

The Gambia's Exports of Rosewood



MARCH 2014

WHERE IS THE GAMBIA?



Where is The Gambia found?

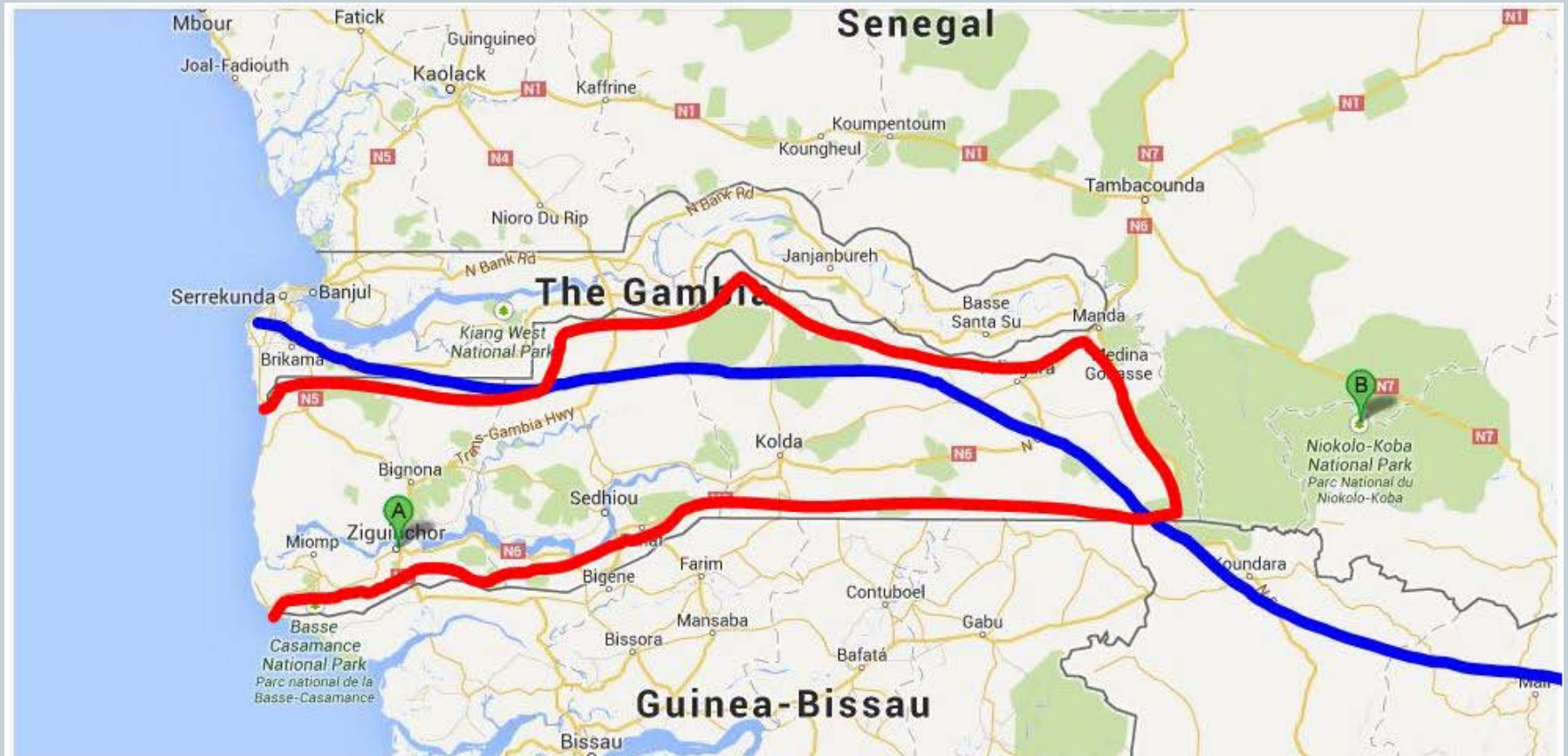


The Gambia & its forest resources



- Country only has 50% original forest cover remaining
- Of the 50% remaining, 70% is described as 'degraded' (FAO, FRA 2010)
- Logs do not originate in The Gambia
- These trees grow in Senegal and are smuggled over the border to The Gambia for re-export

So where do the logs originate?



Senegalese Forest Law



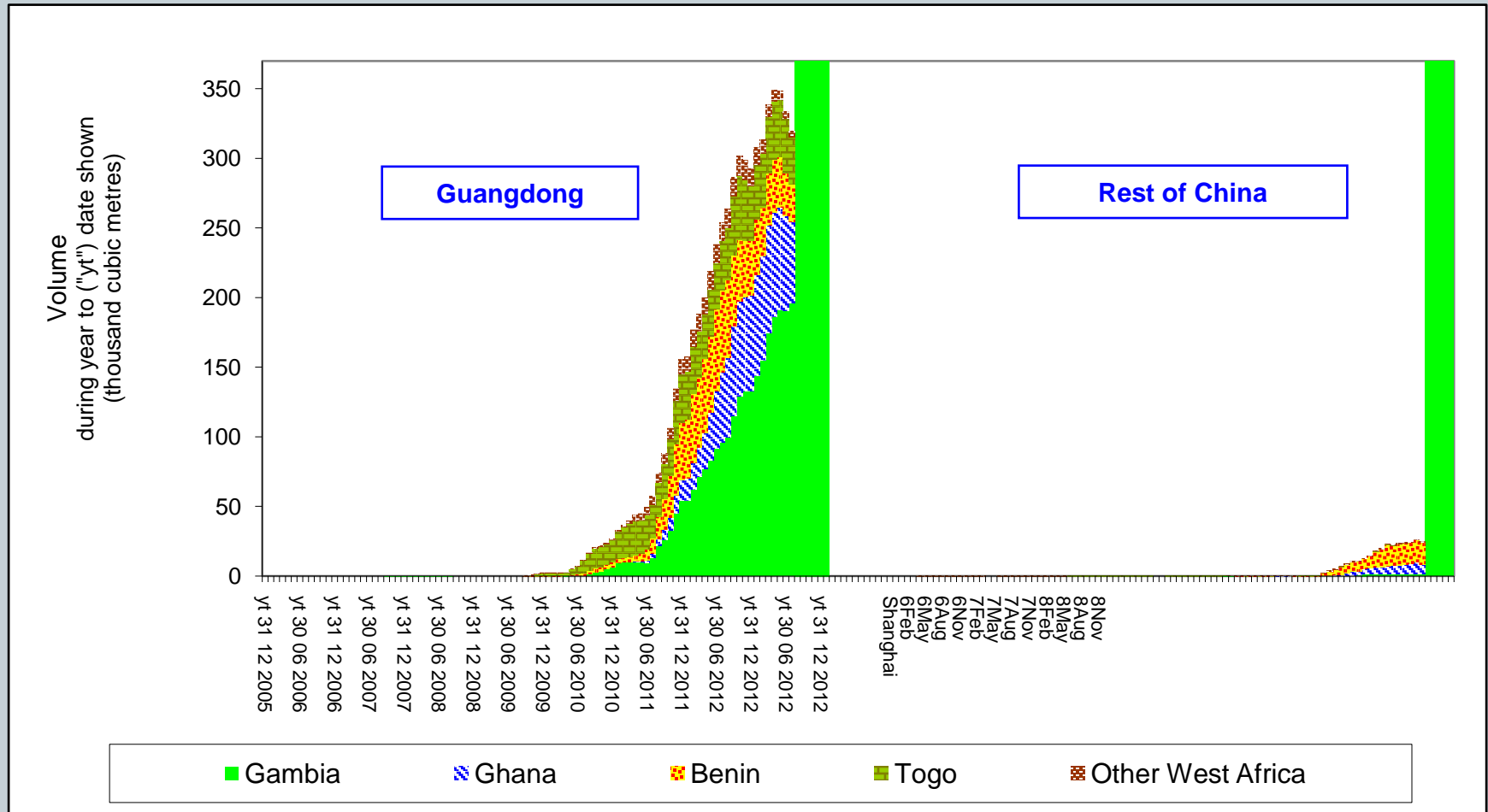
- The export of logs is banned under the Senegalese law
- Therefore 100% of the logs that enter The Gambia from Senegal are illegal
- 95% or more of the logs entering The Gambia from Senegal are considered 'Conflict Timber' by the Senegalese state

Africa and the rise in the rosewood market



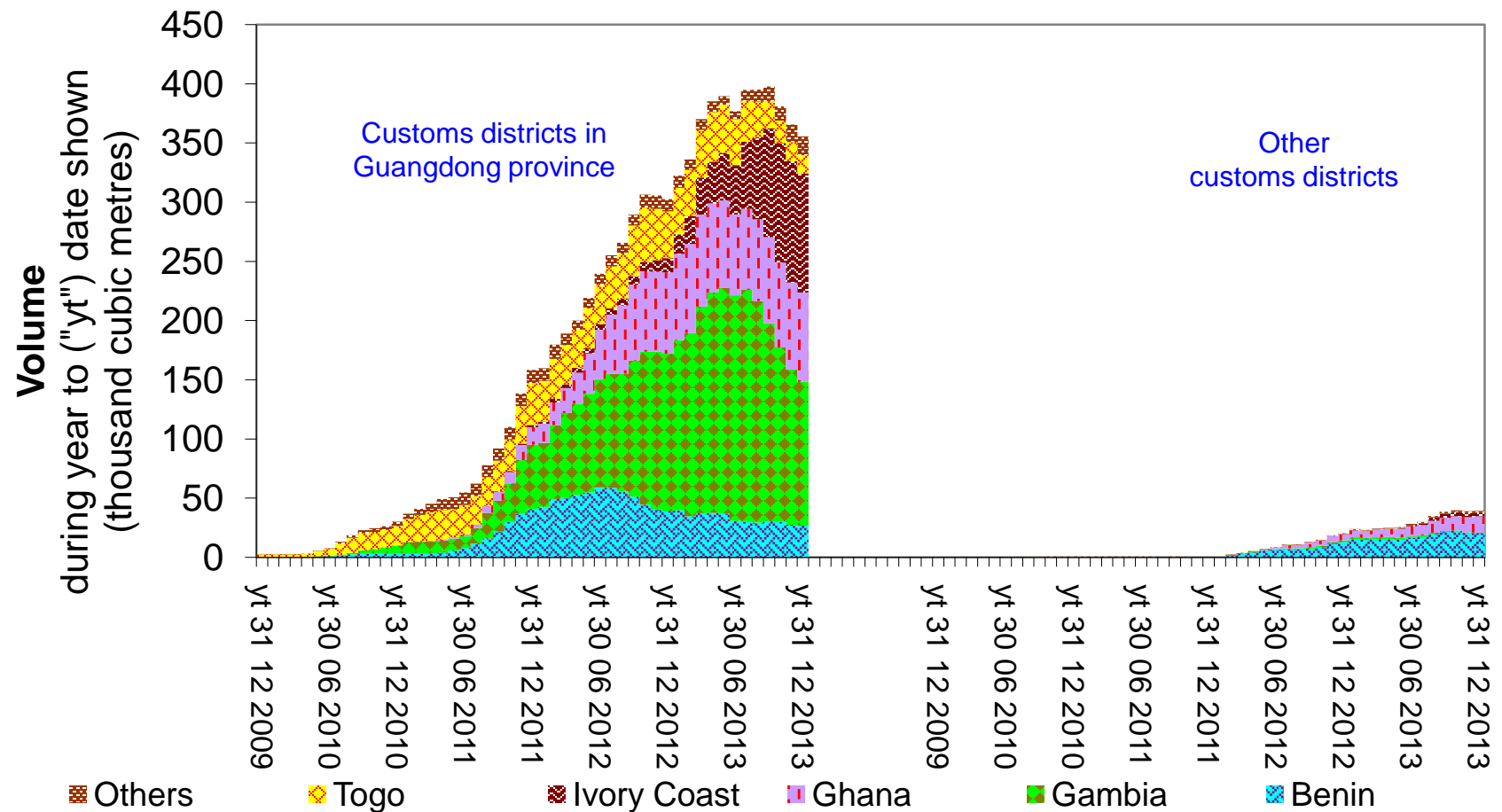
- 2009 China recoded 19,753 m³ imports of rosewood in total from 'Africa'
- 2012 this had risen to 431,223 m³ of rosewood (logs and sawn) from 'Africa'
- In 2012 'Africa' as a source continent represented 60% of total import of rosewood to China
- In 2012 The Gambia alone accounted for 31% of this total

Shows the Dominance of 'The Gambian' Exports Amongst other West African Supply Countries



**Figures to be confirmed with collation sources as the graph shows so discrepancies*

Source countries in West Africa that supply rosewood



Source: Based on General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (2014)

Amounts imported to China from The Gambia



Year	Import Volume China (m ³)	Import Value China (USD \$)
2010	6,734	2,871,421
2011	54,222	24,952,099
2012	134,572	71,109,243
2013	121,938	66,665,881

Prior to 2010 China recorded NO imports from The Gambia and
The Gambia showed no exports either to China

Total volume of rosewood imported per annum expressed as the average number of 20ft container per day (33 m³)

- 2013 – 9 per day



- 2012 – 10 per day



- 2011 – 4 per day



- 2010 – 1 per day



Export Volumes



- In a 4 year period the exports have gone from 0 m³ to 317,466 m³ in total from The Gambia
- However it estimated that 99% of these logs exported to China do not originate in The Gambia

Log Ban in The Gambia



- In November 2012 the government of The Gambia banned the exportation of rosewood from The Gambia
- This ban is still in place in the country and all pervious traders have had their export licences voided
- However rosewood logs continue to come to China from The Gambia after November 2012
- In 2013 only 9% less than in 2012 when there was no ban in place

Processing & Export ready sites



Logs awaiting for the export ban to be lifted



Senegal's Control



- Senegal tries to control the illegal trade in forest products
- However in an unstable and impoverished region this is near impossible
- They have ceased articles belonging directly to the President of The Gambia involved in rosewood harvesting

CONCLUSION



- All of the rosewood logs that are exported from The Gambia can be classified as ‘illegal logs’
- At least 95% of the exports to date in addition can be classified as ‘conflict timber’
- The vast majority of logs that have been “exported” from Senegal to The Gambia and then onto China in this 4 year period have been sold directly from the MFDC rebels to traders inside The Gambia, who supply the export market.

CONCLUSION (Fin.)



- For Senegal this problem can only have a chance of being solved if a solution is found that can be implemented inside their borders, or in a trans boundary forest management program ‘Senegal, Guinea Bissau, **Gambia**).
- **The Gambia for them is a non-issue when talking about solutions to the rosewood exports.**
- Help is needed from China’s side to ban illegal/conflict?? rosewood imports into China
- China can also develop a forest management program for the production of legal timber for the Chine’s market
- China can develop a capacity building program for rosewood furniture manufacture facility



THANKS