

<b>Donor country</b> European Union
<b>Project/programme title</b> Mobilisation and reinforcement of the capacity of SME's involved in forest related products in Central Africa, 2005.
<b>Project duration</b> 36 months
<b>EC contribution to Project budget</b> €3 million
<b>Main proposer</b> UN Food and Agriculture Organisation
<b>Main objectives and brief project description</b> This project aims to build the private sector capacity of small and medium enterprises that are active in the forestry sector and forest related products and services.
<b>Technology transfer element</b> The project specifically aims to strengthen companies along six thematic lines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved knowledge sharing to allow better decision making for investments. This especially relates to local resource knowledge and evaluation.</li> <li>• Improved packaging techniques to improve exportability of products, which in turn is likely to benefit the local employment opportunities.</li> <li>• Increased productivity and associated reduced production costs to enable companies to provide a continuous supply of products of good quality, which is important for private sector development.</li> <li>• Improved management and organisational skills to lead to better market analysis and interpretation. Further benefits to be achieved with increased use of certification process for forest products.</li> <li>• Additional institutional support to be provided to both the public and private sector on topics such as certifications, permits, law in order to avoid possible obstacles for commercial development.</li> <li>• Facilitated access to credit, capital and machinery.</li> </ul>