



## PROCUREMENT OF AYOUS IN CAMEROON An example of responsible forest management.

As multilaminar veneer producer, Alpi SpA gives great care to preservation of the raw material sources (wood is a renewable resource) and it always works in total respect of the environmental laws in force in the countries in which it operates.

For its multilaminar veneer production, Alpi uses Italian agricultural plantation poplar, as well as Ayous (*Triplochiton scleroxylon*), which is also known as Obeche or Samba, a widespread essence that grows in a large area of the African Tropical zone.

The raw material is sourced through Alpicam and Grumcam, Cameroon subsidiaries of Alpi SpA, that operate under Cameroon government concessions, which are strictly related to the submission of a detailed plan of forestry management based upon the concept of sustainability: that is, the volume of wood harvested from a specific area never exceeds the wood regrowth in the same area.

The Cameroon forestry regulation (law n° 94/01 – decree n° 95/531 and following changes), provides the payment of forestry taxes, which are so high to require the maximization of the efficiency of all the forestry operations, the reduction to the minimum of waste and, consequently, a minor environmental impact, in order to avoid the risk of a non-economical intervention.

We list hereunder the principles for a correct forestry management provided by the above mentioned regulation that are strictly observed by Alpicam and Grumcam:

- **Preservation of the natural wood regrowth rate:** the forest surface can be cyclically exploited only once each 30 years: in this way you never exceed the plant natural regrowth rate.
- **Selective felling:** only a few trees, previously selected in relation to the trunk diameter, are harvested: on an average, less than one tree per hectare is harvested.
- **Waste minimization:** every care is taken to insure the maximum yield from every harvested tree. The logs are sent to our factory in Douala for the production of peeled veneer, sawn boards and plywood. Production wastes are used to generate thermic energy.
- **Protection of surrounding forest:** in order not to damage surrounding trees, directional felling is practiced.
- **Protection of the undergrowth:** the hauling of logs is done by using wheel caterpillars in order to minimize damage to the undergrowth.
- **Soil protection:** in order to prevent erosion damages to the soil, the log hauling paths are proper in terms of dimension.
- **Water protection:** felling at less than 100 meters from water courses is avoided, in order to maintain their equilibrium; moreover to avoid stagnation and/or water pollution, movable bridges and/or culverts are built for any stream.
- **Forestry inventory:** it is made to know exactly the forest stock and the trees suitable for felling, it allows the definition of a precise inventory of the felled species; in this way it is possible to dimension the felling extent through resource renewal criteria.
- **Rights and benefits of the local populations:** Alpicam and Grumcam abide by Cameroon laws, which provide protection and benefits to locals. Being these areas remote and scarcely populated, the two companies are virtually the only employers. Workers and their families are supplied with housing and health care free of charges. Besides, the forestry activity is the only one that in the East regions allows a production decentralization, limiting in this way the decay and uncontrolled urbanization.