



**THE LESSER-USED AND PLANTATION TIMBER EXHIBITION 2022
PROCEEDINGS AND OUTCOME**



12TH – 13TH OCTOBER, 2022

ERATA HOTEL, EAST LEGON – ACCRA

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Overview

Over the years, Ghana's timber supply chain has largely been filled with approximately 100 (14%) of the 715 tree species in the forests (Forestry Commission, 2022). The commonly known species among these have been over-exploited. As a result, their availability has dwindled. Research has however shown that other (emerging) timber species with comparable physical and technical properties that may be lesser-known species (LKS) or lesser-used species (LUS) and plantation timber are available in appreciable commercial quantities.

Over exploitation of the commonly used timber species has brought about dire consequences on their sustainability and the forests. Adoption of alternative timber species therefore have the potential to revert this situation and protect our forest by diverting pressure away from the few commonly used ones. Unfortunately, the domestic market is not adequately aware and capacitated to use them.

Consequently, the Kumasi Wood Cluster Association, through the project titled "Building the capacities of Small-Medium Forest Enterprises in Ghana and Liberia to supply and Trade in Legal Timber (Phase 1 and Phase II)", funded by the UKaid, actively embarked on capacity development and awareness creation initiatives geared towards promoting the domestic use of lesser-used and plantation timber species.

Among such initiatives, include publishing a [Compendium on some timber species in Ghana](#). The compendium will be useful in disseminating physical and technical information about LUS/LKS timber species in an easy to read manner to facilitate easy referencing and effective knowledge uptake and application by wood users.

KWC has also developed a [GhTimber Atlas](#), as a dynamic mobile application that offers a visual and graphical approach to understanding the physical and technical properties of some Ghanaian timber species. The development of these resources and tools have been followed by a series of in-person engagements with actors within domestic timber supply chain, particularly high volume timber consumers, including those within the Ghana Chamber of Construction Industry (GhCCI) in order to create the necessary awareness for adoption of lesser-used and plantation timber.

Beyond these initiatives, there was a strong need to undertake an exhibition of products made out of lesser-used and plantation timber that would not only serve another opportunity of promoting lesser-used and lesser-known timber species, but also, let wood consumers and the general public 'see and feel' the quality of products that can be made out of lesser-used and plantation timber. The exhibition would also create a business to business platform for interactions, discussions and networking.

The Lesser-Used/Lesser Known and Plantation Timber Exhibition 2022

In collaboration with the Timber Industry Development Division (TIDD) of the Forestry Commission and the Ghana Chamber of Construction Industry (GhCCI), KWC organized the Lesser-used Species (LUS) as well as Lesser Known Species (LKS) and Plantation Timber Products Exhibition 2022. The event happened to be the foremost timber trade show, in recent times, dedicated to promoting lesser-used timber and plantation species in Ghana.

The exhibition reflected deepest commitment of KWC, its collaborators as well as funding partners, to ensure wholesale adoption of those timber species as suitable and sustainable alternatives to the commonly used and often over-exploited timber species such as Mahogany, Wawa, Sapele, Kokrodua, Odum among others, for building construction, and furniture making domestically.

It was a 2-day event held at the Erata Hotel, Accra. Funding for the exhibition was primarily provided by the UKaid through the Building the capacities of Small-Medium Forest Enterprises in Ghana and Liberia to supply and Trade in Legal Timber project, as part of the Forest Governance Markets and Climate (FGMC) Programme. The UK Timber Trade Federation (UKTTF) also supported the initiative with additional funding to facilitate the mobilization of the resources and logistics critical to the success of the exhibition.

Pre-Event TV Interview

On 11 October, 2022, Executive Director for KWC and the Operations Director of the Timber Industry Development (TIDD) of the Forestry Commission of Ghana were hosted on the morning show of GhOne TV (one of the television channels in Ghana with nationwide coverage) to discuss emerging wood species and their impacts on sustainable wood supply and the environment.

The discussants on the show were able to paint a picture of the impact of the over-exploitation of the commonly known timber species on the environment and livelihoods of people who depend on forest products. The importance of the use of lesser-used and plantation timber in ensuring sustainable wood supply for infrastructural development was also touched upon, including measures to ensure long term availability of these emerging species for wood consumers to access. The KWC Executive Director who was on the show seized the opportunity to announce and invite stakeholders in the built industry as well as the general public to participate in the 2-day exhibition for lesser-used and plantation timber at the Erata Hotel in Accra.

[Watch the full interview here](#)

The 2-day event

The event was segmented into three main parts; the opening ceremony, a mini-conference and the exhibition. The trade show was remarkably well-attended, because it was well publicized and free to the public. Participants included Architects, Estate Developers, Timber Suppliers, Plantation Developers, Researchers, Policy makers, Road and Building Contractors, Surveyors, other specifiers, Wood Processors, Traders as well as the public.

Representatives of stakeholder agencies and organizations like Forest Industries Association of Ghana (FIAG) and other timber trade associations, Ghana Chamber of Construction Industry (GhCCI), Forest Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG) of the Council for Scientific Research (CSIR), the Forestry Commission, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Ministry of Works and Housing and the Ministry of Local Government actively participated in the two-day event. The Liberian Timber Association (LIBTA) also sent a high-powered delegation to the two-day event and picked key planning and operational lessons for future replication in Liberia.

Opening Ceremony

Among the invited guests in attendance at the opening of the exhibition were Hon. Francis Asenso-Boakye, Minister of Works and Housing, Hon. Benito Owusu Bio, Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Mr. John Allotey, Chief Executive Officer of Ghana's Forestry Commission and Tetrete Okuamoah Sekyim II, the Paramount Chief of Wassa Amenfi and the Chairman of the Forestry Commission Board. Also in attendance were some of members of the Forestry Commission Board including Nana Akosua Agyemang Prempeh and Mr. George Wireko-Brobby. Others were Surveyor Emmanuel Martey, Chairman of the GhCCI Council and Mr. Emmanuel Cherry, Chief Executive Officer of the GhCCI.



Hon. Asenso Boakye (Minister, W&H)



Hon. Benito O. Bioh (Dep. Minister, L&NR)

The opening ceremony was chaired by Tetrete Okuamoah Sekyim II. In his welcome address, the Executive Director of KWC and a Board Member of the FC, Mr. Gustav Adu, said the event is being organized primarily to serve as a business and networking platform that connects suppliers of lesser-used and plantation timber and timber products to consumers, especially the high volume timber consumers in Ghana.

He explained that, timber has been one of the fundamental resources for infrastructure and housing development in Ghana and that despite its apparent scarcity, the availability of newly emerging timber species with comparable physical and technical properties have been variously documented for utilization. Thus, wood consumers, through the event, will “see and feel” the quality of products made from selected plantation and lesser-used timber species.



Tetrete Okuamoah Sekyim II (FC Board Chair)



Mr. Gustav Adu, Executive Director (KWC)

The Chief Executive of the Forestry Commission, Mr. John Allotey indicated that the lesser-used wood species promotion is one of the Forestry Commission’s initiatives to combat illegal logging and achieve the environmental objectives of sustainable forest management (SFM) while transforming the domestic wood marketplace into an industrial hub for value added processing. “The initiation of promoting commercial exploitation and the use of LUS/LKS and plantation timber in construction is therefore expected to enhance the availability and supply of legal timber particularly for the domestic market”, he stated.

He further added that; the increase in demand for timber as a raw material for construction particularly in the real estate sector puts a lot of pressure on forest reserves. Ghanaians and consumers of timber all over the world have a high taste for traditional tropical timber species such as Mahogany, Odum, Dahoma, Sapele, Masonia which are becoming scarce because of over-exploitation. To avoid complete extinction of these prime species and its consequent ecological

imbalance, there is the need to shift attention from these few prime species by exploring the market potential of other timber species that may be of economic value.

Mr. Allotey enumerated a number of policy interventions that the Forestry Commission has introduced to ensure adequate supply of legal timber on the domestic market among which include:

1. Implementation of Domestic Market Policy, which aims at improving legal wood on the domestic market.
2. Development of Public Procurement Policy on Timber and Timber Products to provide policy prescriptions for the purchase of timber and timber products by central government.
3. Introduction of procedural guidance that will facilitate the enforcement of removal of 100% of allocated yield by timber right holders.
4. Introduction of a new legislation, LI 2254 in 2017, which gives legal backing to the Voluntary Partnership Agreement(VPA) implementation and provide further measures to ensure the legality of timber not only for the export market but also for the domestic market.

Hon. Francis Asenso-Boakye, the Minister for Works and Housing and the Special Guest of Honour of the event, expressed his excitement about the collaboration efforts between civil society organizations such as KWC and the Forestry Commission to organize the exhibition, which primarily has the interest of the works and housing sector in focus, while saving the environment.

He buttressed on the importance of LUS/LKS in the housing sector. Given the current over exploitation of timber, the knowledge about LUS/LKS will help reduce pressure on the well-known species and provide the housing sector several alternatives for construction purposes.

Hon. Francis Asenso-Boakye also took the opportunity to launch the book titled “Compendium of some Ghanaian Timber Species” and a mobile app called “GhTimber Atlas” which are free resources developed by KWC to display the lesser-used and lesser-known timber species. The reference sources provide the names, appearances, geographical locations, mechanical properties, and products that could be made out of the species.

The Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, in charge of Forestry, Hon. Benito Owusu-Bio represented the Minister, Hon. Samuel Abu Jinapor as the Keynote Speaker. He commended the organizers for seeking to throw more light on the lesser used species that can serve as substitutes of the well-known timber species.

Mr. Owusu-Bio continued that Ghana is blessed with abundant LUS/LKS that offer similar aesthetic appeal and perform just as well as many species that are already highly sought after in the marketplace. In the past, the biggest problem related to promoting LUS/LKS has been the lack of information on their technical properties and uses.

He further noted that, “efforts are being made to provide abundant and reliable information on these species using evidence-based research on wood properties coupled with demonstrations of their applications such as this very exhibition that has been organized”.

He added that the importance of this event is very critical, as we need to bridge the knowledge gap between the use of the LUS and the traditional timber species. “We need to kick-start a drive for the commercial usage of LUS in particular”, he said. He duly opened the exhibition for viewing. The invited guests and participants were then ushered to the exhibition arena to interact with the exhibitors and critically assess the products.

The conference

After the opening ceremony, participants reconvened for a panel discussion under the theme “Forest sector support for the development of housing and construction”. A panel of five discussants were constituted to speak to topical issues such as the “Outlook of timber availability to meet current and future housing and construction needs; mobilizing wood for construction and housing development as well as green affordable housing and sustainable timber supply”.

Panelists included; Mr. Yaw Atuahene Nyarko (Production Manager, Resource Management Support Centre of FC), Mr. Peter Zormelo (Operations Director, Timber Industry Development Division of FC), and Dr. Emmanuel Appiah-Kubi (Senior Lecturer, Department of Construction and Wood Technology, Akenten Appiah Minkah University of Skills Training & Entrepreneurial Development). Other panelists included Mr. Samuel David K. Amegayibor (Ghana Real Estates Developers Association, GhCCI) and Dr. Kwame Asamoah Adam (Chief Executive Officer, Forest Industries Association of Ghana).

Panelists further discussed issues on the conducive policy and economic environment for the promotion of lesser-used plantation timber for housing development, and policy direction on utilization of LUS and plantation timber.



A section of the panel discussants

The key recommendations from the panel discussion to encourage and popularize the use of the LUS/LKS and Plantation Timber are tabulated below:

Table 1: Key recommendations and proposed responsible agencies for implementation

SN.	Recommendations	Responsible Agencies
1	Continuous awareness creation on the suitability of alternative timber species for adoption by high volume timber consumers and the public.	Forestry Commission (FC), Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG) of CSIR, other research institutions, Kumasi Wood Cluster Association (KWC) and other CSOs
2	Periodic assessments, documentation and update on LUS/LKS/Plantation timber for their inclusion in planning and use for construction purposes. Assessment should establish the actual volumes, stocking, availability status, characteristics and replacement for commonly used timber species.	Resource Management Support Centre (RMSC) of FC, FORIG, Timber Industry Development Division (TIDD) of FC,
3	Capacity development for domestic wood processors, especially small and medium enterprises, on the appropriate treatment and processing technologies for lesser-used and plantation timber species.	FORIG, FCTC, TIDD and FIAG, KWC and other CSOs with the technical capability for capacity development in the mentioned areas.
4	Plantation timber has become the main source of timber for export; it overtook natural timber in terms of volume. Therefore, government and other stakeholders must:	
	a. Facilitate private sector involvement in more plantation development	Government - Forestry Commission, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Financial institutions, private plantation developers
	b. Urgently promote domestic processing of Plantation timber Species and their use	TIDD, GhCCI, KWC and other CSOs
5	Presently, there is no clear-cut policy or consideration about the use of lesser-used and plantation timber for public works. In order to make the adoption of alternative timber species effective, government, through the Ministries of Works and Housing as well as the Lands and Natural Resources and Local Government, must formulate or revise existing cross-sectoral procurement policy to incentivize or enforce the use of timber from lesser-used species for public works,	Ministries of Works and Housing as well as the Lands and Natural Resources and Local Government, GhCCI, Forestry Commission, KWC, other CSOs

	by contractors.	
6	More sustainable platforms should be created to connect wood consumers, such as the GhCCI, with suppliers of lesser-used and plantation timber species. Easy access to credible and reliable suppliers will facilitate adoption and promote the use of legal timber in the domestic market.	KWC, TIDD, GhCCI

At the conference, participants were given orientation and training on how to access the “Compendium of Some Selected Ghanaian Timber Species” and the “GhTimber Atlas” app as well as the “Domestic Wood Tracking System” app on their computer and cell phone devices. They were guided by the KWC and the TIDD on how to apply the information available on the apps. Exhibitors were also given time and opportunity to speak to and promote the products and services they offer and to establish business to business connections with participants.

[Watch excerpts of the 2-day event here](#)

The Exhibition

The exhibition was organized from 12-13 October, 2022 from 9am – 16:30 GMT each day. Ten (10) companies that harvested and processed LUS and plantation timber into semi-finished and finished products to exhibit were Samartex Timber and Plywood Ltd., Logs and Lumber Ltd., John Bitar Company Ltd., Xylogi Co. Ltd., Ayipah Wood Processing Ltd., Miro Forestry Ltd., Form Ghana Limited, Specialized Timber Products Ltd. and the Private Afforestation Developers Association (PADO).

Fifteen (15) other companies including the White Eagle Company Ltd., MOFCO Furniture Co. Ltd., Modern Wood Technologies Ltd., Pilot Training Institute, 2BEEZ Arts, Forestry Commission Training Centre (FCTC), Chaka Construction Ltd., Climax Deco Ltd., Liberty Furniture Ltd, Saturn Complex Ltd, Innovatec Ghana Ltd., Bamboo Ecocity,, Artworks Ghana Ltd. and Furnat Ghana Ltd. used the LUS and plantation timber to produce finished products for exhibition.

The companies were drawn from the Northern, Western, Southern and Eastern parts of Ghana. A wide variety of wood products made from LUS/LKS/Plantation timber were exhibited including; furniture (dining sets, tables, chairs, lazy chairs, poolside beds), panel and flash doors, door and window frames, pallets, carvings and artifacts, decking and floorings, heavy duty stakes and poles, planter boxes, mini-bar set, planks and boards, processed and unprocessed samples of the timber species.



Some of the exhibits displayed in the stands

The table below shows a list of some of the exhibits and the lesser-used or plantation timber species from which they were made.

Table 2: List of exhibits and timber species from which they were made

No	Species Name	Item Produced with the Species
1	Akata (<i>Rhodognaphalon buonopozense</i>)	Flash Doors
2	Cedrella (<i>Cederella Odorata</i>)	Panel Doors, planter boxes, poolside bed
3	Danta (<i>Nesogordonia papaverifera</i>)	Dining set with tables
4	Denya (<i>Cylicodiscus gabunensis</i>)	Deckings (flooring)
5	Esa (<i>Celtis spp</i>)	Finger-jointed door panels, Lazy chairs
6	Ohaa (<i>Sterculia oblonga</i>)	Queen-size Bed
7	Kroma (<i>Klainedoxa gabonensis</i>)	Planters

8	Watapuo (<i>Cola gigantean</i>)	Panel Doors
9	Yaya - <i>Amphimas pterocarpoides</i>	Sitting room Sofa
10	Teak (<i>Tectonia grandis</i>)	Doors, Tables, carvings and artifacts
11	<i>Eucalyptus Spp</i>	Planks and boards
12	Kako/Eke	Heavy duty stakes and poles

Conclusion

For every participant or exhibitor that attended the exhibition, it was anticipated that these objectives were achieved:

1. Gained exclusive access to influential industry players through one-to-one meetings, business-to-business (B2B) pitching opportunities and other networking forums.
2. Able to expand customer and supplier base, channels for sales and purchases, and conduct business by leveraging the opportunities of the exhibition.
3. Participated in and learned more from insightful ICT tools that ease access to information for addressing important cross-industry issues such as the timber availability, supply outlook and prospects to meet current and future housing construction timber needs.
4. Gained firsthand experience about the quality and variety of products which can be made out of wood from lesser known, lesser used and plantation timber species.
5. Learned about how these species of wood can be technically treated to be suitable for making quality products and durable for long-term use.
6. Showcased top-quality capacity and products and promoted businesses.

Based on our observations during the event, the event publicity, the level of participation, as well as written and oral post-event feedback from participants and exhibitors, it is our measured conclusion that the exhibition was a huge success and the primary objectives for organizing this event has been achieved. As enumerated in the recommendation table, KWC will continue to collaborate with designated government agencies, CSOs and the private sector to convert key recommendations into actionable strategies for implementation.

KWC, TIDD & GhCCI

October, 2022

Kumasi - Ghana