



Sourcing & Producing Quality Wood Products





Who We Are

A Trusted Partner

Olam Agri is a global supplier of food, feed, & fibre. We deliver high quality, sustainable wood products, sourced and processed from our concessions in the Republic of Congo.

We manage natural forest concessions spanning 2.1 million hectares in the Republic of Congo to the highest standards in line with the FSC^{®1}.

Serving over 30 countries worldwide, we offer a reliable, high-quality supply of fully traceable wood products including primary transformation products, such as boules and air-dried sawn timber, to kiln-dried lumber, and value-added products like scantlings, and decking.



We're pioneers in responsible and sustainable forestry management, and have been working closely with institutions, such as international NGOs, universities, and research organisations, the government, and local communities for over 55 years to ensure mutual value creation, and commercial, environmental, and social sustainability.

Key Facts

- FSC® certified
- 2.1 million hectares of sustainably managed forest
- 400,000 m³ input log capacity for primary transformation
- Largest kiln drying capacity for tropical hardwoods in Africa
- 30+ countries in our distribution network
- 55+ years of experience
- 1,600+ employees in the Republic of Congo
- EUDR, UKTR & Lacey Act compliant

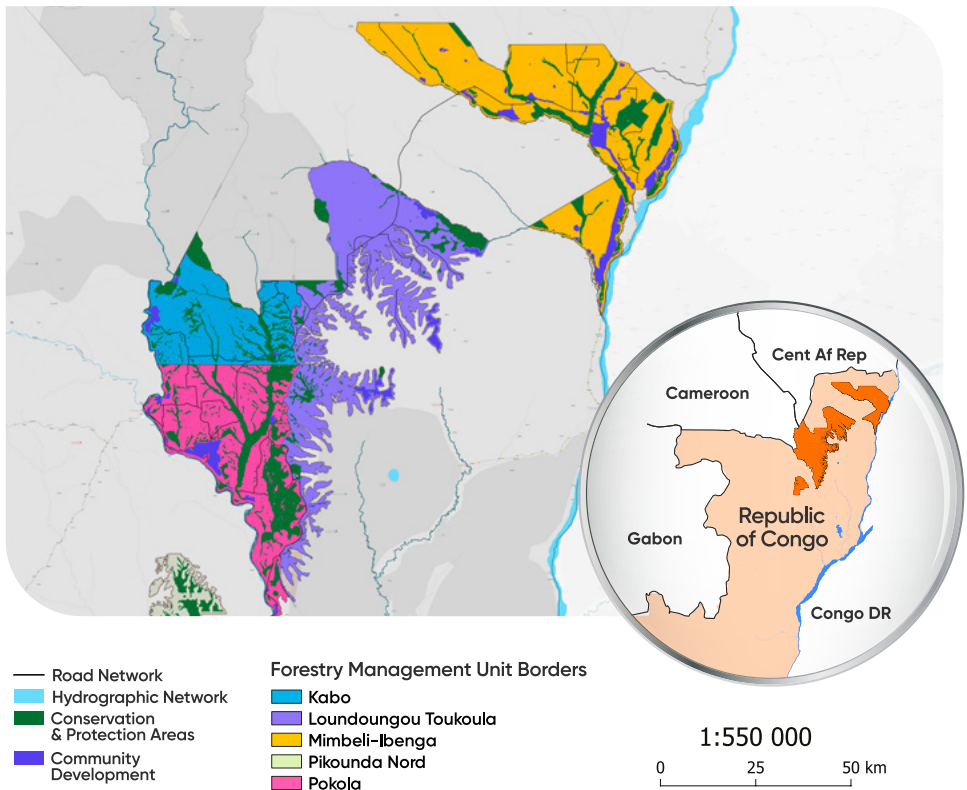
Where We Operate

Serving Customers Globally From the Republic of Congo

We're strategically positioned across four key locations in Congo: Pokola, Loundougou, Kabo, and Mimbéli Ibenga.

Each has ease of access to export routes enabling us to serve customers all around the globe.

We also maintain a fifth concession in Pikounda Nord as a conservation area where over 92,000 hectares are permanently preserved.



A person wearing an orange safety suit and helmet is climbing a large tree trunk in a forest. The person is looking up and reaching out with their right hand. The tree trunk is thick and has a rough, textured bark. The background is filled with green foliage and trees, creating a dense forest environment. The lighting is bright, suggesting daylight.

2.1m Hectares

of Sustainably
Managed Forest

Our Capabilities

Expertly Crafted Products to Meet Customer Needs

We process a range of timber species, thicknesses, and dimensions to meet customer requirements. From Mahogany to Sapelli, and Ayous to Wengue, we ensure that every piece of timber meets the highest standards of quality and durability. Our five modern mills have an annual capacity of 400,000 m³ of input logs.

Our mills are equipped with Opticut and Computer Numerical Control (CNC) systems, allowing us to optimise production processes, minimise waste, and deliver precision-cut timber with unmatched accuracy. We use all sections of the harvested tree ensuring minimal waste while offering our customers the best product.



Drying

We offer both air and kiln drying to meet customers cost, time, and quality parameters.

Air drying uses natural environmental conditions to gradually reduce the moisture content of wood. Lumber is stacked in a well-ventilated area and left to dry for 4 to 16 weeks depending on the species, thickness, and conditions. It's a cost-effective means of drying timber.

We offer one of the largest in-house kiln capacities for certified tropical timber in Africa.

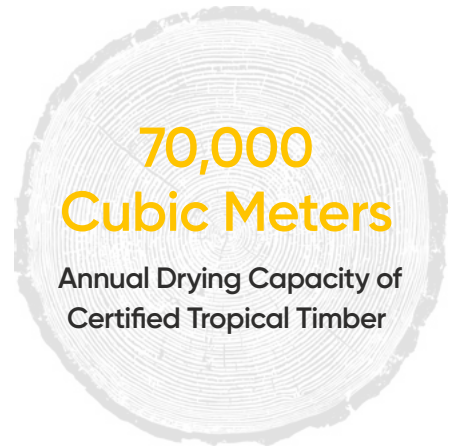
By regulating temperature, humidity, and airflow, kiln drying can achieve significant moisture reduction in two to six weeks and allows us to guarantee humidity percentages to meet customer needs while minimising the risk of wood defects such as warping, cracking, and decay.

Most of our timber species are carefully seasoned for months to bring the moisture content down to around 30%.

Our seasoning park has been designed with drying sheds and sensors that calculate the potential impact of varying weather conditions so adjustments can be made.

Our drying operations are among the most ecologically friendly across Africa and are powered by a wood-waste fired co-generation power plant.

We're continuing to increase the scale and efficiency of our operations to meet growing demand.



Moulding

We specialise in producing intricate components for wooden houses and furniture. With our cutting-edge technology operated by skilled craftsmen we deliver anything from ornate trims to intricate panels.

We use precision engineering and a keen eye for detail to ensure that every piece meets the highest standards of quality and aesthetics. Our annual capacity is 6,000 m³.

Certified Finger-Jointed & Laminated Scantlings

We transform several short sections of wood into longer, stronger lumber through finger-jointing and lamination.

We can produce up to 10,000 m³ of scantlings each year.

Their strength and stability are rigorously tested by our quality control team to FCBA (Forest Cellulose Bois-construction Ameublement) and KOMO standards. They are used in products such as window and door frames.

Customisation

Our expansive facilities can cater to your demands and specific size requirements.

Stock Availability

As the largest producer of scantlings in Africa we have a large inventory ready to meet immediate demand.

Certification

We hold FCBA and KOMO certification in various species for both our technical and sustainable practices giving you the peace of mind your products are of the highest quality.



Certifications, Regulations & Traceability

Your Business in Safe Hands

We strongly support certification and regulation in the wood industry for the benefit of both customers and the environment. We ensure that we stay at the forefront of evolving standards through processes and technology which supports our license to operate.

As a leading supplier of tropical hardwood timber production, we understand the importance of legal compliance and transparency. That's why we supply our customers with comprehensive documentation including species details and full traceability.



EU Deforestation Regulation

EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) will be enforced from December 30, 2025. It has been developed to ensure that a set of key products traded and consumed in the EU no longer contribute to deforestation and forest degradation in the regions from where products are sourced.

We make sure our customers have all the information they need to be compliant with the EUDR and remove headaches by supplying traceability data right back to tree-level. Our tools simplify the due diligence activities required by our customers and enable them to carry out their risk assessments with ease.

Our team of specialists have an in-depth understanding of the ever-changing compliance landscape and are part of working groups monitoring the implementation of the regulatory environment. We guide our customers, to make sure timber transactions are carried out the right way.

The US Lacey Act

The US's Lacey Act came into force in 1900, and originally banned trafficking in illegally taken fish, wildlife, or plants.

In 2008 the Act was expanded to include prohibiting the trade of plants and plant products, including timber that was harvested in violation of foreign law.

Our products are fully compliant with the Lacey Act, meaning we abide by the laws and work closely with the government of the Republic of Congo.





FSC® Certification

We're proud to be the longest holder of FSC® certification in the Congo Basin, which is part of the guarantee we give our customers that the timber they purchase has been responsibly sourced and contributes to the conservation of forests and the well-being of the local communities.

All five of our concessions are FSC® certified. We harvest from four of them and maintain the fifth as a conservation area for a REDD+ project.

The FSC® requirements focus on local laws, workers' rights and employment conditions, indigenous peoples' rights, community relations, benefits for the forest, environmental values and impacts, management planning, monitoring and assessment, high conservation values, and implementation of management activities.

Our License Numbers

- FSC-C014998
- FSC-C104637
- FSC-C005457
- FSC-C128941
- FSC-C156094
- FSC-P001887



Corporate Responsibility & Sustainability

Applying Good Governance



Our strategy identifies risks, challenges, and societal impact, enabling us to maintain performance amidst global challenges and industry changes.

Our vision is to build a sustainable wood industry and to be the leading company in responsible forest management. We're committed to making a positive impact on the environment and local people. Our ambition is to be the leading company in responsible forest management.

We want to create an opportunity for the forest and its inhabitants which in turn will make our business sustainable. The future of our wood business relies on people's wellbeing and the environment. We aim to increase the value of the natural capital of the forests entrusted to us and develop with respect for ecosystems, implement responsible practices, and redefine industry rules. Our goal is to enhance local product processing, collaborate with customers and partners, and innovate wood products further.



55+ Years

Sustainable Forestry
Management



Environmental Excellence

Implementing Sustainable Practices

Sustainability is at the core of our operations. Our customers can trust that products purchased are sourced from sustainable practices that protect forests and wildlife.

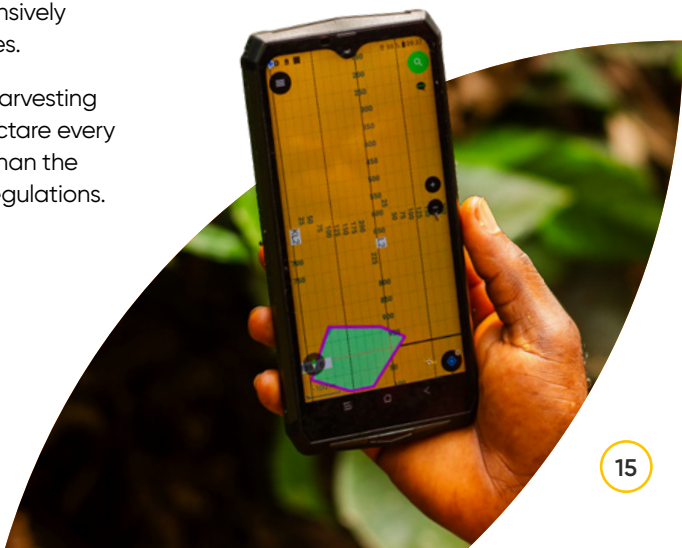
The forests entrusted to us represent an invaluable heritage for biodiversity conservation and human welfare. Our presence for over 55 years attests that balanced management is economically sustainable. These concessions serve as crucial habitat, both locally and regionally, for conserving threatened species in the Congo Basin.

A quarter of our forest concessions is permanently protected from forest operations and reserved for the communities or safeguarded allowing them to grow without being disturbed. In the harvestable areas, we apply Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) techniques, meaning we intensively plan, and carefully select trees.

In the harvesting areas, our harvesting rate is below one tree per hectare every 30 years, significantly lower than the level permitted by national regulations.

We work with the Republic of Congo's Forestry Department who allocate cutting areas in our forest management units (FMU) in our concessions. We define the location of all work sites and provide them with field maps containing GPS coordinates.

In line with FSC® requirements, we have mapped all the High Conservation Value zones in our concessions and developed management and monitoring measures with stakeholders.



How We Harvest

Selecting trees to harvest is a careful process uniting experts in the field and community leaders to ensure key environmental and social factors are considered.

1. Social Mapping

Our sustainability team accompanies representatives of the local communities, to identify all trees or sacred sites such as graves and trees used for pharmacopoeia. These sites are then recorded and protected to prevent damage.

2. Layonneurs (Trailblazers)

An advance team creates an approved trail by dividing the forest into surveyable segments. Important elements or set aside areas not seen in satellite images are marked for protection.

3. Inventory

At least a year before harvesting, we inventory all identified trees within the defined area using mobile devices, recording their diameter, quality, and GPS location. Our algorithm generates a report with an optimised skidding network and clear demarcation of protected zones and social resources for local communities.

4. Tree Counting & Future Stem Analysis

Botanists evaluate and record each tree's potential quality and diameter. Trees too small for current harvest but suitable in 30+ years are marked for protection. Data from tree counting and future stem analysis is shared with the operations team for planning.

5. Sorting & Tracking

Two to three weeks before harvest, botanists review the initial selection of inventoried trees to determine which tree will be harvested.

Free, Prior & Informed Consent (FPIC)

We are committed to FPIC. We respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to have a say in projects affecting their lands and livelihoods. We engage in open dialogue, honouring their traditions, and ensuring their voices are heard in decision-making processes. This ensures mutual respect and safeguards against any negative impacts on their environment and resources.

Green Energy

We've set a new greener standard in the African forest industry through our cogeneration plant since 2015 and significantly reducing our carbon footprint. With a capacity of 4.1 MW, this plant has led to an annual saving of around 7 million litres of diesel which would be otherwise required to generate electricity in absence of a national electricity grid. The biomass facility uses wood waste to produce electricity and provides electricity to the town of Pokola for residential and commercial use, benefiting the community at large.

Minimising Road Development

While road infrastructure is essential for our operations, we prioritise environmental preservation. We close temporary roads post-harvesting to minimise ecological disruption and we use state-of-the-art GPS mapping and customised algorithms to identify the shortest and most efficient routes and safeguard indigenous trees and minimise damage to saplings. By optimising road planning, we have saved time, fuel and reduced the distance of trails constructed by around 10% since adopting this approach in 2018.

Upholding Environmental Responsibility

We're committed to protecting water courses throughout our concessions. We treat operational water on site at our treatment works and undertake daily sampling.

Samples are subject to rigorous testing at our on-site laboratory, and verified by an independent third-party so we can guarantee the quality of water discharged is compliant with regulatory standards. We don't use hazardous and prohibited chemicals and are committed to minimising the usage of all chemicals across our timber operations.

Partnering to Protect Wildlife

Our customers know that wood products they purchase are sourced from areas where conservation and community engagement are prioritised.

Since 1999, we've partnered with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Ministry of Forest Economy (MEF) of the Republic of Congo to protect wildlife around Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park. PROGEPP establishes a vital buffer zone where we deploy eco-guards, engage in biomonitoring, and combat illegal poaching. We've also set up a second anti-poaching unit in our Mimbéli-Ibenga concession, covering 650,000 hectares. Our collaboration with MEF ensures community engagement and conservation efforts to protect local biodiversity.

With funding from the Programme for the Promotion of Certified Forestry Exploitation (PPECF), we've partnered with Nature+ to standardise and scale wildlife monitoring, enhancing our protection efforts. The data we collect is shared with scientific partners to develop strategies that minimise disturbance during harvesting.

We recognise and respect the cultural significance of indigenous traditions. By designating areas for sustainable traditional hunting by local communities, we match conservation efforts with cultural heritage preservation. Through these integrated approaches, we strive to ensure a thriving ecosystem while honouring traditions and safeguarding wildlife.





Positive Social Impact

Working with Communities

We respect the rights and cultures of local populations, ensuring they have equitable access to resources and opportunities. Special attention is given to Indigenous populations who are often marginalised from decision-making processes, acknowledging their profound understanding of local ecosystems, and advocating for their inclusion in environmental conservation efforts.

We adopt sustainable development that uplifts the livelihoods of local communities while preserving the natural habitats they depend on. Through initiatives aimed at enhancing access to modern healthcare, education, and economic opportunities, we aim to support these communities to prosper without imposing on their way of life.

We're always keen to collaborate on improving livelihoods and engage with partners and customers regularly to develop new initiatives.

Medical Centre

In our forest concessions, community support extends beyond timber management; it encompasses the build and operation of vital healthcare infrastructure including the region's largest and most innovative hospital.

The 42-bed hospital and four rural clinics, serves our employees, their families and the broader community.

The facility offers essential medical services, including vaccinations, malaria treatment, and HIV awareness and prevention.

33,900+
Consultations in 2023



Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

Our Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) programme in the Republic of Congo demonstrates our commitment to improving the lives of communities by addressing fundamental needs.

Through implementing boreholes and water filtration systems, we ensure access to clean and safe drinking water, mitigating health risks associated with waterborne diseases.

The programme also builds community toilets to provide proper sanitation facilities to promote hygiene practices and prevent the spread of disease. By using sustainable technologies and local partnerships, the programmes provide immediate relief and establish long-term solutions for water accessibility.

160+

Toilets Built

Between 2020 and 2023, over 160 toilets have been built by our teams in the most isolated villages in our concessions, effectively combating microbiological contamination of drinking water.

Empowering Communities Through Knowledge

In 2020 we created Project OKA – a listening service that connects indigenous communities with information and answers to their questions in local dialect.

Our teams provide pre-loaded MP3 devices to communities for when Community Teams are unavailable. The topics include health, safety, human rights and laws. It is regularly updated with refreshed topics which come up during engagement sessions, and we continue to ask for feedback from local people to improve the resource.

OKA, meaning 'listening' in Mbengele was developed for adults. A spin off initiative called OKA BANA designed to support childrens education, is being rolled out this year.

Supporting the School

Access to education offers children and adults greater opportunities. We support the school with books, benches and wood. The wood is used in woodwork lessons, run by our local team to help children develop useful skills with local resources.

A Community Library

In 2008 we established the Centre Cultural – a community library – to empower youths by providing them with the learning resources. The library offers free access to nearly 15,000 books (primarily in French) and welcomes around 400 students every month.



A Responsible Employer

Contributing to the Local Economy

We're the largest employer in the north of the Republic of Congo with over 1,600 people in our operations. All employees are paid above the country's minimum salary, and all employees benefit from free or subsidised housing, electricity, water, and healthcare.

We're committed to ensuring a healthy and safe working environment and carry out daily safety briefings and regular training to support employees to comply with our safety requirements. We adhere to International Labor Organization (ILO) standards and implement robust occupational health and safety policies to minimise accidents.



Investing in Tomorrow's Forestry Leaders

Through our internship programmes, we develop the next generation of leaders in forestry. The programme focuses on giving interns hands-on projects.

We welcome more than 25 students a year from Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech – Université de Liège and Ecole régionale post-universitaire d'aménagement et de gestion intégrés des forêts et territoires tropicaux (ERAIFT-RDC) for a unique internship programme within our concessions.

Training is intensive and interactive with a focus on management, reduced impact logging, certification, and botany in forestry. Graduates of the scheme have been awarded supervisor roles with our company.

Economic Empowerment of Women

We launched Project MaC— “Menagere a Constructrice” (Home Maker to Home Builder) in 2021 to empower women in the northern region of the Republic of Congo by equipping them with skills for constructing wooden houses and enable them to secure employment opportunities in the industry.

In line with the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the project aims to promote gender parity and create more inclusive societies by challenging stereotypes, transforming mindsets and breaking down perceptions that will contribute to combating poverty and ensuring productive employment.

Project MaC’s most recent development was a collaboration with the government to enable women to have more flexibility with working hours. It resulted in a law change enabling women to choose to work later shifts while still ensuring safety by continuing to provide them with transport at the end of their shift.





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