# China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform

## Report of an Inception Event and Future Agenda

Global Environmental Institute
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Forest governance learning group

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**Cover photo**: Left, Baruani Mshale, from Tanzania and, right, Sun Xiufang from China© Simon Lim

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The development of the Platform to date is an initiative of the Forest Governance Learning Group which is facilitated by IIED. This Platform launch event was funded by the European Commission and received co-funding from UKaid of the UK government. The organisers are also grateful for contributions from the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Center for International Forest Research (CIFOR).However, the work and outputs of the event are the sole responsibility of the project partners and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Commission, the UK government, WWF or CIFOR.

## Acronyms

| | |
|---|---|
| CAF | Chinese Academy of Forestry |
| CIFOR | Center for International Forest Research |
| CITES | Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora |
| GEI | Global Environmental Institute |
| DRC | Democratic Republic of the Congo |
| FGLG | Forest Governance Learning Group |
| FGLP | China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform (China-Africa FGLP) |
| FLEGT | Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade |
| FOCAC | Forum on China-Africa Cooperation |
| IIED | International Institute for Environment and Development |
| IUCN | International Union for the Conservation of Nature |
| NGO | Non-governmental organization |
| REDD | Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation |
| SASAC | State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council |
| SFA | State Forest Administration |
| SOEs | State-owned enterprises |
| UK | United Kingdom |
| VPA | Voluntary Partnership Agreement |
| WWF | World Wide Fund for Nature |

## Executive summary

***New platform for China-Africa dialogue***

How could stronger China-Africa dialogue help ensure good management of forests and the timber trade? This report aims for an answer by highlighting key discussions held at the launch event of the China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform (China-Africa FGLP), an initiative of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), which was co-hosted by the Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF) and the Global Environmental Institute (GEI) on 5th and 6th of March, 2013 in Beijing, China. The China-Africa FGLP aims to strengthen understanding, partnership and joint action on forest governance between China and Africa through information sharing, bringing knowledge from the field, and developing stronger, deeper links among diverse stakeholders.

***Focus on forests***

China's relationship with Africa is deepening. It has become Africa's biggest trading partner – over the past decade African trade with China has risen from (US) $11 billion to $166 billion. Africa still has a small share of China's total foreign direct investment, though it has been growing very fast over the past two decades. The Chinese government's *Go Global Strategy* and *China's African Policy* have been major stimulants. Investments by Chinese state-owned and private enterprises, mostly in natural resource sectors, are increasing year on year. Many of these investments are in forested or woodland areas, some are directly in forest management and logging enterprises, and many others use timber and other forest products. While logs and lumber from Africa do not yet make up a large proportion of China's forest product imports (currently about 4% with a value of US$1.3billion, according to Chinese government statistics), the exports are very significant for a range of African countries. For example 90% of all timber exports from Mozambique are for the Chinese market. Despite this increased interaction, IIED's African partners feel they lack information about investments in their countries. Furthermore, while high-level links are strengthening among Chinese leaders and their counterparts in African countries, connections between many important other actors in China and in Africa remain weak. As Chinese interests in African forestlands increase, opinion formers and policy workers in Africa and China need to be better linked in order to shape policy and investment decisions in favor of sustainable forest management and local livelihoods.

***Forest Governance Learning Group initiative***

Since 2003, IIED has facilitated the Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG), a group of active country teams in 10 countries of Africa and Asia with the objective of improving forest governance in Africa and Asia. Specifically, their work has focused on securing local rights, developing forest product legitimacy and combating climate change through researching issues with the marginalized, convening opinion-formers and decision-makers, building bridges with practical tools, and having policy influence. As issues associated with Chinese investments in African forests have come to the fore, FGLG proposed the China-Africa FGLP as a mechanism for exchange and strategic policy intervention for African policy researchers and opinion formers and their Chinese counterparts, with a focus on issues of forest governance, investment and trade. FGLG is particularly interested in learning about key links in these supply chains where stakeholder action is needed to improve the prospects for sustainability and improved local livelihoods.

***Well-informed debate***

To help such a platform to develop, reviews of available evidence and perceptions were carried out for China and Africa.. The content of these two key resource documents were presented and debated at

the platform's official two-day public launch, organised by IIED and partners in China, the State Forest Administration, the CAF, and the GEI. The purpose of the first day was to engage a wide audience from Africa and China, including Chinese officials and high-level leaders in the forest sector. In addition to the two key resource documents prepared before the event, the organisers invited a number of speakers, policy makers and researchers with China and Africa forestry sector expertise to present evidence from the field and further stimulate the discussion. On the second day, a smaller group of participants further debated the issues and identified a programme of action and practical next steps.

***Tackling illegal logging***

In many African countries, forest resources are vast, and much of these remain unprotected. Illegal logging is, therefore, still an issue and a threat to good forest governance on the continent. A weak, under-resourced or corrupt government can limit a country's capacity to monitor and regulate traceability. In China, there is momentum to improve the regulations and legality of imported timber amongst a range of stakeholders, who are increasingly concerned with forest sustainability abroad. Through joint research and action, both sides have potential to work together to develop and strengthen responsible purchasing policies and legal sourcing of sustainably harvested timber.

***Positive policy developments***

Indeed, some positive policy developments are already underway. For example, the Chinese government's *Guidelines for Environmental Protection in Foreign Investment and Cooperation*[1], issued in February 2013 helps overseas Chinese companies to take responsibility for their social and environmental conduct overseas. Though these are voluntary, they provide a strong new tool that can be used with the earlier *Guidelines on Sustainable Overseas Forests Management and Utilization by Chinese Enterprises*[2] issued in 2009, to support efforts to improve both the sustainability of Chinese forest companies operating overseas and forest governance and livelihoods in Africa. In addition, certain efforts by the Chinese government, such as land conversion, tenure reform and natural forest progammes have led to increased forest coverage, and increased traceability of timber production and trade. China has also started experimenting with innovative policies such as green credit based on the Equator Principles and Green Procurement Policies (e.g. eco-labeling). The government recognizes forests as a pillar of China's plan for developing a green economy in the future. China's models of development are certainly not perfect, but there is a shared sense that African countries could learn from its forest management policies.

***Engaging with the private sector***

Participants from civil society and government alike stressed the importance of participation of the private sector in any efforts to improve forest governance.If policies, institutions and practices that affect forests are to improve, all stakeholders need to work proactively with the private sector. Recommendations coming out of these discussions were that the Chinese government should explore investment cooperation models with the private sector. This new Platform can provide a vehicle for the private sector to better understand the situation on the ground by learning about African laws and

[1]Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China (2013) Guidelines for Environmental Protection in Foreign Investment and Cooperation. http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/policyrelease/bbb/201303/20130300043226.shtml. Further information about these Guidelines can be found at: http://www.internationalrivers.org/resources/chinese-government-guidelines-for-overseas-investment-7934

[2]State Forest Administration and Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China (2009) Guidelines on Sustainable Overseas Forests Management and Utilization by Chinese Enterprises. http://www.forestry.gov.cn/portal/main/s/224/content-401396.html

regulations and engaging with a diversity of stakeholders. It can also help other stakeholders understand the diverse connections and interactions in the private sector, from small-scale enterprises to large corporate operators, involved in the forest products trade and in other investments affecting forests.

***Researching key issues***

A clear message from the launch event was that China has an increasingly important role to play in improving forest governance in Africa. More research in key areas is needed to provide the basis for full and shared understanding of the positive and negative effects of China-Africa forest governance links, and to identify critical and practical steps for action. In the immediate term, the two reviews of evidence and perception focused on China and Africa respectively need to be finished. Continued networking is also needed with other ground-breaking initiatives making progress on key issues – some of which were well-represented at the Platform event – to identify complementarities and partnerships. Platform participants proposed to stimulate some research work on the discrepancies between African forest product export and Chinese import data.

Those involved in the China-Africa FGLP agreed they could also pursue joint research, or stimulate research to be done by others, in the following key areas:

- Existing and emerging Guidelines, standards, principles and legislation in Africa and China affecting the activities of Chinese forest enterprises in African countries
- Practices and models of scales and types of effective forest management, and related issues such as land and forest tenure, in China and African countries
- Cross-sectoral analysis to understand how Chinese investments in non-forest sector investments impact on forest governance
- Timber trade and forestry investments involving Chinese companies in specific African countries – case studies and investigative reporting by Chinese journalists
- Chinese domestic market regulations and consumer priorities, and their potential to encourage overseas Chinese companies to apply sustainable forest management principles.

***Improving forest governance***

Country teams involved in FGLG aim to share the Chinese Guidelines with African stakeholders and use them as a tool for constructive engagement between civil society, private sector and government. Other initiatives are also aiming to do this. Platform participants in Beijing agreed to work towards a second event of the China-Africa FGLP, in Africa in 2014, focused on: reviewing progress made on the research outlined above; reviewing experience with pilot projects and other work to implement the Chinese Guidelines by several organisations; dialoguing on the findings; and sharpening further actions to improve forest governance.

With good decision-making, forests and the products they provide can give us a healthy environment, alleviate poverty, create jobs and contribute to development on a sustainable basis. That is what good forest governance is. Chinese activities in African forests have a wide range of impacts on livelihoods and its impact in Africa. The China-Africa FGLP launch event concluded that there is huge potential – through research, dialogue and targeted policy developments– for Chinese engagements in Africa's forest sector to support good forest management and sustainable forest product trade between Africa and China.

## 1. Introduction

Governance of forests – or who gets to decide what about forests, and how – is at the heart of prospects for both social justice and sustainable forest management. If greater security of land tenure and forest rights of local communities is to be realised, the development potential of legal and legitimate forest products optimised, and the livelihood potential of forest-based climate strategies maximised, then the practice of forest governance in African and Asian countries in particular needs urgent attention.

Timber at a processing plant in Tengchong, China © Simon Lim

Since 2003, the Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG)[3], facilitated by IIED and with active country teams in 10 countries of Africa and Asia (Cameroon, Ghana, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, India, Indonesia and Vietnam), has been building its capability to rise to the above challenge. FGLG has the following specific objective: Improved forest governance in ten countries in Africa and Asia - securing local rights, developing forest product legitimacy and combating climate change. It also has a proven track record of creativity in both the content and tactics of its work and in impact on the ground. It continues to build on its key strengths – researching issues with the marginalised, convening key and diverse opinion-formers and decision-makers, building bridges with practical tools, and having policy influence.

With the knowledge of what is possible in improving forest governance, FGLG teams are currently strengthening their in-country actions and are also seeking to extend their reach in joint action to share learning between countries and hit more international policy targets.

The huge size and rapid growth of China's economy are highly significant factors in shaping the future of almost all countries and commodity supply chains across the globe. What hits the headlines are the 'footprints' – the effects of unprecedented demands for imported raw materials such as wood from China – on forests and workforces around the world. FGLG itself has developed information on this in Mozambique for example. Less well-publicized are the ways in which many stakeholders along the new China-driven wood products demand-supply chains – from forestry, to product processing to sale, consumption and recycling – can benefit themselves and promote sustainable practice along the chain. There are many governance challenges involved in these chains in China and Africa.

This is where trans-national work amongst the FGLG partners and participating teams can be highly effective. With the increasing influence of interests from China in decisions about African forest resources, a particular need is for opinion formers and policy workers in Africa to link with their counterparts in China to seek opportunities to shape policy and investment decisions in favour of sustainable forest management and local livelihoods.

[3]For more information on FGLG – its objectives, teams, outputs and impacts to date – see: www.iied.org/fglg

In response to these challenges, a China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform ('China-Africa FGLP' or 'the Platform') has thus been developed– a mechanism for exchange and strategic policy intervention for African policy researchers and opinion formers and their Chinese counterparts, with a focus on issues of forest governance, investment and trade. Under this Platform, links are being made between willing FGLG country team members in key African countries, where Chinese investment in forest sectors is of increasing importance, and a small team of China policy researchers and opinion formers. The aim of the Platform is to facilitate exchange and learning about the key links in these supply chains where stakeholder action is needed to improve the prospects for sustainability and local livelihoods. Ways in which the findings of this learning exchange can influence decision-making are continually explored.

Timber transported to a processing plant, Tengchong, China © Simon Lim

This idea of the Platform was developed further with the guidance of excellent work carried out by a range of key organizations and recent initiatives. For example, CIFOR and partners have conducted scoping studies in Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo and Gabon, as well as studies of trade and investment data and Chinese policies. The project focused on how Chinese trade and investment in the forestry, mining and agricultural sectors impact forests and forest-dependent communities in heavily forested regions.[4] In addition, Forest Trends has conducted an overview of China-Africa forest product trade based on Chinese Customs data[5]. Similarly, IUCN has completed a scoping study on China-Africa timber trade chain in 2008, based on Chinese customs data and interviews with key companies involved in imports of African timber to China.[6] In the policy arena, the Global Environmental Institute (GEI) in China has been engaging the State Forestry Administration, the Ministry of Commerce, and the Ministry of Environmental Protection to promote guidelines for sustainable business practices among Chinese companies operating overseas.

To help such a platform to develop, and to help those involved to move as quickly and effectively as possible in identifying priority actions, a synthesis review of available evidence and perceptions was conducted. IIED worked with partners in China and Tanzania to facilitate two reviews, one with an Africa focus and one with a China focus.

The Platform launch event took the form of a two-day public event in Beijing. On the first day the initial findings of the above research were presented and debated. The purpose was to engage a wide audience from Africa and China and include some Chinese officials and high-level forest sector leaders in both China and Africa. The second day, a smaller focused group of Chinese and African opinion formers, organisation leaders and initiative managers – those who are likely to be subsequently involved in the ongoing activities of the Platform – further debated the issues and identified a programme of actions to take forward.

[4] "Chinese trade and investment in Africa: Assessment and governing trade-offs to national economies, local livelihoods and forest ecosystems" initiated in 2010,http://www.cifor.org/china-africa/home.html
[5]Available at http://www.forest-trends.org/publication_details.php?publicationID=515
[6] Scoping study of the China–Africatimber trading chain, IUCN, August 2009, https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/china_africa_trading_web.pdf

# 2. China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform - public launch and discussion

## 2.1. Opening session

Hosted by **Dr Ye Bing of the Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF)**

During this opening session the hosts briefly introduced themselves and their organisations, and set the scene by explaining their motivation and ambition for a China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform. Presentations converged around these key issues:

- Complex nature of forest governance issues in China and worldwide
- Rapid growth in trade between China and Africa
- Potential of China to influence forest governance in African countries
- Timber trade sector's diversity and volatility
- Wide range of actors involved
- Importance of collaboration between a more diverse set of African and Chinese stakeholders

Mr Wu Zhimin (third from right) from the SFA welcomed the participants and opened the China-Africa FGLP launch event © Simon Lim

We first heard from **Mr Wu Zhimin from the State Forest Administration (SFA)** who opened the session with welcoming remarks. He spoke about efforts made by Chinese government to improve forest governance in China. He recognised the complexity of forest issues and called for comprehensive policy approaches to tackle them. Mr Wu was pleased to have been able to welcome guests from so many African countries. He stressed the importance of collaboration between China and Africa, and further said that although China could still do much more, there was much to learn from China's efforts of the past 30 years in improving forest governance. He pointed to land conversion and natural forest programs (e.g. land forest tenure reform) as development models for sustainable forest governance.

**Dr Chen Shaozhi from the CAF** provided an insight into Chinese forestry and forest product use on the world stage. He informed the audience that China had contributed to more than 30% of the total afforestation area on the planet and that through CAF's management practices, the Chinese forest sector was not only at an all-time high, but forest management standards and efficiency were on the rise and productivity had improved. Dr Chen emphasized that these efforts were carried out on the principles of green production, green consumption and by increasing the value of forests while ensuring sustainability. He named a number of successful initiatives to support this statement including incentives for forest planting in Mongolia in previously desertified land, and incentivizing research and development of continual improvements in forest resource use.

**Mrs. Jin Jiaman spoke on behalf of the Global Environmental Institute (GEI)**, a local non-governmental organisation (NGO) actively working on China's timber trade and policy incentives for sound Chinese investments overseas. A notable achievement, suggested Mrs Jin, is GEI's collaboration

with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Commerce to develop a guideline for Chinese investment abroad. These guidelines target overseas Chinese companies and offer guidance on how to take responsibility for their environmental conduct overseas. GEI presented this experience along with an overview of the Chinese governance framework for overseas investments in the recently published *Environmental Policies on China's Investment Overseas*[7].Ms Jin Jiaman stressed the importance of China-Africa links on forest issues and the relevance of this Platform to further facilitate information exchange.

**Mr. James Mayers of the International Institute for Environment and Development** (IIED) introduced IIED's work on improving decision-making on environment and development issues with partners in Asia, Africa and Latin America. In particular, he described the Forest Governance Learning Group and its 10 years of experience and proven track record working with ten teams in Asia and Africa to improve the decision-making process on forest governance. Mr. Mayers explained that the China-Africa FGLP was designed to bring together a range of actors to think what can be done to improve channels of communication and share critical information between Chinese and African stakeholders around forest governance.

**Mr. Bakari Salim Mohamed, with the Tanzania Forest Services Agency**, provided insight into forest governance issues in Tanzania. He explained that like many other resource-rich countries, Tanzania has vast forests, but much of these resources are unprotected. Since 1998, efforts have been made to decentralise forest management to engage local communities. This is summarised in the 2002 Forest Act. Some of the challenges still facing Tanzania today are illegal logging, weak enforcement of forest laws, uncoordinated inter-ministerial policies, collusion and corruption, insufficient government facilities, lack of appreciation of the value of community-based conservation, and information gaps between stakeholders.

Mr Mohamed speaking about forest governance issues in Tanzania © Simon Lim

## 2.2. China-Africa links that impact governance of forests and livelihoods

Hosted by **Dr. Li Jianquan, CAF**

In this next session, the audience heard from the authors of the two key resource documents commissioned by the organisers as background research to the China-Africa FGLP. These documents reviewed available evidence and perception from both sides as a key contribution to help the Platform develop.

### A review of evidence and perception on the China side of the relationship

[7]Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China (2013) Guidelines for Environmental Protection in Foreign Investment and Cooperation. http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/policyrelease/bbb/201303/20130300043226.shtml

Ms Sun Xiufang from Forest Trends presenting the Chinese evidence and perception background paper © Simon Lim

**Mrs Sun Xiufang** is one of the co-authors of the Chinese evidence and perception background paper, along with Ren Peng and Marissa Van Epp. She started by highlighting some of the efforts made by the Chinese government to increase forest coverage, increase traceability of timber and reform tenure, experiences she emphasized might be relevant for African countries to learn from. In addition to these, reported Mrs Sun, China has started experimenting with innovative policies such as green credit based on the Equator Principles, and government green procurement policies (eg. eco-labelling). The trend, she explained, is still rapidly increasing Chinese investments in Africa, with raw logs representing the largest portion of overall forest-related imports from Africa to China. And while imports from Africa are not substantial to China, the exports are substantial to African countries (e.g. 90% of all timber exports from Mozambique are for the Chinese market).She outlined both positive and negative impacts from this investment – some larger companies have implemented corporate social responsibility initiatives, whilst indigenous groups reported poor benefit sharing with communities. The Chinese government adopts a non-interference policy and frames the issues as a win-win, south-south collaboration with the opportunity to enhance development. From the civil society perspective, there is a perceived lack of communication and interaction between China and Africa, leading to misunderstanding on both sides. For example, a WWF representative interviewed for the research suggested that China didn't deserve its bad reputation for exploiting natural resources in African forestry, as it has much bigger impact in mining and other sectors. From the private sector point of view, most interviewees said that they followed local laws. A question from the audience prompted Mrs Sun to note that there was some evidence that due to the log export ban in Gabon, Chinese companies were starting to move some of their processing operations into that country. She further noted that the China Timber and Wood Products Association responded to a widely-cited report on China-Mozambique timber trade by the Environmental Investigation Agency from last year, suggesting that it was biased and not representative of the reality of China-Africa timber trade[8].

## A review of evidence and perception on the Africa side of the relationship

**Mr Baruani Mshale** and **Mr Kahana Lukumbuzya** co-authored the paper reviewing the African evidence and perspective on China-Africa links. In this paper, the authors analyse the broader historical and political-economic landscape of relations between China and Africa. They explore China-Africa forest governance links, looking in particular at timber trade and the effects of China-Africa forest product flows on national economies, local people's livelihoods and efforts to combat climate change. Addressing the audience, Mr. Mshale started by supporting the creation of the Platform to support dialogue on forest governance between stakeholders in China and in Africa. He went on to describe the

[8] Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA).November, 2012. "Appetite for Destruction ---China's Trade in Illegal Timber". Available at http://www.illegal-logging.info/uploads/EIAAppetiteforDestructionlores.pdf
Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA). February, 2013. First Class Connections: Log Smuggling, Illegal Logging and Corruption in Mozambique. Report available at http://www.illegal-logging.info/item_single.php?it_id=1448&it=document
Environmental Investigation Agency Response to the China Timber & Wood Products Distribution Association "Public Statement in Response to EIA Report Appetite for Destruction". Available at http://www.illegallogging.info/uploads/EIAResponsetoCTWPDAStatementonAppetiteforDestructionFINALFeb2013.pdf

two main types of activities affecting African forests: direct logging and timber trade; and other investments in sectors such as mining, agriculture, infrastructure developments, etc. Factors influencing China-Africa forest governance relations include historical relations, weak governance in Africa, influence of the West, and increasing demand for products in China. Mr Mshaleem phasised that there is a perception of abundant forest resources in Africa, but that there is not enough data or research to determine if the current rate of harvesting was sustainable. He stressed that if China and Africa want to see sustainable trade in the future, China has to engage with these issues in Africa.

Mr Kahana Lukumbuzya followed, adding that China has now replaced Europe as the major global market in nearly every sector, including timber trade. Chinese actors are showing increasing interest in legality of timber trade and this was likely due to the need for Chinese timber exports to demonstrate legality in the European market. There is a risk however that some voluntary partnership agreements for legality (e.g. in Ghana) may be weakened by increased interaction with the Chinese market. Mr Lukumbuzya noted that Chinese investment had created jobs in both rural and urban areas, but emphasised that since these were primarily at the lower primary processing level, this trend could lead to stock degradation as it maximizes extraction. Competition between local communities and African national government priorities was also an issue highlighted in the report. Chinese actors would often unwittingly get involved in this tension by governments encouraging outside investments that did not benefit communities, or that would even take land from community-managed forests. In terms of impact on climate change, these investments in agriculture and mining would negatively affect existing national REDD efforts (by increasing value of land for other uses, and decreasing value of forests) though not much evidence can yet support this claim.

Mr Mshale and Mr Lukumbuzya concluded:

- African stakeholders have mixed perceptions of Chinese investment in Africa, but this was generally more positive than 'traditional' investment partners;
- More research is needed to full understand the positive and negative effects of China-Africa forest governance links;
- China has a crucial role to play in improving forest governance in Africa.

A captive audience at the China-Africa Forest Governance Platform Learning launch event© Simon Lim

## 2.3. Some China-Africa forest governance issues in more depth

Hosted by **Dr Ren Peng, GEI**

The next session explored China-Africa forest governance issues from different perspectives as the audience heard from a range of experts with specific experience on these issues in China and/or in Africa.

### China forest policy in relation to timber trade and investment in Africa

**Mr Fu Jianquan, of the SFA**, spoke about the nature of China-Africa timber trade and provided background on some of the policies that promoted China-Africa cooperation. He noted that forest trade between China and Africa was growing quite fast. In 2012, USD 4.3 billion was traded in the forest sector. Whilst this represents an increase of 47% from the previous year, the total trade volume only increased by less than 5%. Timber trade is also currently very concentrated in only a few regions, and logs remain the main product traded.

The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation[9] (FOCAC), he explained, has led to a number of overarching agreements. It has given high-level actors in the forestry sector the confidence, institutional framework and basis for engagement. The 5th ministerial FOCAC last year included a provision on "strengthening forest governance management" for the first time.

In 2012, the banking regulatory agency put forward the Green Credit guidelines which have direct implications for the future direction of China-Africa forestry cooperation. In September2012, the SFA and China Development Bank signed an agreement in support of forest sector development, which encourages Chinese forestry companies to "go global". In addition, the SFA has made ongoing efforts to carryout pilot projects on two previously issued guides for Chinese investment overseas: one on silviculture and one on forest management. These guides are based on three principles that Chinese companies need to observe when conducting business in foreign countries. They must 1) observe local laws and international agreements such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), 2) abide by Chinese laws and regulations, 3) bring about not only economic return but also benefits to local livelihoods and local employment, and to biodiversity conservation. Further pilot projects are planned in Mozambique and other eastern African countries to improve the provisions of the guides[10].

Mr Fu stressed that China and the SFA had an important role to play in fighting illegal logging and protecting the interests of developing countries. Illegal logging, he said, was not the problem of a single country or a specific company. We need to find common ground first and work together to tackle the larger contextual problems. One measure we can take is to develop legality verification systems.

[9] http://www.focac.org/eng/

[10] Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China (2013) Guidelines for Environmental Protection in Foreign Investment and Cooperation. http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/policyrelease/bbb/201303/20130300043226.shtml. Further information about these Guidelines can be found at: http://www.internationalrivers.org/resources/chinese-government-guidelines-for-overseas-investment-7934
State Forest Administration and Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China (2009) Guidelines on Sustainable Overseas Forests Management and Utilization by Chinese Enterprises. http://www.forestry.gov.cn/portal/main/s/224/content-401396.html

Mr Fu Jianquan, of the State Forest Administration, spoke about China-Africa timber trade © Simon Lim

Mr Fu went on to say that the China-Africa FGLP should build on the strength of China-Africa cooperation of the past 50 years. Echoing what his colleague had said earlier, Mr Fu emphasised the opportunity for the African continent to learn from China's development path. He also reflected on the role forestry could play in improving China-Africa cooperation generally.

Mr Fu recognised that governments needed to work with the private sector if any sustainable forest management policies were to bear fruit. State-owned enterprises (SOEs) have the resources and the competence to operate effectively in China, but they lack the adequate know-how and confidence to operate in Africa. Other companies have the know-how, but lack capacity for long-term financing; hence they cannot ensure the long-term sustainability of their activities. The Chinese government should explore investment cooperation models with the private sector. Finally, Mr Fu suggested that the Platform can be a vehicle for the private sector to better understand the situation on the ground by learning about African laws and regulations.

Mr Fu closed his address by saying that he looked forward to jointly defining the principles for cooperation of the China-Africa FGLP.

## Participatory forestry and poverty alleviation in China

**Mr. Li Weichang, from the CAF**, spoke about participatory forestry and poverty alleviation in China. He noted that China's 'forest farmers', as they are known in Chinese, are still one of the most vulnerable and marginalised groups in the country. Community-based forest management is emerging in China and is recognised as a key component of a sustainable rural ecological system and in alleviating poverty. Farmer participation is at the core of this approach and Mr. Li explained that this is very much in line with the government's support for a livelihood-based forestry sector. Evidence shows that community-based forestry can alleviate poverty by increasing farmers' revenue in a relatively short time period.

Mr. Li highlighted two successful cases of community-based forest management, in Hubei and in Anhui. Both projects had been funded by foreign donors but implemented by local stakeholders, and had the following features in common:

1. Farmer participation throughout all stages of the project (design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation);
2. Promotion of "garden-forestry" as a way to decrease reliance on forest resources through diversification of income sources, such as growing cash crops in gardens surrounding forest farmer homes. As a result this can also lead to empowerment of women as they participate in income-generating activities;
3. Support of farmers' associations (e.g. bamboo-farmers association, forestry-farmers association, etc.). These associations operate as cooperatives, allowing farmers to purchase inputs at favorable rates. It allows them to exchange information and provides employment opportunities.

Mr. Li said he believed China and Africa had a lot to learn from each other, especially around exchanging knowledge regarding community forestry, China's forest tenure reform and small and medium forest enterprise timber production. China's experience in poverty alleviation through community-based forest management can be useful for Africa in promoting the development of its forestry sector and improving people's livelihoods.

## Challenges and opportunities for sustainable forest management in Africa: examples from the Congo Basin, Gabon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon and South Africa

The public then heard from three experts who spoke about the state of forest governance in Gabon, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Cameroon and South Africa, and evidence and implications of China-Africa links. The key points were:

- Illegal logging is still a major challenge
- The role of government with regards to regulation, control and incentives is central, but corruption still prevails
- Dialogue between Chinese and African actors is necessary
- A strong civil society can facilitate the dialogue

**Ms Christine Tamfrom the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)** gave an overview of the forestry sector in the DRC and Gabon. In Gabon, forestry is the second most important industry behind oil and gas, and is a key pillar of the Green Gabon policy. The majority of Chinese companies who invest in Gabon are not state-owned enterprises (SOEs), so their activities are not backed by the China Development Bank. Current challenges faced by Gabon include combatting illegal logging and improving timber traceability, and strengthening civil society. Ms Tam reported that there was a positive shift by Chinese companies towards certification and sustainable forest management. Two workshops held in in 2012 with companies in the region, resulting in four companies signing onto certification and in expressing the desire to set up a platform to engage more effectively. In DRC, the greatest threat to sustainable forest management is illegal logging. There are no official Chinese concessions, but there is evidence of a number of small Chinese companies operating illegally using artisanal permits. Tracking and regulating these small companies is difficult because the law is still very weak. This situation is made possible due to corruption at the highest level in the DRC. However, she notes that a recently formed Coalition against Illegal Logging involving a range of actors from civil society, private sector and donors has started to make progress on the issues. In addition, civil society there is active and could help this transition. Finally, REDD has a lot of potential in the DRC and this is a key driver of change towards improved governance in the region.

**Mr Antoine Eyebe, from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** reported on the situation in Cameroon where China is now the second most important supplier of goods imported and the fourth most important destination for forest products. Cameroon is set to profit from Chinese investments in agro-industry, infrastructure and mining. The growing Chinese presence is under debate as it is seen as a potential threat to local manufacturing and trade; and to local employment. There is a perception that economic development is largely driven by demand in China, but as Mr Eyebe pointed out, Cameroon can decide who to sell to and should have a say in what practices it finds acceptable or not. Mr Eyebe noted that much of the information that is received about China does not necessarily come from Chinese sources, so it is potentially biased. It is hence important that a dialogue is established between China and Africa. The government of Cameroon should play a more effective role in ensuring the sustainability of trade with China. It could study how China places conditions on its incoming foreign investment to facilitate technology transfer, and learn from that and similar

approaches. For example, it can try to secure local employment in all contracts with Chinese companies.

**Mr Louis Putzel from the Center for international Forest Research** (CIFOR) started his talk with a Chinese proverb from the Chinese classic text *Laozi*: "*Even if neighbouring countries are close enough to see each other and hear each others' roosters crow and dogs bark, they tend to live their whole lives without visiting each other*". This idea, he explained, influences the notion of non-interference policies in China. Yet, that policy direction is increasingly being challenged as people start to question the responsibility of China as an emerging global economic power. CIFOR works in 6 countries in Africa and has found varying patterns of Chinese investments in different regions. This complicates how governments can effectively promote sustainable timber trade and forest management. Some companies merely export, while other Chinese set up companies locally, hence not registering as Chinese companies. In Congo for example, ethnic Chinese actors from outside China are involved in the sector, so tackling 'Chinese involvement' is not a straightforward process of targeting just Chinese companies. Mr Putzel's research has found that Chinese actors buy logs from small sellers and sell them to China. He called for better guidelines on finance, investment and trade and argued that current policies may disproportionately affect larger more obvious Chinese companies, while missing out on the more informal actors. Measures now need to be brought into a broader, trade-based, inclusive context in order to effectively tackle the problems. The industry is complex, said Mr Putzel, making a comparison to the ivory trade, where despite very strong efforts, China has not been able to have a major impact. Looking into the future, what we need is collaborative research between Chinese and foreign researchers on impacts of Chinese investment in Africa. More Chinese researchers should go to Africa and stay in the field to understand the context better. In essence, the "*Go Global Policy*" should also apply to Chinese NGO researchers.

Participants from China and Uganda interrogating the panelists© Simon Lim

## 2.4. Panel discussion

Hosted by **Mr. Ren Peng, GEI and Mr. James Mayers, IIED**

During this session, speakers were invited to sit on a panel for a question and answer session. The issues raised during the session are summarized below:

**Media**

In Africa, local leaders are influenced by Western media e.g. BBC and Voice of America, and their decisions will be informed by these.

**Technology and knowledge transfer**

In Gabon, because of a recent logging ban coupled with poor local processing capacity, there has been a decrease in exports to China. Chinese companies have felt this and looked for solutions to improve the situation. The Chinese government has also had an in interest in supporting this. The number of exports is now coming back up again, but the data is preliminary. Would a transfer of technology from China to Africa facilitate this?

Some of the panelists during the Q&A session. From left to right: Kahana Lukumbuzya (Tanzania), Baruani Mshale (Tanzania), Mr Fu Jianquan (China), Antoine Eyebe (Cameroon) and Christine Tam (USA) © Simon Lim

When the Chinese government makes decisions regarding the forest sector, it is based on hard data and evidence. The government conducts regular audits of Chinese forests and management approaches are based on solid research, setting quotas and targets based on the status of forests. Logging is essential for China's development so government leaders have had to find a way to do this sustainably. The Chinese forest sector has been growing rapidly while also going through forest tenure reform. Old policies have been replaced by new ones, reflecting emerging needs and changing situation – forest audit now not only include cover and volume, but also biodiversity and quality. If Africa lacks reliable data on its forestry sector, China can help by transferring knowledge on data and survey collection methods, as well as on creating a responsive policy process for engaging with this data.

**What roles for which actors?**

*African governments*–One Chinese government representative emphasised the need for African governments to provide a favourable investment environment for Chinese companies, adding that competition should be held at a level playing field with other countries. As long as Chinese companies follow local laws, he noted, African countries should do what they can to encourage investment and engage more effectively. Relevant counterparts in African agencies should establish a channel for information exchange with SFA.

Currently, most of the timber imported into China comes from Russia. China and Russia through years of engagement over forestry sector have developed mechanisms for collaboration. They are able to work together to identify and address problems to identify problems as soon as they arise. The China-Africa FGLP can learn from this relationship.

*Private sector and civil society* -The government can play a guiding and supporting role, but ultimately it is the actors making decisions on the ground who will make a difference, i.e. the private investors. The government plays a role in monitoring and regulating these actors, but the effect of this has been

limited due to capacity issues. NGOs and associations are hence very important. All actors involve in forest governance, public sector, private sector, NGO, community level should collaborate, share information and exchange perspectives.

**Governance, equity, fairness**

One of the African participants stressed the importance of transparency, accountability and equity, fairness and participation in forest related transactions. Too often discussions turn around investment and business and shy from addressing these core principles. The participant asked to what extent were the Chinese government and Chinese enterprises willing to respect the principles of good governance?

The tension between global development and local needs can be seen around the world. Companies make investment decisions, but host countries have their own priorities and needs. Many emphasize the need for infrastructure, hospitals and schools, and give other sectors lower priority. In practice, companies can only respond to this reality. A Chinese participant argued that Chinese forest investments have had a positive impact on local communities in Africa: they have provided jobs and created infrastructure for market development in the region. He suggested that while it might not benefit every individual, it benefits the region as a whole. More communication is necessary for creating a more mutually beneficial relationship.

**Tenure reform**

In Tanzania, the tenure reform legislation is based on the principle that tenure increases responsibility and efficiency of land and forest use. However, the execution and implementation in practice is the challenge. Tanzania can definitely learn from China in this area. One participant warned however that although there is great potential for African governments to learn from China, tenure systems in African countries are very different from one another, some are more privatized, some more customary and some more heavily public. Policymakers should make sure they consider each case carefully and individually if they are to adopt any aspects of the Chinese forest tenure system.

Chinese participants of the China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform launch event © Simon Lim

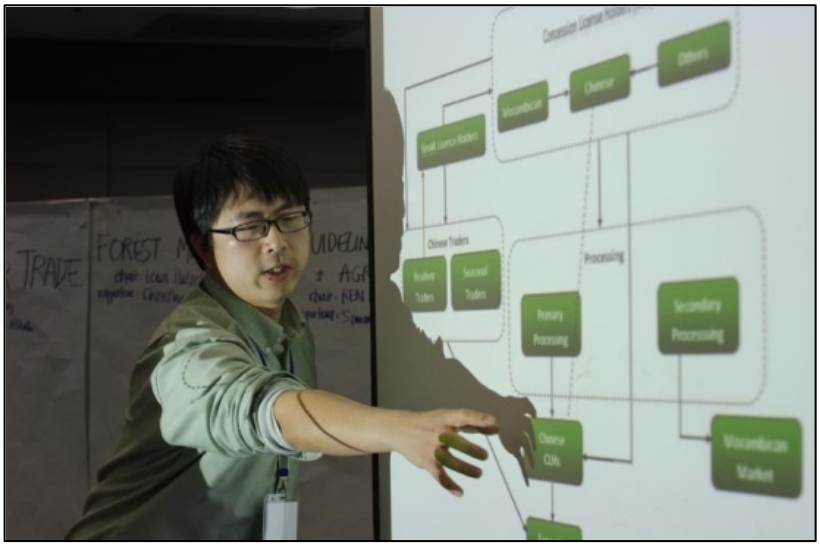
# 3. China-Africa FGLP - developing a programme of action

On the second day a smaller focused group of Chinese and African participants further debated the issues towards the goal of identifying a programme of actions to take forward. Participants first heard further research findings of China-Africa forest linkages in DRC, Mozambique and Gabon. In addition, GEI's Ren Peng spoke about China's efforts to address the socio-ecological impacts of its overseas forest investment and trade.

## 3.1. Further evidence of China-Africa linkages in DRC, Mozambique and Gabon

**Ms Sylvie Mfoutou Banga, from the *Organisation pour le Développement et les Droits Humains*,** spoke about the experiences in the Democratic Republic of Congo of civil society's engagement with the voluntary partnerships agreement (VPA) and Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) processes, and implications for China-Africa links. She explained that legislative reforms were introduced through FLEGT, in relation to community consultation, participatory clauses, independent forest monitoring of formal forests, and community forestry. Through this process, civil society gained legitimacy within the forest government administration. She spoke about the expectations and opportunities of civil society with regards to China's growing engagement in forest governance in DRC. Ms Banga highlighted the importance of learning from China for two reasons: first, to understanding forest governance in China to ensure Chinese actors supported the Congo lose government's efforts to improve forest governance through FLEGT; second, to respond to the need to better understand and interpret Chinese activities and operations in the forest sector in Congo.

**Mr Huang Wenbin, from the World Agroforestry Center East Asia Node** spoke about some of the key findings from his research on China's timber product trade and investment in Cabo Del Gado Mozambique. China is Mozambique's major buyer. Research showed however that there is discrepancy between Chinese and Mozambique data (i.e. a gap of nearly (US) $100 million). Logging in this province is carried out through concessions, with Chinese actors holding around 1/3 of total concessions. Unlike other actors, Chinese actors tend to integrate the entire commodity chain, from extracting through to retail in China. And there is limited application of sustainable forest management, and no incentive to apply these practices coming from the Chinese market because the timber is largely consumed in China. There are incentives to export timber illegally because the bribes are low and easy to accept.



Mr Huang Wenbin presented findings of his research on timber trade between China and Mozambique© Simon Lim

**Dr Anne Terheggen also from the World Agroforestry Center East Asia Node**, compared China as a final market and Chinese investments, to other markets and investors in forestry, in the context of Gabon. She started by stating that China had the power to influence global variables. For Gabon, France was the previous dominant market. Now with China as a final market, the country has seen a huge increase in quantity exported, an increase in extensive and intensive production, less diversity of

products exported (mainly logs and sawnwood), and export of mostly commodities as opposed to processed products. Entry barriers in China are also lower. China is a very different final market to Europe, and this can be observed in the difference in production chains. While European companies tend to be vertically integrated (hence maintaining a better grasp of their entire value chain), Chinese companies tend to be horizontally integrated. This means that the suppliers (i.e. satellite companies) are often hidden and their destructive practices are not easy to tackle. The research found that logs were the most profitable to export and that processing actually led to loss due to its inefficiency. Some companies say "if we could, we would only export logs and not engage in processing." Hence, the interim solution would be to export logs and use the revenue to upgrade the infrastructure so that the processing industry can be more efficient and profitable.

**Dr Ren Peng, GEI** spoke about China's efforts to address socio-ecological impacts of its overseas forest investment and trade. He noted that the governance framework in China for overseas investments applies to the forest sector too. The recently issued Guidelines for environmental protection in foreign investment and cooperation, and the previously issued Guidelines on both silviculture and forest management and utilization by Chinese enterprises overseas, are important steps in making progress. The National Development and Reform Commission is in the process of developing regulations on overseas foreign direct investment (due out in 2013). He also noted the need to work with the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council (SASAC) in engaging with the private sector.

## 3.2. Potential objectives and functions of the China-Africa FGLP

Reflecting on the presentations and discussions outlined above, IIED suggested potential high-level objectives for the China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform. Participants discussed and refined these in smaller break-out discussion sessions, which were then fed back into plenary. The concluding session included discussion of specific activities that different groups and individuals could undertake.

| **China-Africa FGLP Preliminary Objective** |
| --- |
| Strengthen understanding, partnership and joint action on forest governance between China and Africa. |
| **Focus on** |
| • Information sharing to fill gaps and identify priority issues<br>• Bringing knowledge from the field<br>• Stronger, deeper links among more diverse stakeholders |
| **Who would be involved?** |
| • IIED and FGLG country teams<br>• CAF, GEI, IUCN, WWF, Forest Trends, the Forest Trust, The Nature Conservancy, European Forest Institute<br>• Other researchers, NGOs, government, investors/banks and private sector stakeholders in China and Africa participating in research, joint action and policy engagement |

## 3.3. Key themes in China-Africa forest governance

In the afternoon of Day 2, the participants split into four smaller focus groups and discussed the following questions under each key theme

1. What are the key issues?
2. What initiatives are useful and underway?
3. What still needs to be done?
4. What could be done by the platform: (a) generally; (b) in the first year?

| | Models for sustainable forest management | Emerging standards and principles | Timber trade and investments | Non-forest sector investments impacting forest governance |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **What are the key issues?** | • Land and forest tenure reform (leaving questions of overlapping rights, legislation, and boundaries and encroachment)<br>• Lack of shared understanding of laws<br>• Forest control along entire supply chain<br>• Lack of management capacity (how can you use market forces to build this capacity?)<br>• Livelihoods and poverty (fuelwood alternatives; alternative forest activities)<br>• Benefits sharing<br>• Protection of local/indigenous community rights<br>• Diversity of models of forest management with different implications. | • Sustainable Forest Management of the resource base<br>• Trade effectiveness "rules of the game"<br>• Governance principles (equity/social benefits: who benefits? Who decides?)<br>• Certification | • Discrepancy in African exports against Chinese imports<br>• Illegal trade<br>• Key stakeholders left out<br>• Discrepancy in African exports against Chinese imports<br>• Discrepancy in standards<br>• Chinese markets less regulated<br>• Inadequate policy dialogue (at lower levels) | Sectors other than forestry identified: mining, agriculture and infrastructure (including energy, construction and road building). In fact most types of Chinese investment in Africa have impact on African forests. The effects of these investments include:<br>• Land grabs/enclosures<br>• Land conflicts<br>• Displacement of communities<br>• Deforestation<br>• Land degradation<br>*Drivers:*<br>• Chinese model of investing that only deals with the government, which is enabled by weak governance in the host country<br>• Weak governance: Disparities between the national government's objective and the local needs in the host country. |
| **What initiatives are useful and underway?** | • Certification<br>• FLEGT<br>• Chinese guidelines<br>• National forest policies/acts/codes in African countries<br>• Land use planning and zoning<br>• REDD+ /carbon market<br>• institutional reform at national level in African countries<br>• Coalition against illegal logging in DRC. | • SFA Guidelines<br>• Certification initiatives and standards<br>• Regulations<br>• Bilateral agreements (e.g. China-Mozambique, China-Russia) | • Research to better understand efforts by African governments<br>• Chinese guidelines and other measures | Not much has been done so far |

| | Models for sustainable forest management | Emerging standards and principles | Timber trade and investments | Non-forest sector investments impacting forest governance |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **What still needs to be done?** | • Better information on existing legislative frameworks in Africa and China, on Chinese small and medium enterprises and the role they play in Chinese timber sector<br>• Need to increase investment in better processing; research on forestry management models, small scale permit holders. | • Fast-track experiences between Africa, the EU and the US, and Africa and China, perhaps leading with the voluntary processes such as guidelines, then into policies and enforcement | • Generating better evidence and research<br>• Promotion of business dialogue<br>• Strengthen administrative systems<br>• How to incentivize Chinese actors/investors to adopt standards? | |
| **What could be done by platform?** | • Revisit IIED's paper on Chinese forest small and medium enterprises and share insights with African stakeholders<br>• Do stakeholder analysis of key actors (e.g. community based organisations and NGOs)<br>• Discuss community level involvement in context of Chinese level activities and training<br>• Engage customs for information sharing (support naming and shaming); SFA support<br>• Facilitating exchange with private sector/other stakeholders | • Link research and practitioners; how to do things better (building on experience of last 10 years on good forest governance); joint case studies that would look e.g. at bilateral agreements between China and Mozambique, leading into policy recommendations. | • Simple and clear communication (synthesis reports) to businesses<br>• Sharing guidelines with African stakeholders<br>• Facilitate adoption by Chinese actors in Africa<br>• Follow-up on the Tanzania-Mozambique Memorandum of Understanding on trans-border timber trade<br>• Provide framework of roles of stakeholders, and test. | **1. Capacity building of the African governments regarding foreign investment**<br>• Chinese investment can be beneficial to Africa, but the host government needs to become informed of the impacts of such investment, become proactive in negotiating the terms of investment and become more effective in monitoring and ensuring compliance<br>**2. China-Africa Civil Society Platform**<br>• Chinese and African civil societies come together to agree on a set of advocacy objectives<br>• Inform African government officials of existing Chinese guidelines on forestry, investment, etc. Despite being voluntary, these guidelines have power to develop into customary, soft law if African counterparts can press Chinese companies to follow these<br>*3.* **Research on the effects of other sectors on forestry, players involved**.<br>• Comprehensive research needed on the effect of various effects on forests<br>• Power analysis of actors in other sectors<br><br>➔ A suggestion for next year's platform: Bring in other sectors' specialists to share their insights on the impact on forestry *"How does non-forest sector investment impact on the forest sector?"* |

## 3.4. Potential activities in 2013 and 2014

The following activities were identified, the details of timing and responsibility for which need further discussion:

- Complete and publish the two reviews of evidence and perception focused on China and Africa
- Continue liaison with other ground-breaking initiatives making progress on key issues to identify complementarities and partnerships.
- Share information coming out of this first platform event in China
- Carry out, or stimulate others to carry out, joint research on the themes in the next section
- Support investigative reporting trips by Chinese journalists and forestry experts to Africa
- Encourage FGLG country teams to share the Chinese Guidelines with African stakeholders, and to use them as a tool for constructive engagement between civil society, private sector and government to stimulate regulations and other incentives to improve behaviour
- Convene the second China-Africa FGLP event in Africa in 2014, and focus on reviewing progress made on the research outlined below; reviewing experience with pilot projects and other work to implement the Chinese Guidelines by several organisations; dialoguing on the findings; and sharpening further actions to improve forest governance.

## 3.5. Possible Research Topics

More research in key areas is needed to provide the basis for full and shared understanding of the positive and negative effects of China-Africa forest governance links, and to identify critical and practical steps for action. Wherever possible such research should itself involve both Chinese and African researchers. Those involved in the China-Africa FGLP agreed they could pursue joint research, or stimulate research to be done by others, in the following key areas:

- Existing and emerging Guidelines, standards, principles and legislation in Africa and China affecting the activities of Chinese forest enterprises in African countries
- Practices and models of scales and types of effective forest management, and related issues such as land and forest tenure, in China and African countries
- Cross-sectoral analysis to understand how Chinese investments in non-forest sector investments impact on forest governance
- Timber trade and forestry investments involving Chinese companies in specific African countries – case studies and investigative reporting by Chinese journalists
- Chinese domestic market regulations and consumer priorities, and their potential to encourage overseas Chinese companies to apply sustainable forest management principles.

On the second day a smaller group of Chinese and African participants further debated the issues towards identifying a programme of actions © Simon Lim

# Annex 1: Participants list (some foreign participants missing)

| Name | Organization | State |
|---|---|---|
| Mr Juvin AKIAK BUMA | Reseaux Ressources Naturelles | Congo-DRC |
| Dr Simon ANSTEY | WWF Coastal East Africa | Tanzania |
| Ms Allison BLENEAY | Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade/ The Nature Conservancy | China |
| Ms Lila BUCKLEY | International Institute for Environment and Development | UK |
| Mr CHEN Liwei | The Nature Conservancy (TNC) | China |
| Mr CHEN Shaozhi | Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF), Center for International Forest Products Trade (CINFT) of the State Forest Administration (SFA) | China |
| Mr CHEN Yong | Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, CAF; CINFT of SFA | China |
| Ms CHEN Jie | Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, CAF | China |
| Ms CHEN Xiaoqian | European Forest Institute | China |
| Mr CUI Wushe | Department of Forest Resources, SFA | China |
| Ms DAI Guangcui | EDRC of SFA | China |
| Mr Antoine Justin EYEBE | Central African Regional Program for the Environment/IUCN | Cameroon |
| Mr FU Jianquan | Department of Development Planning and Assets Management, SFA | China |
| Ms GAO Ya | China Wood and Wood Products Distribution Association | China |
| Mr HUANG Wenbin | World Agroforestry Center East Asia Node | China |
| Ms HU Nana | Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, CAF | China |
| Ms JIANG Hongfei | Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, CAF | China |
| Mr JIN Zhonghao | WWF China | China |
| Ms JIN Jiaman | Global Environmental Institute | China |
| Mr Robert KAFAKOMA | Training Support for Partners | Malawi |
| Mr Patrice KAMKUIMO-PIAM | Centre for Environment and Development | Cameroon |
| LI Chenyang | TRAFFIC China | China |
| Mr Kevin LI | Oxfam Beijing Office | China |
| Mr LI Jianquan | Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, CAF; CINFT of SFA | China |
| Mr LI Weichang | Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, CAF | China |
| Ms LI Ming | Department of Development Planning and Assets Management, SFA | China |
| Mr LIU Yong | Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, CAF | China |
| Ms LU Wenjiao | Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, CAF | China |
| Mr Kahana LUKUMBUZYA | Independent forestry consultant | Tanzania |
| Ms LUO Xinjian | Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, CAF CINFT of SFA | China |
| Mr Rito MABUNDA | WWF Mozambique | Mozambique |
| Mr Msawenkosi MADLALA | Ikusasa Forestry Services | South Africa |
| Mr Kevin MAY | Oxfam Beijing Office | China |
| Mr James MAYERS | International Institute for Environment and Development | UK |
| Ms Sylvie Nadège MFOUTOU BANGA | Organisation pour le Développement et les Droits Humains au Congo | Congo-Brazzaville |
| Mr Bakari MOHAMED | Tanzania Forest Services Agency | Tanzania |
| Mr Baruani MSHALE | School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan | Tanzania |
| Mr NING Youliang | Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, CAF | China |
| Mr Roch Euloge N'ZOBO | Observatoire Congolais des droits de l'Homme | Congo-Brazzaville |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr Louis PUTZEL | Center for International Forestry Research | Indonesia |
| Mr REN Peng | Global Environmental Institute | China |
| Mr Carlos SERRA | Centro Terra Viva | Mozambique |
| Ms SHEN Wei | China Wood and Wooden Product Circulation Association | China |
| Mr Cassian William SIANGA | Tanzania Natural Resources Forum | Tanzania |
| Ms SU Haiying | Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, CAF; CINFT of SFA | China |
| Ms SUN Xiufang | Forest Trend | China |
| Ms Christine TAM | WWF Coastal East Africa | Tanzania |
| Ms TAN Xiufeng | Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, CAF | China |
| Mr Bob TANSEY | The Nature Conservancy | China |
| Ms TAO Pei | Blive Global Initiative (http://blog.sina.com.cn/blivemovies) | China |
| Dr Anne TERHEGGEN | World Agroforestry Centre East Asia Node | China |
| Mr TIAN Kang | Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, CAF; CINFT of SFA | China |
| Ms TIAN Shuai | Institute of Foreign Economy, National Development and Reform Commission | China |
| Mr Renato TIMANA | National Directorate of Land and Forest | Mozambique |
| Ms Khanh TRAN-THANH | International Institute for Environment and Development | UK |
| Mr Godber TUMUSHABE | Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment | Uganda |
| Mr WANG Aimin | Global Environmental Institute | China |
| Mr WANG Guangxin | European Forest Institute | China |
| Ms WANG Xiaojuan | Heinrich Boell Foundation China | China |
| Ms WENG Xiaoxue | Oxford University | UK |
| Mr WU Zhimin | International Forestry Cooperation Center, SFA | China |
| Ms WU Hong | Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, CAF | China |
| Mr XIE Hesheng | Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, CAF | China |
| Ms XING Hong | Department of Rural Forestry Reform and Development, SFA | China |
| Mr XU Bin | Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, CAF; CINFT of SFA | China |
| Ms YANG Shiyuan | Oxfam Beijing Office | China |
| Mr YE Bin | Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, CAF; CINFT of SFA | China |
| Mr YU Fawen | Chinese Academy of Social Science | China |
| Mr YU Tianfei | Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, CAF | China |
| Mr HU Yuanhui | State Forest Administration | China |
| Mr ZHANG Jian | Academy of Forest Inventory and Planning, SFA | China |
| Ms ZHANG Liyan | China National Forest Product Industry Association | China |
| Ms ZHANG Mianli | Irish-Chinese Cultural Society, ICCS | China |
| Ms ZHANG Su | UK Department for International Development, China | China |
| Ms ZHAO Rong | Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, CAF; CINFT of SFA | China |
| Ms ZHAO Xuan | Editorial Board of Forestry Economics | China |
| Ms ZHU Rong | Global Environmental Institute | China |

## Annex 2: Speaker mini biographies

**Dr CHEN Shaozhi** is the Director of the Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information at the Chinese Academy of Forest.

**Mr. Antoine EYEBE** is the focal point for Cameroon of the Central African Regional Program for the Environment, of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

**Mr FU Jianquan** is Division Director of the Department of Development Planning and Assets Management at the Chinese State Forestry Administration

**Mr. HUANG Wenbin** is a researcher on forest policy and economy. He currently works at the World Agroforestry Centre, based in China.

**Mrs JIN Jiaman** is the founder and Executive Director of the Global Environmental Institute, an environmental non-governmental organisation based in Beijing, China.

**Dr LI Weichang** is a Professor at the Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information at the Chinese Academy of Forestry.

**Mr. Kahana LUKUMBUZYA** is a natural resource management and forest ecology expert. He currently works as an independent consultant, based in Tanzania.

**Mr. James MAYERS** is a researcher of forest and natural resource governance issues. He is Head of the Natural Resources Group at the IIED, based in the UK.

**Ms Sylvie Nadege MFOUTOU BANGA** is the President of the "Organisation pour le Développement et les Droits Humains" based in Congo.

**Mr. Bakari Salim MOHAMED** is a zonal manager from the Tanzania Forest Services Agency. He is responsible for the Eastern Zone, an area where timber harvesting, timber products exporting and charcoal making is carried out.

**Mr. Baruani MSHALE** is an expert in natural resources governance, specialising in forestry, wildlife and fisheries. He is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Michigan.

**Mr Louis PUTZEL** is a researcher on forestry policy and global trade, with a focus on impacts on forest cover and quality and on forest-based livelihoods. He is a senior scientist at CIFOR in Indonesia.

**Ms. SUN Xiufang** is a researcher in forest trade and finance. She currently works as a program analyst at Forest Trends, based in China.

**Ms Christine TAM** is the China-Africa Trade and Investment coordinator at WWF Coastal East Africa, based in Tanzania.

**Dr Anne TERHEGGEN** research focuses on the impacts of Chinese trade and of investments on local producers in South-East Asian and Sub-Saharan African agroforestry sectors. She is the Sustainable Trade Specialist at the World Agroforestry Center East Asia Node.

**Mr WU Zhimin** is the Deputy Director General of the International Forestry Cooperation Center at the Chinese State Forestry Administration.

# Annex 3: Powerpoint presentations and other documents available

Please email Khanh Tran-Thanh, khanh.tran-thanh@iied.org,at IIED if you would like to receive any of the following presentations or other documents listed below:

### POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS

**Chinese links to forest governance issues in Africa: the view from Tanzania**
Mr. Bakari Salim Mohamed, Tanzania Forest Services Agency

**Chinese evidence and perception**
Ms. Sun Xiufang, Forest Trends and Mr. Ren Peng, Global Environmental Institute

**African Evidence and Perception**
Mr. Baruani Mshale, University of Michigan and Mr. Kahana Lukumbuzya, Independent consultant

**China forest policy in relation to timber trade and investment in Africa**
Mr. Fu Jianquan, State Forestry Administration

**Challenges and opportunities for sustainable forest management in the Congo Basin: examples of Chinese investment in Gabon and the DRC**
Ms. Christine Tam, World Wide Fund for Nature

**Chinese-linked investments within the sectors of natural resources exploitation and major infrastructural projects in Cameroon: impacts and governance challenges**
Mr. Antoine Eyebe, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Cameroon

**Participatory forestry and poverty alleviation in China, and its significance for China-Africa forest governance**
Prof. Li Weichang, Chinese Academy of Forestry

### MEDIA

**Press release, IIED (posted 27 Feb 2013)**
http://www.iied.org/china-africa-new-forum-seeks-sustainable-pro-poor-forestry

**China in African's forests, James Mayers, IIED (blog posted 20 March 2013)**
http://www.iied.org/china-africa-forests

**Photo album of the China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform (all photos by © Simon Lim)**
http://smilebox.co/10Vd8tY

China's relationship with Africa is deepening. As Chinese interests in African forests increase, opinion formers and policy workers in Africa and China need to be better linked in order to shape policy and investment decisions, to ensure good management of forests and the timber trade, and support local livelihoods. This report highlights key discussions held at the launch event of the China-Africa Forest Governance Learning Platform co-hosted by the International Institute for Environment and Development, the Chinese Academy of Forestry and the Global Environmental Institute in March 2013 in Beijing, China. Over two days, participants discussed and debated the perception and available evidence on China-Africa links, from African and Chinese perspectives.

There is huge potential for Chinese engagements in Africa's forest sector to support good forest management and sustainable forest product trade between Africa and China. Together, the Platform participants identified priority issues for joint research and action focused on: guidelines, standards, principles and legislation in Africa and China affecting the activities of Chinese forest enterprises in African countries; scales and types of effective forest management, and related issues such as land and forest tenure; cross-sectoral analysis to understand how Chinese investments in non-forest sector investments impact on forest governance; timber trade and forestry investments involving Chinese companies in specific African countries; and Chinese domestic market regulations and consumer priorities. A second Platform event will be held in Africa in 2014 and focus on reviewing progress made on the above research and action, and on sharpening further actions to improve forest governance.

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