

# **Adapting to Trends and Enhancing Mutual Trust to Increase Sino-African Cooperation and Communication on Forestry**

**-- Report of Forestry Study Tour in Three African Countries**

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# China Investigation Group to Africa

- Consists of 8 people from State Forestry Administration, the Ministry of Commerce, IUCN China Liaison Office and WWF China
- Visited Ghana, Democratic Republic of Congo and Gabon



# Itinerary

- The first high-level forestry study tour from China to Central and Western Africa in recent years
- Meetings: Chinese Ambassador in Gabon, Commercial Counselor of Ghana and DRC; the Minister for the Environment of DRC, Gabon Minister for Water Resources and Forestry, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Land, Forestry and Mineral Resources of Ghana, the Deputy Director of the State Forestry Administration of Liberia; the Senate and the House of DRC etc.
- Visited local communities, scientific research institutes and forestry enterprises (including Chinese-invested enterprises)
- Agencies of EU, UK, France, World Bank, ITTO, WWF and IUCN in Africa
- Environmental NGOs
- Forest industry associations



Meeting with the Minister of the Ministry of Environment of DRC



Meeting with international organizations in Ghana



Rich forest resources in Gabon



Civil society organizations roundtable workshop in Ghana

# Outcomes of the Study tour

- Learned about forestry development, management systems, development strategies and foreign policies of Central and Western African countries
- Learned basic information about international cooperation with international organizations, such as EU and World Bank
- Learned about the ideas and operation of sustainable forest development by NGOs, forestry enterprises and scientific research institutes in relevant countries
- Exchanged ideas on major issues in international forestry development, especially on illegal logging, timber legality, forest law enforcement and governance
- Formal report and future work proposal are being prepared at present



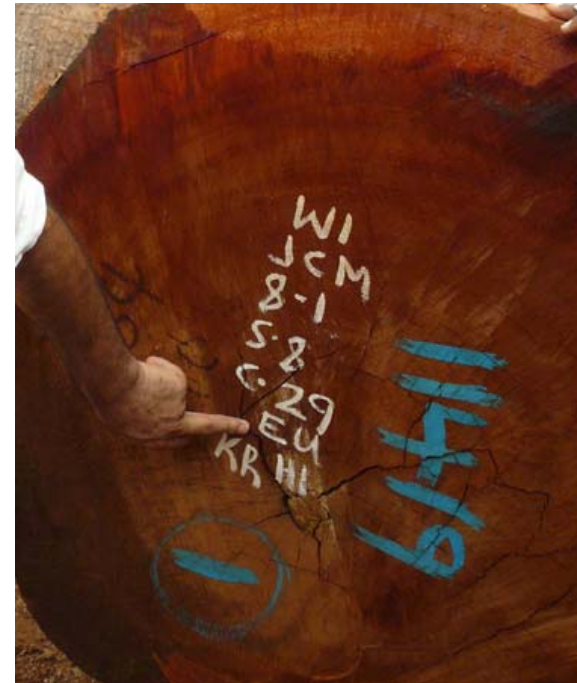
# Huge Potential in Sino-African Cooperation on Forestry Development

- Both sides are developing countries
- Central and Western African countries have rich forest resources
- The long lasting friendship between China and Africa
- Complementary resources and industrial capacity



# China and Africa share similar tasks on forestry development

- Sustainable forest management is a guideline for forestry development of all countries
- Some beneficial approaches and experience from Africa
  - Ghana: Legality Verification System (a tracking system from logging, processing to trade, covering every step)
  - Gabon: New forest law and forest management plan



The timber tracking system in a Ghana timber enterprise

# China and Africa share similar tasks on forestry development (cont'd.)

- Drawbacks
  - Development with external support or under market pressure
  - Primarily rely on trade approach
  - Infrastructure and capacity building are relatively underdeveloped
  - Limited capacity for monitoring management and tracking inspection
  - Neglected the joint development of primary, secondary and tertiary industries
- China's forestry experience and African forestry development complement each other



# Issues on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade

- One of the key tasks of the study tour
- China is willing to participate in the African FLEG process
- The China Representatives introduced the following aspects to African colleagues:
  - China forest industry's contribution on restoring global forests
  - China's experience on forest resource management and forest industry development
  - Foreign policy on cooperation with African countries focuses on “sustainable management, joint development and mutual benefit.”

## Issues on Illegal Logging and Relevant Trading (cont'd.)

- Discussions on carrying out “joint verification of timber legality”
- Looking for pilot area and conducting bilateral consultation
- Further improve *Guideline on Mutual Beneficial Cooperation of Chinese Enterprises’ Overseas Forest Resources*
  - Regulate Chinese enterprises’ behavior in participation in overseas forest exploitation activities
  - Has listed in the Annual Memorandum of SFA and TNC and is consulting with IUCN and WWF for joint action

# Concepts for Sino-African Forestry Cooperation

- Inter-government: Conduct forestry cooperation under the framework of Sino-African Summit Forum
- Inter-department: Encourage inter-departmental communication and cooperation between both parties
- Economy and trading: Enhance economic and trading cooperation with African countries under the principle of mutual benefit
- International: Participate in activities on maintaining global ecological security initiated by the international community
- Civil society: Launch further activities with relevant international organizations which should meet the interests of both sides following this study tour

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Thank you!

