



**ASSESSING THE ECOLOGICAL DYNAMIC, CONSERVATION STATUS
AND TRADE TRACEABILITY OF KEVAZINGO (*GUIBOURTIA SP*)
TIMBER SPECIES AS A FIRST STEP FOR MAKING NON-DETRIMENT
FINDINGS (NDF) IN GABON**

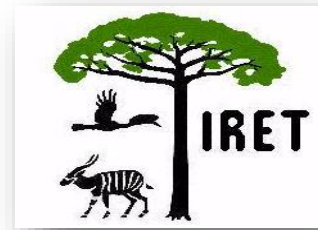


Dr Donald MIDOKO IPONGA (*Project, leader*)

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technologique (CENAREST)

Institut de Recherche en Ecologie Tropicale (IRET) – Libreville (Gabon)

Email: dmiponga@gmail.com



□ Name of implementing agency: Institut de Recherche en Ecologie Tropicale (IRET) – Libreville (Gabon) – CENAREST

□ Name of the focal point for the project at your CITES Management Authority:

1. Dr. Flore KOUMBA PAMBO (CITES Scientific authority)
2. Mr. Brice MEYE (CITES Focal Point in Gabon)

Background

- ❑ Rising concerns about over-utilization of kevazingo timber species has been reported by Gabonese authorities (*Guibourtia tessmannii*, *G. demeusei*, *G. pellegriniana*).
- ❑ This fact has led to its classification in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 2016.
- ❑ The listing of Kévazingo in CITES Appendix II has been a major contribution to the conservation of these species in Gabon.

JUSTIFICATION

- ❑ This act has drawn the attention of the national and international communities to the dangers of uncontrolled exploitation and export of Kévazingo species.
- ❑ Then, one of the fundamental obligations of CITES member countries, and Gabon in particular is the production, prior to any export of a product listed in Appendix II of this Convention, of a non-detriment finding.

Objectives

The main objective of this project is to:

- ❑ Assess the state of the art research on ecological dynamic, conservation status, management, harvesting, processing, traceability and trade of Kevazingo tree species in Gabon as the first step for making Non-Detriment Findings (NDF).
- ❑ Then, assist the Gabonese Government to prepare guidelines or draft report of quality non-detriment findings on the Kévazingo species in Gabon.

Study species

- ❑ Large tree reaching 40 m in height;
- ❑ Distributed in rainforests from Cameroon to Gabon;
- ❑ *Guibourtia tessmannii*, *G. demeusei*, *G. pellegriniana*
- ❑ *Guibourtia tessmannii* and *Guirboutia pellegriniana* species are not distinguished in local languages.



Outputs

- The main objective of this project: is to assess the state of the art research on ecological dynamic, conservation status, management, harvesting, processing, traceability and trade of Kévazingo tree species in Gabon as the first step for making Non-Detriment Findings (NDF).

A total of two outputs have been defined including:

Output 1: a state of the art on KeVazingo species in Gabon well established;

Output 2: *A Non detriment findings and* a realistic action plan/ road map to ensure international trade is not detrimental to Kewazingo tree species in the Gabon forests are developed and implemented.

Output 1: State of the art on kevazingo well dressed.

Activity 1.1. Settlement of coordination team and relevant Committees of the project;

Activity 1. 2. Conducting specific research on relevant topics related to the biology and ecology of Kévazingo tree species in Gabon.

Activity 1. 3. Conducting a detail state of the art on conservation, management, harvesting regimes, transport, and trade regulation (control and traceability) of Kévazingo tree species and **products**.

Activity 1. 2. Conducting specific research on relevant topics related to the biology and ecology of Kévazingo tree species in Gabon.

- ❑ Botanical survey of kévazingo will be conducted in selected study sites to understand species distribution; natural stands, natural regeneration, and stocks,
- ❑ which represent a serious handicap for the forest administrations who want to, build up strategies for the conservation of these tree species.
- ❑ Collection of botanical specimens of the two tree species (for morphological description); and (2) collection of leaf or cambium sample for genetic identification.

Activity 1. 3. Conducting a detail state of the art on conservation, management, harvesting regimes, transport, and trade regulation (control and traceability) of Kévazingo tree species and products.

- ❑ Conducting a detail state of the art research on the forest inventories, management measures, with a view of establishing harvesting quota;
- ❑ Conducting research on production, processing, transport, trade, control and monitoring of Kévazingo species with a view of establishing a fair tracking/control system.

Output 2: Activity 2.1. Based on the results of the state of the art (Activities of output 1); draft a preliminary NDF and a realistic action plan/roadmap detailing activities to be conducted for making a final NDF.

- Drafting a NDF document and a realistic actions plan and roadmap;
- Organizing a national workshop for the validation of the actions plan and roadmap and the way forward;
- Advocacy of the results of the project and the actions plan and roadmap for NDF drafted.

Output 2: A Non-detriment findings report and a realistic action plan/ road map to ensure international trade is not detrimental to Kévazingo tree species in the Gabon forests are developed and implemented.

- ❑ NDF is a dynamic process which will be improved over time, as the management parameters of kévazingo are refined (AAM, DME, DFR, ect...) based on research activities.
- ❑ The information gathered in Expected output 1 will be analysed by a small Scientific Committee, which will be set up under the supervision of the CITES Scientific Authority of Gabon.

challenges and risks

- There is no potential risk that may seriously affect the implementation of the activities;
- The Government of Gabon, research institutions, timber companies and the civil society are all committed to promote the sustainable harvest and conservation of forest resources (including Kévazingo);
- Bad transport network and distances between study sites.....
- Access to data base from forest concessions....
- Force Majeure Event**



Thank you

