

Beneficiary

Governments and NPPOs in Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya and Mozambique

Led by

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Time-frame

February 2015 – July 2017

STDF funding

US\$298,391 (total project value US\$327,959)



KNOWLEDGE SOLUTIONS ON HOW SAFE WOOD PACKAGING SUPPORTS TRADE IN AFRICA

The safe trade gap

As international trade flows intensify, wood pallets transporting goods are moving more frequently across borders. At the same time pests, especially wood-boring insects, are spreading across countries in wood packaging material, which is having a negative impact on forests and agriculture. The ISPM 15 standard has helped to lower the risk of pests, setting out guidelines for countries – from investing in treatments to a globally recognized ISPM 15 mark. However, exports from Africa and other developing countries face being rejected in international markets if they do not meet the standard, and there is a big data gap on the costs, benefits and challenges involved. Practical solutions are needed to make sure that trade in goods transported on wood packaging material continues to flow and developing countries can access markets, driving economic growth.

Partnership approach

Bringing together the public and private sector on plant health and trade in Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya and Mozambique, Erasmus University worked closely with National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs), customs, producers, wood packaging material facilities, exporters, and the IPPC Secretariat to gather the latest data. Field visits helped to identify the costs and challenges faced by NPPOs and business in meeting the standard.

The initiative built on an earlier STDF project, led by the IPPC, with support from Canada, which resulted in a set of targeted training materials for developing countries to help meet ISPM 15, and included a global training workshop with over 170 participants.

Results

The project provided hard evidence to policy-makers on the impact of investing in ISPM 15 support.

- Improved knowledge tools on best practices for investing in ISPM 15 support were shared, including: country case studies, regional report, policy brief and a documentary.

- Analysis showed that investment to support ISPM 15 had no negative impact on the ability of the four countries to trade. Three countries saw exports increase as a result. In Kenya, coffee and tea exports increased by 39% after meeting the standard.
- Costs for a wood packaging material treatment facility to meet the standard are high. However, the costs of not meeting the standard are higher in terms of loss of exports, income, and the risk of pests. Treatment facilities are profitable for countries with enough production and export volume.

Sustaining impact

To sustain impact, African governments are encouraged to take on board policy solutions identified under the project to meet ISPM 15. These include:

- Meeting the minimum requirements for export and investing in import inspections for wood packaging material.
- Avoiding over-prescriptive legislation, given future revisions to the standard and new wood treatment methods.
- Requesting the African Union Inter-African Phytosanitary Council to promote regional cooperation and training on ISPM 15.
- Increasing awareness of how different ISPM 15 treatments are equally effective, and that material only needs to be treated once (unless altered in some way).
- Developing and using a checklist to audit wood packaging material treatment facilities and regulate repair facilities.

“We discovered the standard has guidelines on how companies should carry out activities, how our inspectors have to work. We are going to have access to international markets that we have not been able to go through because we didn’t use the standard”.

**Hendrick Modiakgotla,
NPPO, Botswana**

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