Kessy, Director of forest resources valorization</b>
10:30-12:30	<b>Move and visit of the wooden house exhibition opposite the Palm Beach Hotel (Wild Coast Beach)</b>
12:30-14:30	<b>Lunch</b>



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14:30-16:00	<b>First plenary session : Financing the processing of African</b> Moderatos : <b>Donatien N'Zala (GDWF) and Hervé Bourguignon (Moringa Fund)</b>
14:30-14:50	Key note speech: Spuring local timber processing <b>World Bank</b>
14:50-15:10	Local and regional markets : Case of South America <b>Manuel Sobral, Consultant</b>
15:10-16:00	The White Book on timber processing, local and regional markets development in Congo basin <b>Ralph Ridder, IFIA</b> <b>Olman Serrano, FAO – National Forest Programme Facility</b> <b>Emmanuel Ze Meka, ITTO</b>
16:00-16:30	<b>Coffee-break</b>
16:30-17:30	Panel discussion: Financing and investment in African timber processing industry sector <b>IFC, AFD, KfW, BAD, FAO, ITTO, representative from the private sector</b>
17:30-19:00	Table ronde: Improve market uptake of tropical FSC timber <b>Marcelle Peukert, Director for business development, FSC</b> <b>Elie Hakizumwami, Regional Director FSC Africa</b>  <b>Event for IFIA members only</b>
19:00	<b>Cocktail around the stands</b>

Friday, 30 September 2011

Plenary sessions		Technical sessions	
09:00-12:30	<b>Second plenary session: Meeting markets requirements</b> Moderators: <b>Alain Marius Ngoya-Kessy (DFRV) and Ralph Ridder (ATIBT/IFIA)</b>	09:00-10:00	<b>Technical session 1 : Technologies</b> Moderator: <b>Patrick Martin</b>
09:00-09:20	VPA and European Union Timber regulation (EUTR) application/implementation <b>Mathieu Bousquet, DG DEVCO – European Commission</b> <b>Eudeline Melet, Ministry of Agriculture, France</b>	09:00-09:15	Dieffenbacher technologies <b>Dieffenbacher</b>
09:20-09:40	FSC certified timber importation under EUTR <b>Elie Hakizumwami, FSC</b>	09:15-09:30	SCM technologies for wooden house construction <b>SCM</b>
09:40-10:00	New partnership between ATIBT and the GFTN from WWF <b>GFTN</b>	09:30-09:45	Wood drying technologies <b>Termolegno</b>
09:45-10:00		09:45-10:00	Questions & Answers
10:00-10:30	<b>Coffee-break</b>		
		10:30-12:30	<b>Technical session 2 : Timber processing and timber markets</b> Moderator: <b>Bérénice Castadot</b>
10:30-11:15	US Lacey Act and technologies assuring legality <b>Experts panel from USA</b>	10:30-10:45	Tchad and Nigeria markets <b>FRM</b>
11:15-11:30	Questions & Answers	10:45-11:00	Domestic timber sector in Congo Basin countries CIFOR
		11:00-11:15	Training needs <b>FAO and Congolese government</b>

11:30- 12:30	Panel discussion : Meeting markets requirements <b>European Commission, French Ministry of Agriculture, Programme FAO ACP/FLEGT program, FSC, IWPA, forest private sector (operators- timber buyers)</b>	11:15- 11:30	Forest taxation and timber processing <b>CIRAD</b>
		11:30- 11:45	Nkok economic zone <b>Gabon Advance</b>
		11:45- 12:00	TROPIX software giving mechanical properties of timber species <b>CIRAD</b>
		12:00- 12:30	Questions & Answers
12:30- 14:00	<b>Lunch</b>		
14:00- 17:00	<b>Third plenary session : Forest concession of tomorrow</b> Moderators : <b>Grégoire Nkeoua (GDE) and Bernard Cassagne (FRM)</b>	14:00- 12:30	<b>Technical session 3 : Legality and forest certification</b> Moderator : <b>Marine Leblanc (ATIBT/IFIA)</b>
14:00- 14:15	From tropical timber producer to ecoservices provider <b>Alain Karsenty, CIRAD</b>	14:00- 14:15	Certified wood products market study for Europe <b>Karel Picquenot (TEREA) and Frederic Anquetil (AfBois)</b>
14:15- 14:30	Community rights and tenure issues <b>Person to be specified</b>	14:15- 14:30	IDH Congo Basin program <b>IDH</b>
14:30- 14:50	Environmental and biodiversity issues, intact forest landscapes <b>Person to be specified</b>	14:30- 14:45	FAO ACP/FLEGT program : practical examples <b>FAO</b>
14:50- 15:10	Environmental Impact linked to African wood products production <b>Clément Chesnot and Sandra Lesdema, ONFI</b>	14:45- 15:00	PEFC action plan for Africa <b>PEFC</b>
15:10- 15:30	REDD+ impacts on forest concessions <b>Valérie Merckx, EFI</b>	15:00- 15:30	Questions & Answers
15:30- 16:00	<b>Coffee-break</b>		

	16:00-18:00	<b>Technical session 4</b> : Technologies against informal logging in Central Africa Moderator : <b>James Beck (USFS)</b>
16:00-16:15	REDD+ implementation, a practical case in Congo <b>Boundzanga, Climate change Advisor</b>	16:00-16:10 Differences and similarities between US Lacey Act and EUTR <b>WRI</b>
16:15-16:30	Questions & Answers	16:10-16:50 Private sector and chain of custody: case studies in USA and Europe <b>IWPA, TTF</b>
16:30-18:00	Discussion panel on potential roles of the concession of tomorrow <b>CIRAD, Rights and Resources Initiative, ONFI, EFI, forest private sector</b>	16:50-17:00 Overview of relevant technologies against informal logging <b>WRI</b>
		17:00-17:10 Geographic information systems <b>WRI</b>
		17:10-17:20 Traceability technologies <b>Helveta</b>
		17:20-17:30 Wood identification technologies (DNA analysis and anatomy) <b>USFS</b>
		17:30-18:00 Questions & Answers + Discussion
18:00	<b>Debats' closing</b>	
20:00	<b>Closing dinner</b>	

**Saturday, 1 October 2011**

**Exploration centred on plantations**

09:00-17:00 For the lucky ones who will stay for weekend, we organize the visit of Diosso and Madingo Kayes falls, a pic-nic at the NDembo lake followed by the plantations exploration with a commentary given by CIRAD.  
If you are interested, please let us know!

## Appendix 2. Concept note

**Overview:** With support from USAID, the US Forest Service and the Forest Legality Alliance (WRI/EIA) are co-organizing a regional workshop to highlight and promote technologies and systems to improve transparency and governance in the forest sector. The workshop will target timber producers and their trading partners as well as COMIFAC, forest ministries, and civil society to facilitate the exchange of information, discussion, and networking related to forest monitoring, timber tracking, wood identification,<sup>1</sup> due diligence in wood purchasing, and other themes that foster legality in the forest sector. Other key partners could include USAID, the Central Africa Forest Commission (COMIFAC), and the Interafrican Forest Industries Association (IFIA).

Recent years have experienced significant advances and changes in the operational and policy landscapes, leaving many companies, governments, and civil society involved and interested in the value chain of Central African sourced timber seeking clarity on what it all means. Notable developments include, among others: the improvement of forest management (nearly 20 years in the making), expansion of importance of certification schemes, legality definitions, promulgation of demand side regulations, governance improvement through VPA negotiations, company level investments in tracking and management systems, country level comprehensive control and tracking systems under development, global economic slowdown followed by slight recent expansion and impacts on timber sector, etc.

Additionally, new technologies and software are being developed and marketed to meet demands for improved forest governance, including new methods of monitoring forests, verification of wood type through physical analysis, and determination of wood origin through genetic testing. The workshop will provide a forum for sharing experience and exploring the state of knowledge regarding technologies and systems, including their costs and limitations. Participants will have an opportunity to compare the tools and systems for monitoring forests and tracking wood, and explore how they can be integrated into overall efforts to improve forest governance. Based on discussion of best practices, the workshops also will identify capacity building and technology development needs.

Many of these issues have been discussed in isolation. This regional workshop will for the first time bring together these diverse actors to concretely review the various technologies and systems in view of emerging good governance and transparency requirements (e.g., US Lacey Act, EU due diligence regulation, EU FLEGT VPA process, etc.).

**Objective:** Promote good governance and legality in the forest sector through a regional exchange highlighting technologies and systems that specifically relate to efforts to improve due diligence for legality.

**Audience:** Timber producers and their trading partners in the US, Europe, and Asia, as well as COMIFAC, forest ministries, and civil society.

**Timing and location:** Integrated into the September 29-30, 2011 RACEWOOD timber industry conference in Pointe Noire, Republic of Congo. The RACEWOOD meetings promote partnerships between European timber importers and African producers of tropical wood. This is the major event for the timber industry in Africa,

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<sup>1</sup> Genus, species, and geographic origin



gathering some 300 participants, and a unique and strategic opportunity to reach efficiently the target audience for technology and Lacey Act awareness raising.

**Country/regional focus:** Forested countries of central and west Africa, primarily: Dem. Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Gabon, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, and possibly Ghana, Liberia, and Kenya.

**Partners:** USFS, USAID, the FLA, and IFIA (with regular consultations with the European Forest Institute (EFI))

**Expected roles:**

- Organizing committee - USFS, FLA, and IFIA
- Organizational lead (site logistics, announcements, invitations, etc.) – IFIA
- Presenters/content development – USFS and FLA each mobilize presenters for their respective themes.

## Appendix 3. Full pre-registered conference participant list (courtesy ATIBT)

Liste provisoire des participants à RACEWOOD  
29 et 30 septembre 2011  
Hôtel Flais - Pointe Noire

POINTE-NOIRE - SEPT. 2011  
**racewood**  
QUAI HERBERTS - HEUREUX-LES-BOIS - 100000 POINTE NOIRE

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## Appendix 4. English agenda distributed for technical session

Technical session 4: Technologies against informal logging in Central Africa - Friday 30<sup>th</sup>  
Sept 16:00 to 18:00

### Theme 1 – Update on the policy context and international buyer and supplier perspectives

1. Presentation and discussion of laws/policies/agreements to stem flow of illegally sourced wood products including U.S. Lacey Act and perspectives on synergies and differences with the European Timber Regulation. (10 minutes)
  - Caitlin Clarke (World Resources Institute – Forest Legality Alliance)
2. International buyer supply chain level perspectives/case studies on how they are securing their supply chains. (30 minutes)
  - American
    - Brent McClendon (International Wood Products Association)
    - Alan McIlvain (International Wood Products Association, Alan McIlvain Company)
  - European
    - Rachel Butler (European Timber Trade Federation)

The following will be discussed:

What type of evidence/documentation are trade association members looking for when they purchase tropical wood? What is the status of members' trade with Africa and how is this changing? What pressures are traders under? How is the market changing? How can association members feel secure in their sourcing?

3. Local supplier perspectives/case studies. (10 minutes)
  - IFIA, open floor

### Theme 2 – Technologies and systems and the interface of technologies and policy requirements

Overview presentation on the status of technologies pertinent to combating illegal logging and associated trade (5 minutes) – Caitlin Clarke (World Resources Institute – Forest Legality Alliance)

Discussion of technologies from experts and service providers:

- Forest monitoring (10 minutes) – Matthew Steil and Roger Mambeta (World Resources Institute)
- Timber tracking technologies (10 minutes) – Martín de la Serna (Helveta)
- Wood identification techniques and discussions (10 minutes) – Darren Thomas (Double Helix)

Group discussion with panel of previous presenters in this side event (35 minutes)

