



LA RÉFÉRENCE EN MATIÈRE DE BOIS TROPICAL



# African lumber, a world of opportunities for the US market.

March, 14, 2024



# Meet Today's' Panelists



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Jean Gerard, PHD  
Technical lead  
CIRAD /ATIBT



Paul Cuveillier, MS  
Technical Associate  
ATIBT

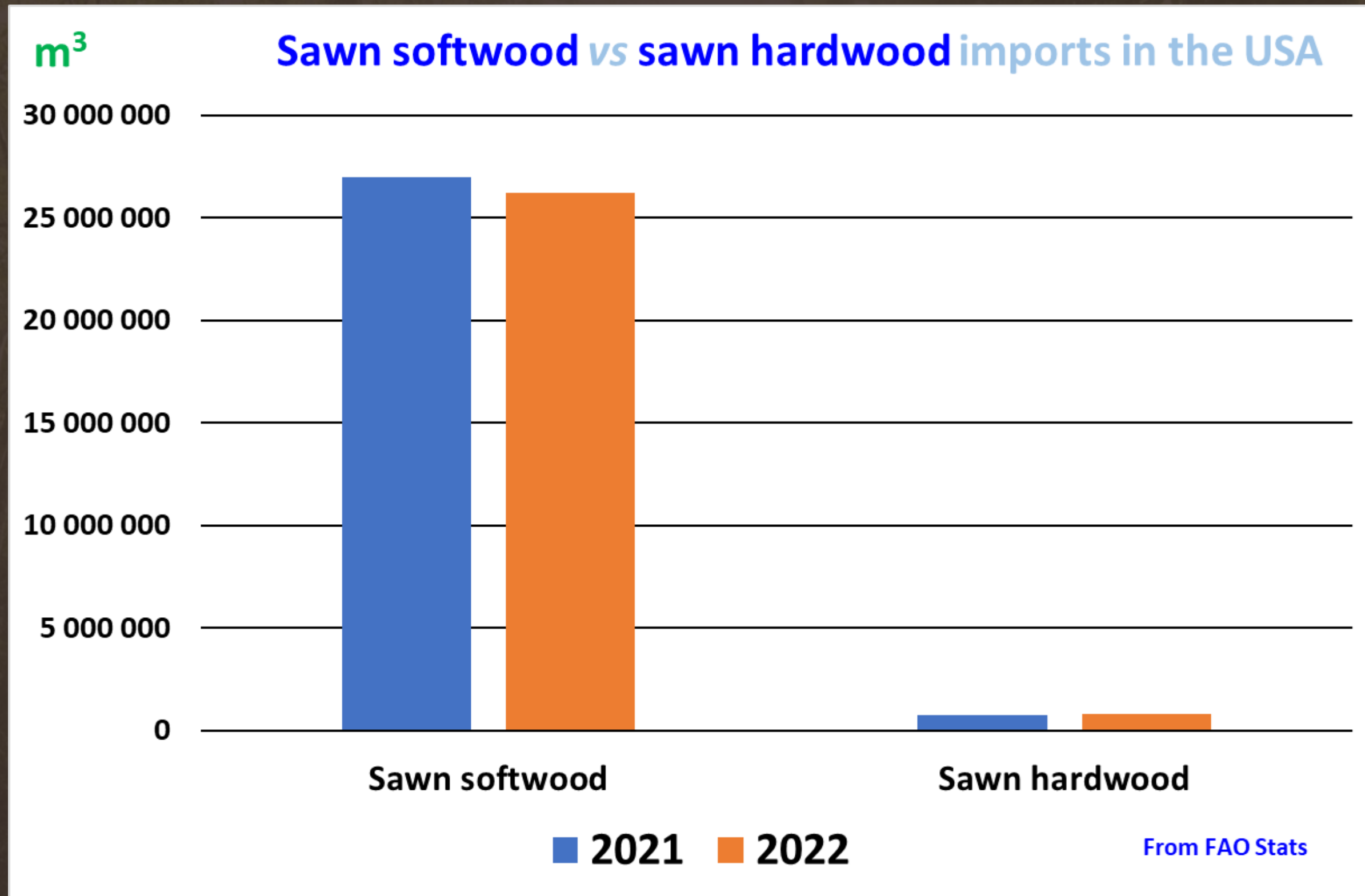


Emmanuel Groutel, PHD  
Economist  
WALE/ATIBT

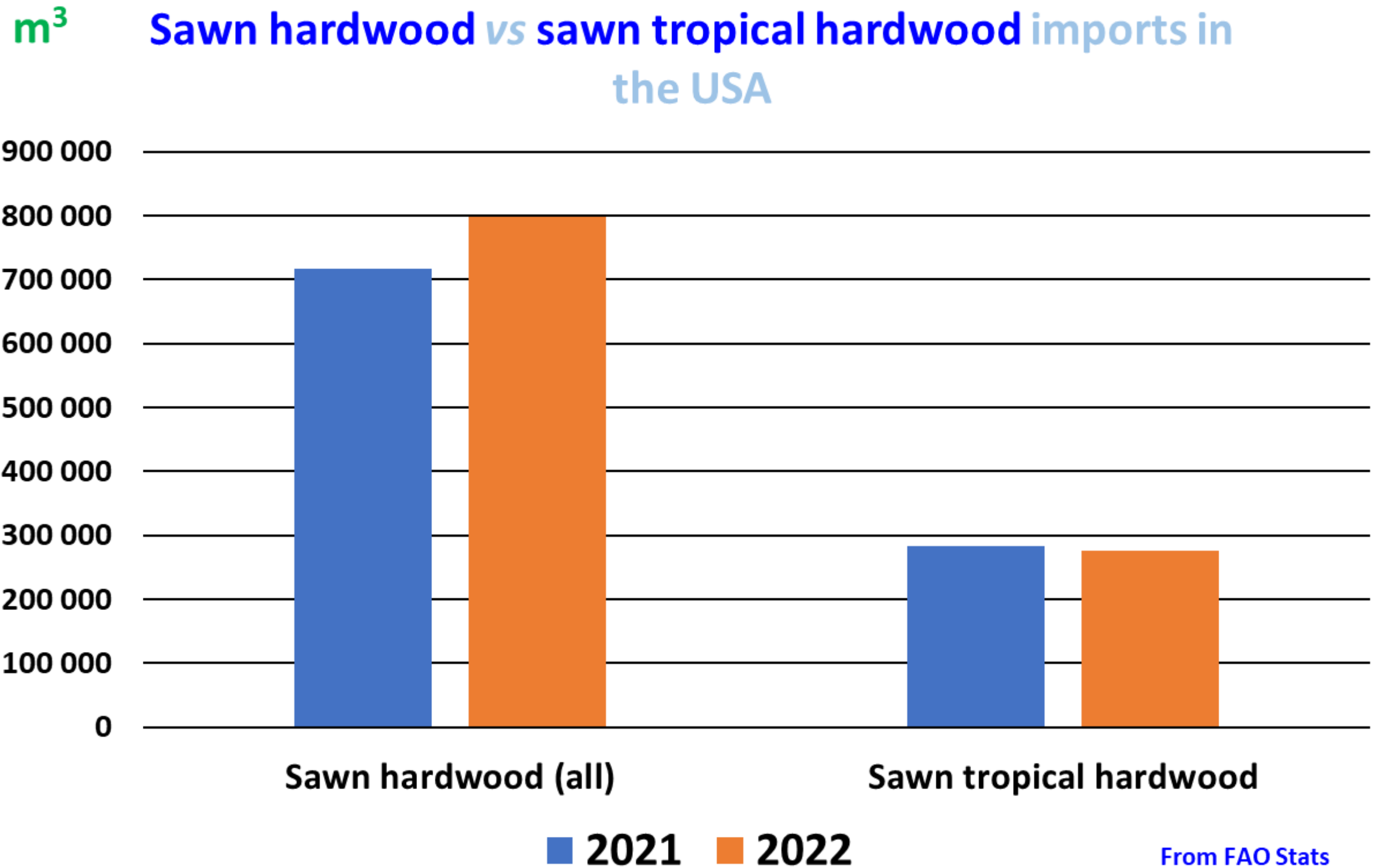
# African Tropical Sawn Hardwood flows



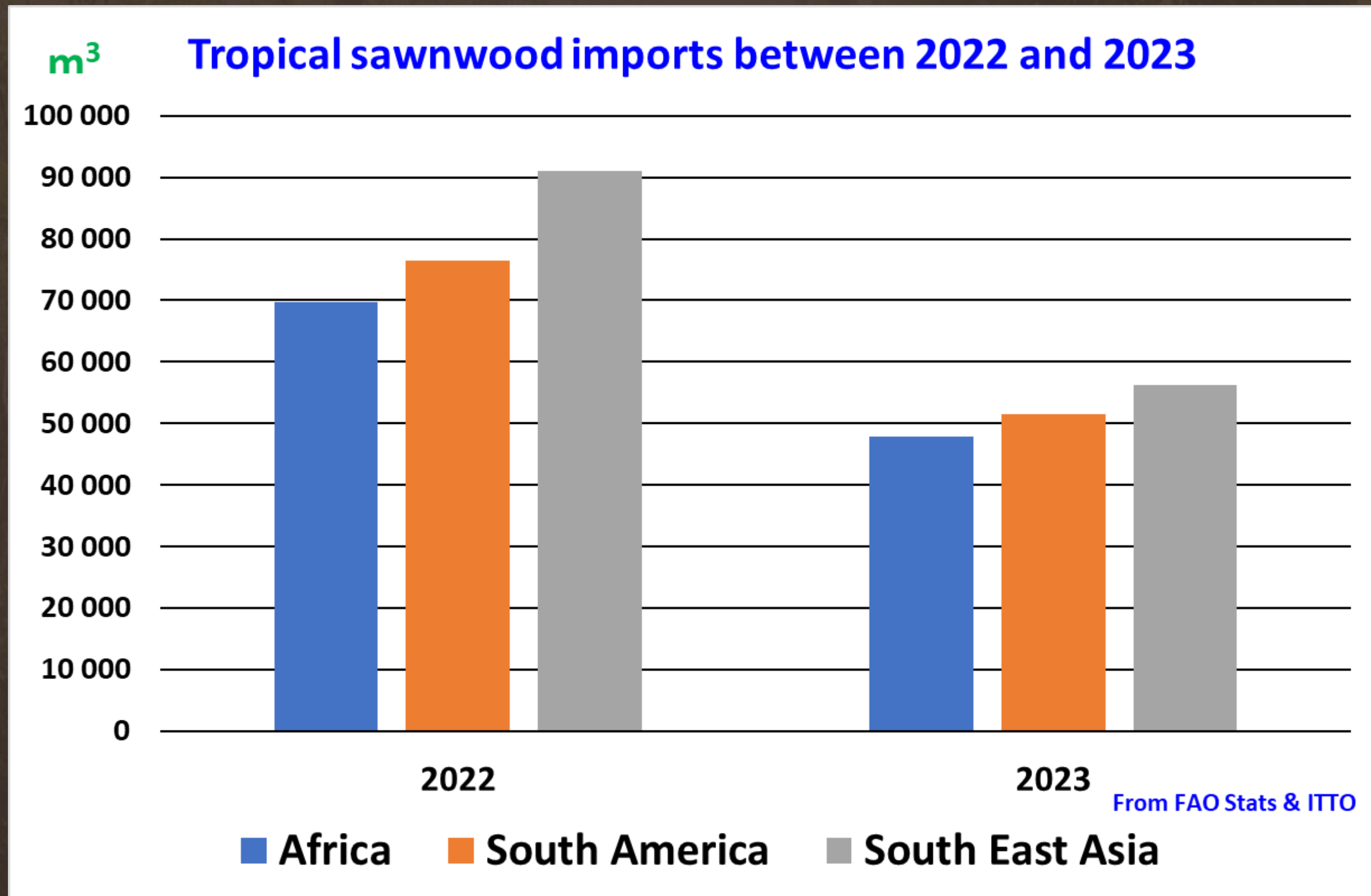
# Sawn wood imports in the USA (*reminder 1*) : softwood vs hardwood



# Sawn wood imports in the USA (*reminder 2*) : hardwood (all) vs tropical hardwood

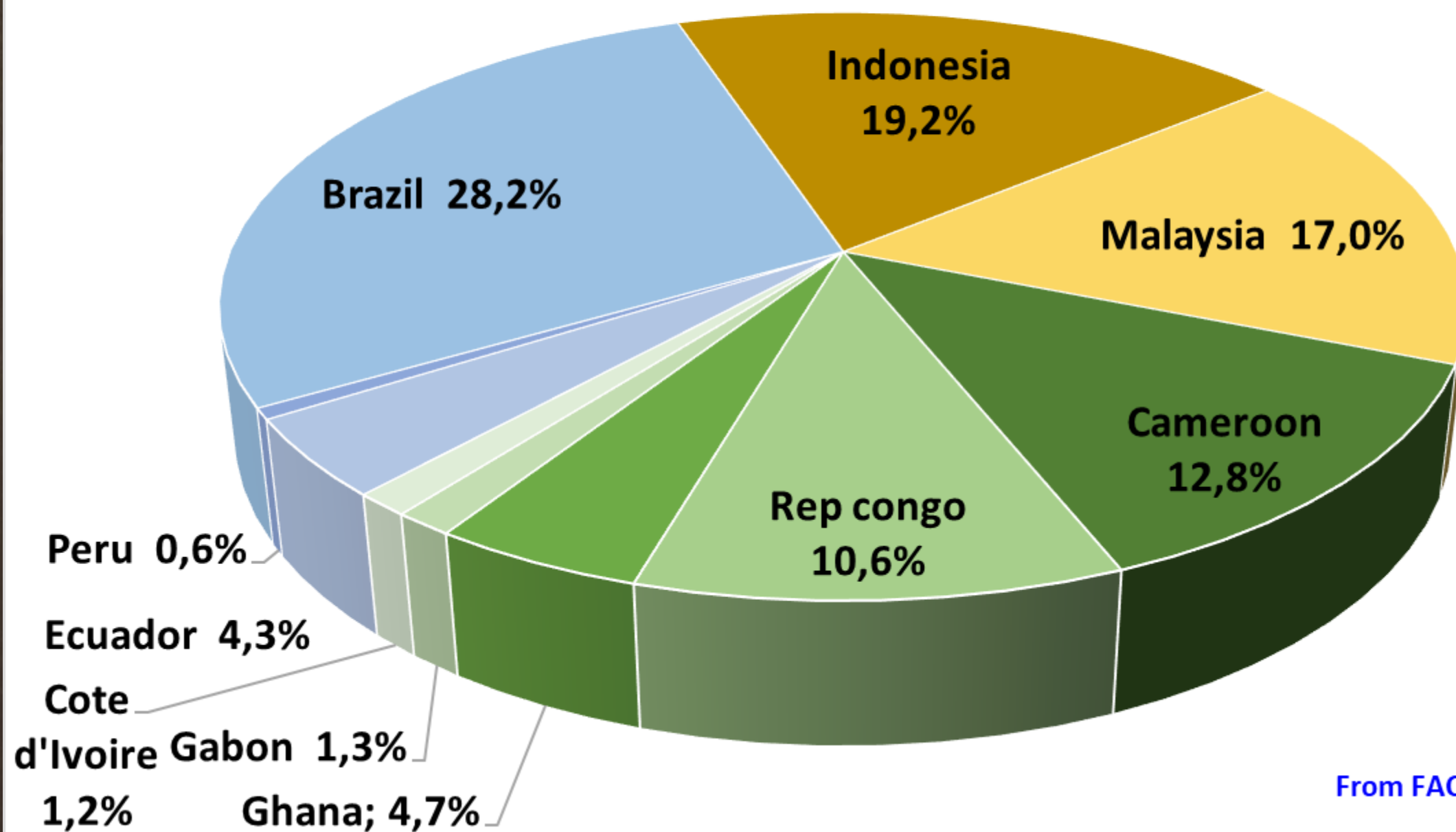


# Tropical sawn hardwood imports in the USA



# USA tropical sawn hardwood suppliers

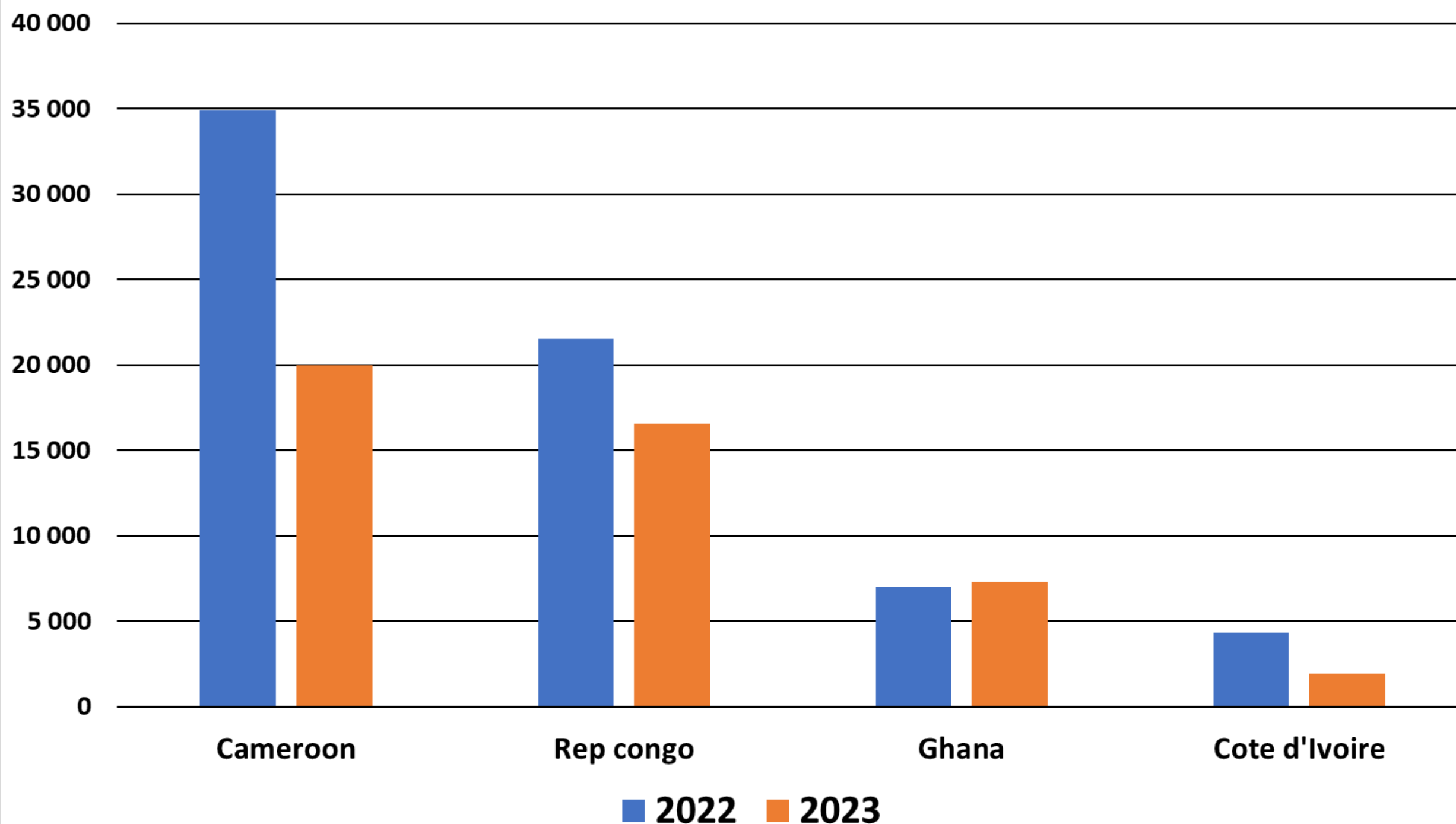
## The 10 main tropical sawn hardwood exporting countries (2023)



From FAO Stats & ITTO

# The 4 main African sawn hardwood exporting countries to the USA

**Sawn wood exports variations between 2022 and 2023  
for the 4 mains African exporting countries**





# The main African timber species imported by the USA (1)



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## Pilot name

## Botanical name

## Main uses

African Mahogany /  
*Acajou d'Afrique*

*Khaya anthotheca*  
*Khaya grandifoliola*  
*Khaya ivorensis*

Ship building, cabinetry, veneer (sliced or peeled), high-end furniture, interior fittings...

Sapele / *Sapelli*

*Entandrophragma cylindricum*

Ship building, cabinetry, veneer (sliced or peeled), high-end furniture, interior fittings, stairs (inside)...

A good alternative to Red grandis (more stable!)

Utile / *Sipo*

*Entandrophragma utile*

Ship building, cabinetry, veneer (sliced or peeled), high-end furniture, interior fittings, stairs (inside)...

# The main African timber species imported by the USA (2)



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**Pilot name**

**Botanical name**

**Main usage**

**Aningeria / Aniégré**

*Chrysophyllum giganteum, Pouteria altissima, Pouteria pierrei, Pouteria superba, Pouteria p.p.*

Cabinetry, veneer (sliced or peeled), high-end furniture, interior fittings, interior joinery, moulding...

**Iroko**

*Milicia excelsa  
Milicia regia*

Ship building, veneer (sliced or peeled), exterior joinery, stairs, decking, flooring, cooperage...

**Afrormosia**

*Pericopsis elata*

Ship building, sliced veneer, exterior/interior joinery, stairs, decking, flooring, cabinetry, cooperage...

A good alternative to Teak

# The main African timber species imported by the USA (3)



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Pilot name

Botanical name

Main usage

Ekki / Azobé

*Lophira alata*

Hydraulic works (fresh and sea water), heavy construction, bridges (parts in contact with water or Ground), sleepers...

A good alternative to Greenheart

Cedro (from plantations in Western Africa)

*Cedrela odorata*,  
*C. angustifolia*, *C. fissilis*

Shingles, cigar boxes, ship building (planking and deck), cabinetry (high-end furniture), boxes and crates, veneer (sliced or peeled), musical instruments, sculpture, marquetry

# African timber species for the future (1)

## Type of timber and related applications



**Heavy timber species with high natural durability (resistance to decay) for heavy outdoor applications**

(alternative to Ipé, Cumaru)

## Timber species

- **Missanda / Tali** (*Erythrophleum guineense*, *E. ivorense*, *E. suaveolens*)
  - **Bilinga** (*Nauclea diderrichii*, *N. gilletii*, *N. xanthoxylon*)
  - **Niové** (*Staudtia kamerunensis*)
  - **Mukulungu** (*Autranella congolensis*)
  - **Okan** (*Cylicodiscus gabunensis*)
  - **Padouk** (*Pterocarpus soyauxii*, *P. osun*)
- THEN**
- **Kanda** (*Beilschmiedia* p.p.)
  - **Monghinza** (*Manilkara maboqueensis*, *M. obovata*)
  - **Osanga** (*Pteleopsis hylodendron*, *P. myrtifolia*)

# African timber species for the future (2)

## Type of timber and related applications



**Light to medium-heavy timber species with medium to good natural durability (resistance to decay) for joinery (outdoor/indoor)**

(for some of them, possible alternative to Sapele, Utile...)

## Timber species

- **Kosipo** (*Entandrophragma candollei*)
- **Dibétou** (*Lovoa swynnertonii*, *L. trichilioides*)
- **Gombé** (*Didelotia africana*, *D. brevipaniculata*, *D. idae*, *D. letouzeyi*, *Didelotia* p.p)

### THEN

- **Kanda** (*Beilschmiedia* p.p.)
- **Dahoma / Dabéma** (*Piptadeniastrum africanum*)
- **Lati** (*Amphimas ferrugineus*, *A. pterocarpoides*)
- **Mambodé / Amouk** (*Detarium macrocarpum*, *D. senegalense*)
- **Lotofa** (*Sterculia rhinopetala*)

# African timber species for the future (3)



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Type of timber and related applications




Light timber species for interior joinery and interior fittings

Timber species

- **Obeche / Ayous** (*Triplochiton scleroxylon*)
- **Afara / Limba** (*Terminalia superba*)

# African timber species for the future (4)

## Type of timber and related applications



**Timber species meant for decoration (with veins and figures and attractive aspect)**

## Timber species

- **Wengé** (*Millettia laurentii*, *M. stuhlmannii*)
- **Zebrano / Zingana** (*Microberlinia bisulcata*, *M. brazzavillensis*)
- **Awoura** (*Julbernardia pellegriniana*)
- **Scented Guarea / Bossé clair** (*Guarea cedrata*, *G. laurentii*, *Guarea* p.p.): pleasant smell, alternative to Cedro

# African timber species for the future

## What about Okoumé ?





# African timber species for the future (1)



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Okoumé (*Aucoumea klaineana*), an emblematic Central African species.

- Abundantly available in Central Africa (especially Gabon, but also Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea).
- Easy to dry and glue
- Ideal for peeling, but can also be used for sawn timber.
- Glued products such as 3-ply squares in full expansion



Okoumé (quarter sawn)

## African timber species for the future (2)

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### Okan

- High resistance to decay
  - High mechanical properties (specific gravity: 0,91)
  - For outdoor applications: decking, hydraulic works, sleepers, bridges (parts in contact with water or ground) ...
- alternative to Ipè, Cumaru...



© Bois et Loisirs, Croix (France)

# African timber species for the future (3)

## Niové

- High resistance to decay
  - High mechanical properties (specific gravity: 0,88)
  - For outdoor applications: decking, ship building (planking and deck), heavy flooring, poles...
- alternative to Ipè, Cumaru...



# African timber species for the future (4)



Missanda / Tali



- High resistance to decay
- High mechanical properties (specific gravity: 0,90)
- For outdoor applications: decking, flooring, bridges (parts in contact with water or ground), heavy carpentry ...

➤ alternative to Ipè, Cumaru...



# African timber species for the future (5)



## Kosipo



- Good to medium resistance to decay
- Medium mechanical properties (specific gravity: 0,69)
- For joinery (indoor/outdoor), veneer (sliced, peeled), flooring, interior fittings...

➤ alternative to Sapele, Utile...



# Why choose African timber ?



- ✓ Availability Tropical Africa

5.4 million hectares (= 2.2 million acres) FSC\* or PAFC\* eco-certified

Between 1 million and 1.5 million m<sup>3</sup> of roundwood per year

- ✓ Lacey Act compliant

- ✓ Logistics



- ✓ Disponibility: supply is guaranteed for a large range of species

- ✓ Diversity: large number of species available (several hundred), abundant quantity for many of them, all possible uses are covered

\* FSC : Forest Stewardship Council

\* PAFC : Pan African Forest Certification

# Technical data and information on tropical timber (1)

**atibt**  
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Guide  
pratique

## Tropical Timber Atlas



[https://www.itto.int/files/itto\\_project\\_db\\_input/3028/Technical/E-TMT-SDP-010-12-R1-M-Tropical%20Timber%20Atlas.pdf](https://www.itto.int/files/itto_project_db_input/3028/Technical/E-TMT-SDP-010-12-R1-M-Tropical%20Timber%20Atlas.pdf)

# Technical data and information on tropical timber (2)



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English ▾

## TROPIX-WEB

Technological characteristics and uses of 300 tropical or temperate timber species



### Quick search

Common name  Botanical name  Local name

Quick search

ADVANCED SEARCH

SHOW ALL SPECIES

Designed and produced as part of the [NumBois](#) project funded by the GIS CollEx-Persée, the Tropix-web site offers three main functionalities:

- Direct consultation of data and technological information on 300 tropical or temperate woods.
- Multi-criteria interrogation of species from pre-selected characteristics.
- Printing of technical data sheets essentially containing the data and information that can be consulted on the site.

<https://www.tropix-web.fr/>



# Additional resources



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A screenshot of the Timber Trade Portal website. The header includes "TIMBER TRADE PORTAL" on the left, and navigation links for "COUNTRY PROFILES", "RESOURCES", "NEWS", "About", and "Partners" on the right. Below the header is a world map with several countries highlighted in green and orange. A QR code is positioned to the right of the map.

The atibt logo with a globe icon above the 'i'. Below the logo is the tagline "POUR UNE GESTION DURABLE DES FORÊTS TROPICALES". A QR code is located to the right of the logo.



For more information: [Nathalie.Bouville@atibt.org](mailto:Nathalie.Bouville@atibt.org)



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**THANK YOU**