

PERFORMANCE OF THE FORESTRY SECTOR IN THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

2021

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01

INTRODUCTION

The protocol on forestry of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) provides a broad and comprehensive policy framework to manage forests across the region. The protocol offers effective management of forest resources by coordinating forest uses, harmonizing regional practices and facilitating trade and conservation. The protocol operates in the context of climate change and ensure the provision of ecosystem goods and services to people and communities. Three SADC forestry regional programs have been developed to implement important elements of the protocol. The regional cross-border fire management program is geared at reducing the incidence of uncontrolled forest fires to preserve remaining forests, the SADC support program aims to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) and the SADC regional forest law enforcement, governance and trade (FLEGT) program ensures forest products are harvested and traded based on an agreed legal framework and in line with the principles of sustainable forest management. Together these programs provide an expansive approach to promote sustainable forest management, legal harvesting and trade in forest products and transboundary use and ensure the protection of resources as well as climate change mitigation initiatives in the region.

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NATIONAL FOREST POTENTIALS IN THE SADC

Within the SADC, Comoros and Lesotho are classified as countries where forests are in crisis with low amounts of forest cover (0-5%) while Mauritius, Namibia and South Africa are countries with low forest cover (only 6-10% of land). Madagascar has modest forest cover (in the 11-20% range) while Botswana, Malawi and Eswatini have adequate forest cover (21-30%). The high forest cover countries (with 31-50% of forested land) are Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe while those with very high forest cover (over 50% of total land area under various forest formations) are Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Seychelles¹. Table I indicates the extent of forestation in the 16 SADC member countries with estimates on the net annual change between 2010 and 2020.

¹ Traore M. and J.C. Tieguhong. 2018. *How Forestry Contributes to the African Development Bank's High 5 Priorities: Challenges and Opportunities*. Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire: African Natural Resources Center, African Development Bank.

TABLE I. Extent of total forest areas including naturally regenerating and planted forests.

Country	Forest category	Forest area *1000 ha		Net annual change 2010-2020	
		2010	2020	Ha*1000/year	%
Angola	Extent of total forest area	72 158	66 607	-555.1	-0.80
	Naturally regenerating forest	71 284	65 800	-548.3	-0.80
	Planted forest	874	807	-6.73	-0.80
Botswana	Extent of total forest area	16 438	15 255	-118.3	-0.74
	Naturally regenerating forest	16 438	15 255	-118.3	-0.74
	Planted forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Comoros	Extent of total forest area	37	33	-0.4	-1.24
	Naturally regenerating forest	36	33	-0.3	-0.95
	Planted forest	1	n.s.	-0.11	-16.73
DR Congo	Total forest area	137169	126155	-1101.4	-0.83
	Naturally regenerating forest	137111	126098	-1101.4	-0.83
	Planted forest	58	58	0.00	0.00
Eswatini	Extent of total forest area	485	498	1.2	0.25
	Naturally regenerating forest	363	396	3.3	0.87
	Planted forest	123	102	-2.06	-1.82
Lesotho	Total forest area	35	35	0.00	0.00
	Naturally regenerating forest	26	26	0.00	0.00
	Planted forest	9	9	0.00	0.00
Madagascar	Total forest area	12 562	12 430	-13.2	-0.11
	Naturally regenerating forest	12 147	12 118	-2.9	-0.02
	Planted forest	415	312	-10.30	-2.81
Malawi	Total forest area	2662	2242	-42.0	-1.70
	Naturally regenerating forest	2565	2166	-39.9	-1.68
	Planted forest	97	76	-2.11	-2.43
Mauritius	Total forest area	38	39	n.s.	0.10
	Naturally regenerating forest	20	20	n.s.	n.s.
	Planted forest	18	18	-0.01	-0.06
Mozambique	Total forest area	38 972	36 744	-222.8	-0.59
	Naturally regenerating forest	38 918	36 669	-224.8	-0.59
	Planted forest	55	74	1.96	3.12
Namibia	Total forest area	7 349	6 639	-71.0	-1.01
	Naturally regenerating forest	7 349	6 639	-71.0	-1.01
	Planted forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Seychelles	Total forest area	34	34	0.00	0.00
	Naturally regenerating forest	29	29	0.00	0.00
	Planted forest	15	21	0.67	3.87
South Africa	Total forest area	17 414	17 050	-36.4	-0.21
	Naturally regenerating forest	14 270	13 906	-36.4	-0.26
	Planted forest	3 144	3 144	0.00	0.00
Tanzania	Total forest area	49950	45745	-420.5	-0.88
	Naturally regenerating forest	49397	45192	-420.5	-0.89
	Planted forest	553	553	0.00	0.00
Zambia	Total forest area	46696	44814	-188.2	-0.41
	Naturally regenerating forest	46642	44762	-188.0	-0.41
	Planted forest	54	52	-0.24	-0.45
Zimbabwe	Total forest area	17 905	17 445	-46.1	-0.26
	Naturally regenerating forest	17 797	17 337	-46.1	-0.26
	Planted forest	108	108	0.00	0.00

Source: Compiled by author from FAO 2020²

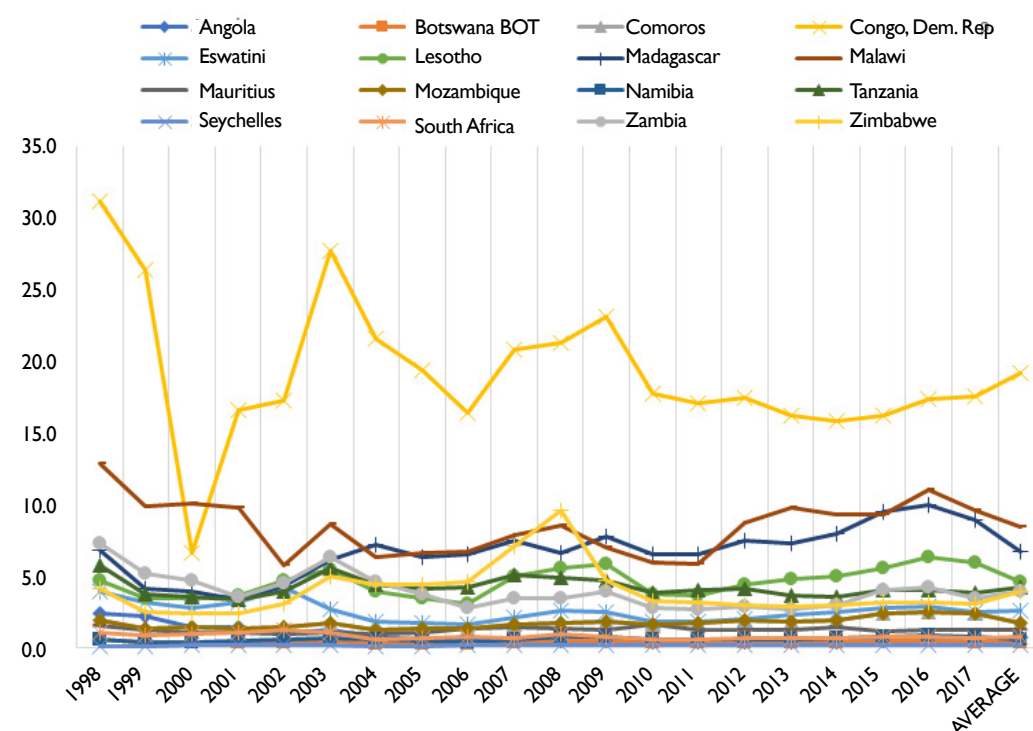
²FAO. 2020. *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020: Main report*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca9825en>

03

THE ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF FORESTS TO NATIONAL ECONOMIES

An analysis of World Bank data shows that over the last 20 years (1998 - 2017), the forestry sector contributed an average of between 4% and 19% to the GDPs of seven of the sixteen countries in the SADC. The highest contributions to member countries' GDP over the reporting period were: the DRC (19.2%), Malawi (8.5%), Madagascar (6.7%), Lesotho (4.5%), Tanzania (4.2%), Zambia (3.9%) and Zimbabwe (3.9%) (Figure 1). Aside from these economic contributions, forests and forestry products contribute to the basic needs and wellbeing of many communities across SADC providing woodfuel for cooking and heating, fodder for animals as well as constituting a significant source of household income, medicine and shelter. Moreover, forests retain carbon and protect soils, contributing to mitigating the effects of climate change on the people and environment of the SADC region. These inherent benefits of forests suggest that their effective management is of paramount importance to alleviate long-term poverty, protect biodiversity and sustain environmentally sensitive and resilient crops and livestock production systems.

FIGURE 1. Contribution of forestry sector to GDP (%) in the SADC



04

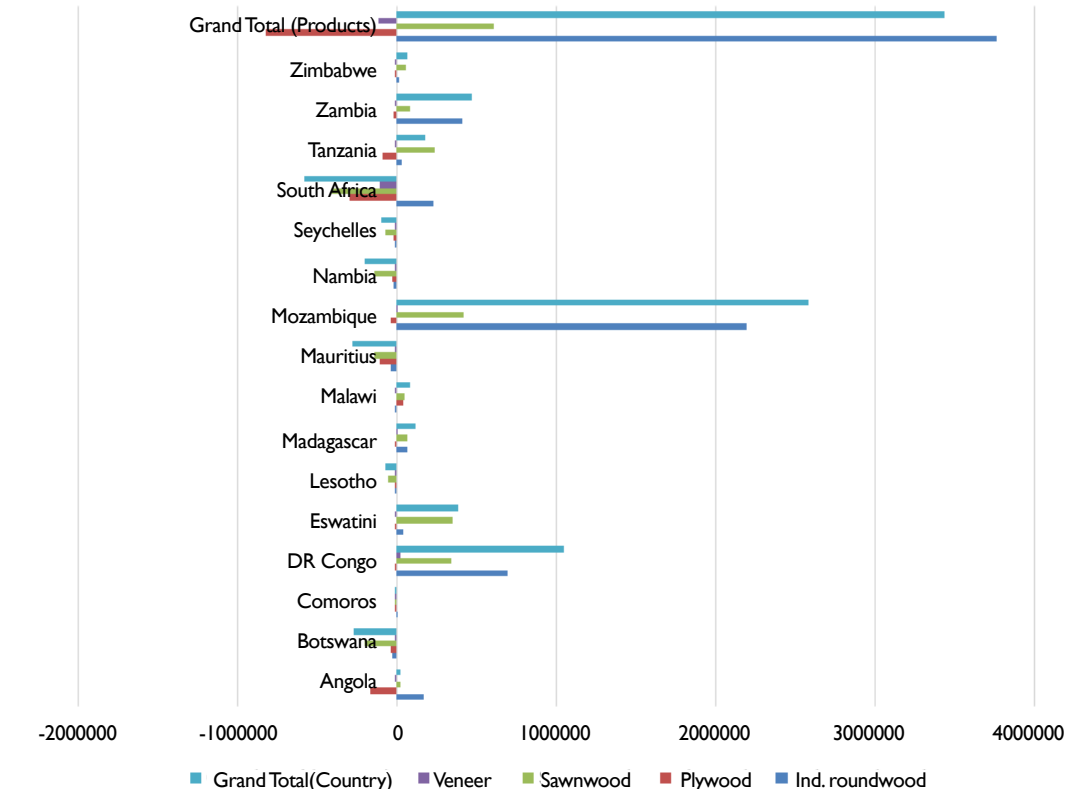
NATIONAL PERFORMANCE ON TRADE IN FOREST PRODUCTS

SADC country performance with respect to the trade of forest products is positive for primary products but highly negative for secondary and tertiary forest products. The details are provided below following the analyses of trade data from FAOSTAT and ITTO annual statistical databases from 2010 to 2019.

4.1. Primary products

The four primary products considered in this report are industrial round wood, sawnwood, plywood and veneers. Overall, SADC member countries remain net exporters of primary wood products worth about \$3.44 billion over the reporting period (2010 - 2019). However, the regional total fails to show the variation between countries and among products. For instance, most countries remain net importers of plywood and veneers totaling \$819.4 million and \$116 million, respectively. Positive trade balances are registered for industrial roundwood and sawnwood worth \$3.8 billion and \$611 million respectively, during the reporting period (Figure 2; Annex 1).

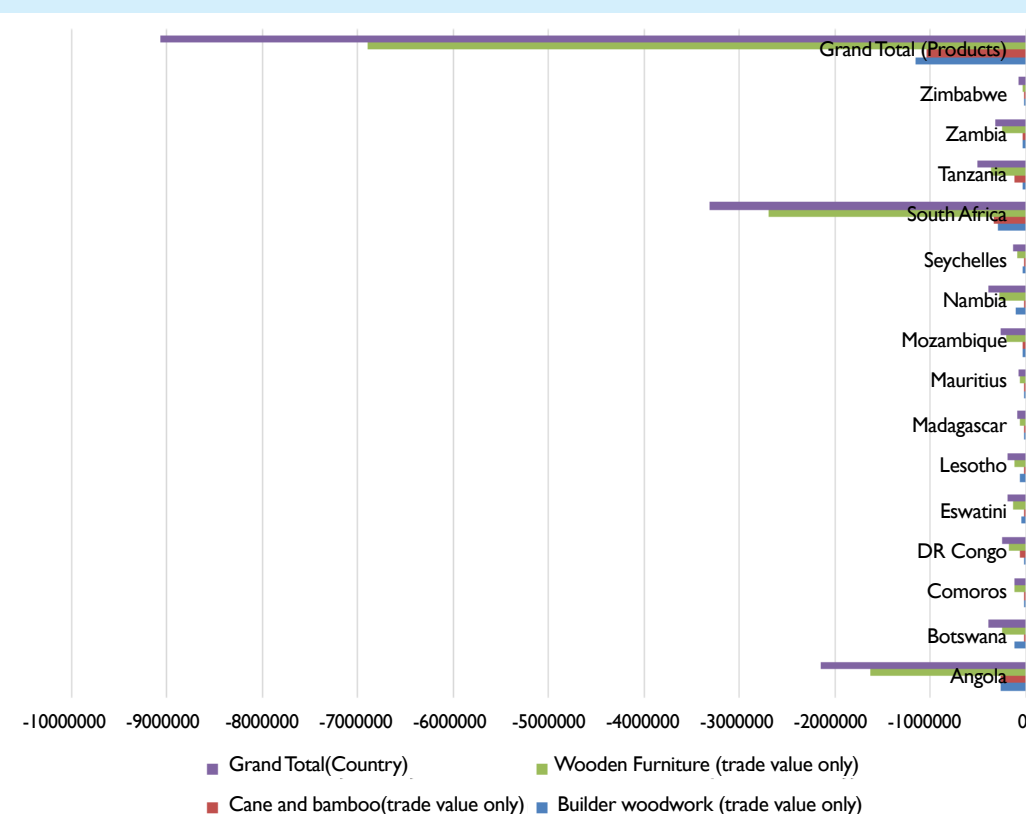
FIGURE 2: Trade Balances for primary wood products for SADC from 2010 to 2019 (US\$*1000)



4.2. Secondary products

Analyses were made on three main secondary processed wood products (wooden furniture, building woodwork, and cane and bamboo products). The entire region suffers from enormous negative trade balances for these three wood products, totaling over \$9.07 billion over the reporting period. The countries with the highest negative trade balances include South Africa (\$3.31 billion), Angola (\$2.14 billion), Tanzania (\$507 million), Mozambique (\$496 million), Botswana (\$396 million), Namibia (\$391 million), Zambia (\$325 million), Mauritius (\$269 million) and DRC \$250 million (Figure 3; Annex 2).

FIGURE 3: Trade Balances for secondary processed wood products in SADC from 2010 to 2019 (US\$*1000)



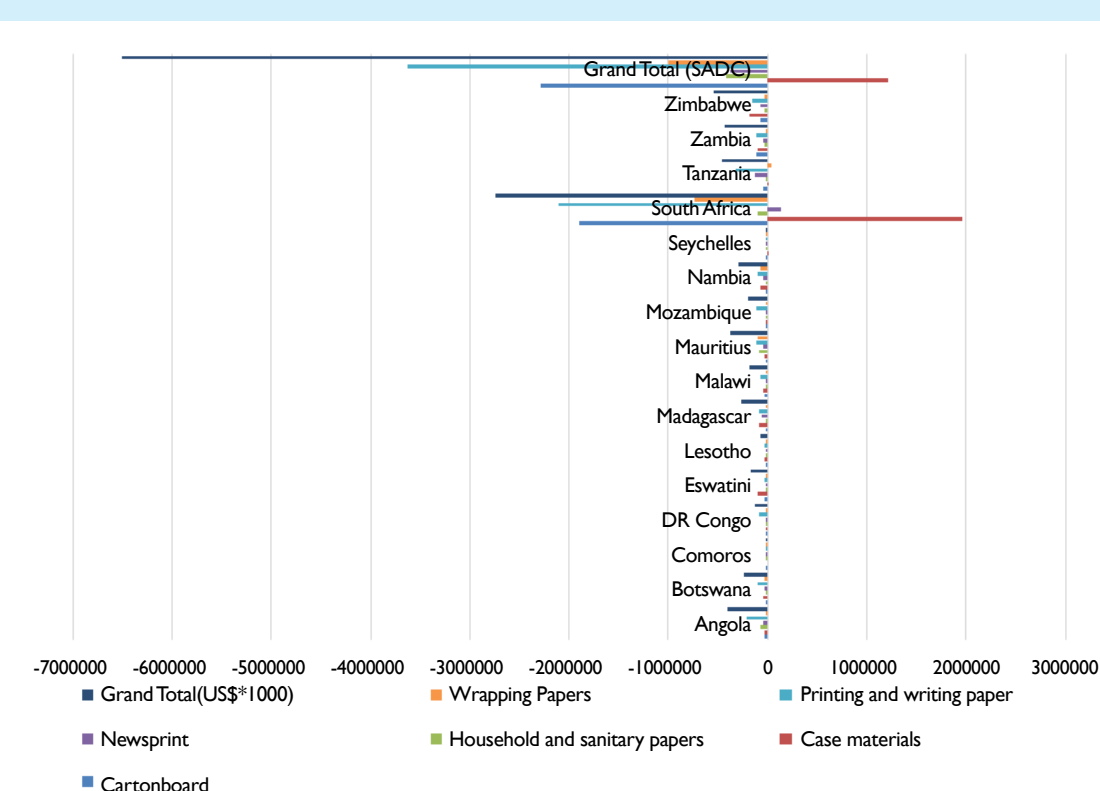
Compiled by author from ITTO Statistical data base. https://www.ito.int/biennal_review/

4.3. Tertiary products

There is an exhaustive variety of tertiary forest products but the six most common types were considered for this report. These included printing and writing papers, wrapping paper, household and sanitary papers, newsprints, carton board and case materials. Tanzania saw positive trade balances for case materials and wrapping papers at \$8.05 million and \$42.5 million, respectively,

as did South Africa for case materials at \$1.97 billion and newsprint at \$137.38 million. Except for these two countries, every other country in all product categories registered significant negative trade balances over the reporting period. The 16 member countries of SADC registered a whopping \$6.5 billion trade deficit or an annual average of \$650 million during this period. South Africa recorded \$2.74 billion, Zimbabwe \$546 million, Tanzania \$455 million, Zambia \$431 million, Angola \$403 million, Mauritius \$378 million, Namibia \$288 million, and Madagascar \$266 million. In terms of wood products, printing and writing papers registered the highest share of the deficit at \$3.63 billion followed by cartonboards at \$2.29 billion, wrapping papers at \$999 million, household/sanitary papers at \$999 million, and newsprints at \$424 million (Figure 4; Annex 3).

FIGURE 4: Trade balances for tertiary wood products in the SADC (US\$*1000) from 2010 to 2019



Source: Compiled by author from <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/FO>

05

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Beside the significant challenges to biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management and issues linked to the industrialization of all raw material sectors in Africa, the Southern Africa Development Community has numerous

opportunities to ensure the forestry sector plays a far higher contribution to local, national and regional economies.

Within the SADC, five countries have low forestry resources or their forests are in crisis, four have moderate to adequate forest cover, and seven have high to very high forest cover. This range suggests promoting intra-regional trade and cooperation in forest products would be advantageous. Moreover, the regional forest area can be increased through restoration interventions for its myriad social, economic and environmental benefits. This is possible in the long term with the commitments of eight of the 16 countries in the region to increase their forest areas under the Bonn Challenge and the AFR100 initiatives by 28.8 million hectares. Among these countries DRC stands out with a commitment of 8 million hectares, followed by Tanzania with 5.2 million ha, Malawi 4.5 million ha, Madagascar 4.0 million ha, South Africa 3.6 million ha, Zimbabwe 2.0 million ha, Mozambique 1.0 ha and Eswatini 0.5 million ha.

This is possible in the long term with the commitments of eight of the 16 countries in the region to increase their forest areas under the Bonn Challenge and the AFR100 initiatives by 28.8 million hectares.

Economically, the forestry sector contributes on average between 4% and 19% to the GDPs of seven of the sixteen SADC member countries with the highest contributions between 1998 and 2017 being: DRC (19.2%), Malawi (8.5%), Madagascar (6.7%), Lesotho (4.5%), Tanzania (4.2%), Zambia (3.9%) and Zimbabwe (3.9%). These contributions could be much higher with an increased level of local processing or manufacturing to transform primary forest products into consumable goods. For instance, from 2010 to 2019, SADC member countries were net exporters of primary wood products worth about \$3.44 billion but were also net importers of secondary and tertiary wood products worth \$9.07 billion and \$6.5 billion respectively. Simple arithmetic suggests an extraordinary – and avoidable - negative trade balance of \$12.13 billion or over \$1.2 billion per annum for few selected wood products over the reporting period.

These figures suggest a significant loss of economic opportunity for the region in terms of jobs and wealth creation. The huge quantities of sawnwood and logs exported could be processed into finished products and substituted for imports. The protocol on forestry of the SADC provides a policy framework for forest management to embrace these development needs and could be promoted with a greater emphasis on local value addition within the region.

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ANNEX 1: Trade balances for primary forest products by country in the SADC (\$*1000)						
Country	Trade	Ind. roundwood	Plywood	Sawnwood	Veneer	Grand Total
Angola	Balance	172124	-164630	21812	-6898	22408
	Exports	175805	547	41106	577	218034
	Imports	3681	165177	19293	7475	195626
Botswana	Balance	-30525	-35963	-202992	-3715	-273194
	Exports	66	500	468	29	1063
	Imports	30591	36463	203459	3744	274257
Comoros	Balance	206	-5899	-6619	-976	-13289
	Exports	528	48	102	0	678
DR Congo	Imports	322	5947	6720	976	13966
	Balance	698495	-13969	345889	20822	1051236
Eswatini	Exports	703580	304	361958	21749	1087592
	Imports	5085	14274	16069	927	36355
	Balance	44237	-10000	351377	-2400	383215
Lesotho	Exports	48529	250	358317	95	407191
	Imports	4292	10250	6939	2495	23976
	Balance	-14536	-2418	-52830	-2165	-71949
Madagascar	Exports	52	150	139	18	359
	Imports	14588	2568	52969	2184	72308
Malawi	Balance	70368	-11741	62410	1345	122382
	Exports	72749	114	63605	2588	139056
	Imports	2380	11855	1195	1243	16674
Mauritius	Balance	-289	37152	49239	-244	85858
	Exports	2626	43213	49791	375	96004
	Imports	2915	6061	552	618	10146
Mozambique	Balance	-32717	-106379	-138290	-1667	-279053
	Exports	294	1280	3418	92	5084
Namibia	Imports	33011	107659	141708	1759	284137
	Balance	2198986	-40490	420633	256	2579385
	Exports	2222406	544	490857	1673	2715480
Seychelles	Imports	23420	41034	70224	1417	136095
	Balance	-19632	-30296	-143314	-5800	-199042
	Exports	8671	573	5499	586	15329
South Africa	Imports	28303	30869	148813	6386	214371
	Balance	-4592	-23338	-68333	-1567	-97831
	Exports	457	722	1868	71	3119
South Africa	Imports	5049	24061	70202	1638	100949
	Balance	228516	-295291	-409618	-105495	-581888
	Exports	285435	127054	423671	54463	890622
South Africa	Imports	56919	422344	833289	159958	1472510

ANNEX 1: Trade balances for primary forest products by country in the SADC (\$*1000) Continued.						
Country	Trade	Ind. roundwood	Plywood	Sawnwood	Veneer	Grand Total
Tanzania	Balance	27844	-85757	237284	-236	179134
	Exports	54464	5141	266484	2883	328972
	Imports	26620	90898	29200	3119	149838
Zambia	Balance	410672	-21179	82720	-2105	470108
	Exports	420172	377	92413	136	513097
	Imports	9500	21556	9693	2240	42989
Zimbabwe	Balance	15097	-9205	61632	-4982	62542
	Exports	15704	5453	68901	139	90198
	Imports	608	14658	7269	5121	27656
Grand Total (SADC - Products)	Balance	3764254	-819404	611000	-115827	3440023
	Exports	4011539	186270	2228595	85475	6511878
	Imports	247285	1005673	1617594	201302	3071854
Compiled by author from ITTO Statistical data base. https://www.ito.int/biennial_review/						

ANNEX 2: Trade balances for secondary processed wood products in the SADC (\$*1000) 2010 -2019					
Country	Trade	Builder woodwork	Cane and bamboo	Wooden furniture	Grand Total (\$*1000)
Angola	Balance	-257905	-263197	-1623572	-2144674
	Exports			677.1	677.1
	Imports	257904.8	263197.38	1624249.4	2145352
Botswana	Balance	-120440	-24108	-251219	-395766
	Exports			8303.55	8303.55
	Imports	120439.7	24107.85	259522.41	404070
Comoros	Balance	-5329	-3395	-111817	-120541
	Exports			14.2	14.2
	Imports	5329.03	3395.09	111831	120555.1
DR Congo	Balance	-22395	-59586	-168365	-250346
	Exports			723.78	723.78
	Imports	22394.81	59586.06	169089.14	251070
Eswatini	Balance	-46925	-6095	-134174	-187194
	Exports			5402.92	5402.92
	Imports	46924.64	6095.2	139576.98	192596.8
Lesotho	Balance	-64895	-13659	-112667	-191220
	Exports			2096.88	2096.88
	Imports	64894.76	13658.68	114763.91	193317.4
Madagascar	Balance	-10525	-17480	-63539	-91543
	Exports			1412.21	1412.21
	Imports	10524.64	17480.07	64950.91	92955.62

ANNEX 2: Trade balances for secondary processed wood products in the SADC (\$*1000) 2010 -2019. Continued					
Country	Trade	Builder woodwork	Cane and bamboo	Wooden furniture	Grand Total (\$*1000)
Malawi	Balance	-11586	-5890	-56248	-73723
	Exports			4746.76	4746.76
	Imports	11585.79	5889.9	60994.51	78470.2
Mauritius	Balance	-29226	-34653	-204791	-268670
	Exports			7934.32	7934.32
	Imports	29226.22	34653.12	212724.95	276604.3
Mozambique	Balance	-76450	-75277	-344547	-496274
	Exports			905.99	905.99
	Imports	76450	75276.76	345452.82	497179.6
Namibia	Balance	-101094	-20469.47	-269236.3	-390800
	Exports			113816.88	113816.9
	Imports	101094.4	20469.47	383053.19	504617
Seychelles	Balance	-24496	-13342	-93121	-130959
	Exports			1052.72	1052.72
	Imports	24495.54	13341.85	94173.83	132011.2
South Africa	Balance	-292001	-331810.7	-2690568	-3314379
	Exports			628411.7	628411.7
	Imports	292000.6	331810.68	3318979.4	3942791
Tanzania	Balance	-24592	-123169	-359474	-507236
	Exports			9870.78	9870.78
	Imports	24591.79	123169.45	369345.12	517106.4
Zambia	Balance	-38831	-34459	-251289	-324579
	Exports			1328.65	1328.65
	Imports	38831.11	34459.37	252617.43	325907.9
Zimbabwe	Balance	-20007	-10416	-38243	-68666
	Exports			46029.37	46029.37
	Imports	20007.37	10415.83	84272.62	114695.8
Grand Total (SADC)	Balance	-1146695	-1037007	-6886687	-9070389
	Exports	0	0	718911	718911
	Imports	1146695	1037007	7605598	9789300

Compiled by author from ITTO Statistical data base. https://www.itto.int/biennial_review/

ANNEX 3: Trade balances for tertiary processed wood products by countries in the SADC (\$*1000) -2010-2019								
Country	Trade	Cartonboard	Case materials	Household /sanitary papers	Newsprint	Printing/ writing papers	Wrapping papers	Grand Total (\$*1000)
Angola	Balance	-26330	-29434	-74384	-38280	-214260	-20519	-403207
	Export	0	2854	45	0	14645	3004	20548
	Import	26330	32288	74429	38280	228905	23523	423755
Botswana	Balance	-19691	-43355	-19397	-28802	-95194	-24977	-231416
	Export	178	206	21	320	502	3152	4379
	Import	19869	43561	19418	29122	95696	28129	235795
Comoros	Balance	-19	0	-21	-80	-236	-131	-487
	Export	Export		0			0	0
	Import	19	0	21	80	236	131	487
DR Congo	Balance	-6904	-19818	-6744	-4776	-83818	-4216	-126276
	Export	2554	277	11	23	14517	120	17502
	Import	9458	20095	6755	4799	98335	4336	143778
Eswatini	Balance	-23799	-98369	-2409	-16586	-29363	-4760	-175286
	Export	863	1964	61	14	4069	1449	8420
	Import	24662	100333	2470	16600	33432	6209	183706
Lesotho	Balance	-2862	-29335	-2036	-149	-25347	-10068	-69797
	Export	0			219	133	45	397
	Import	2862	29335	2036	368	25480	10113	70194
Madagascar	Balance	-16820	-86049	-7921	-61402	-89581	-4260	-266033
	Export	971	3368	186	904	1149	2091	8669
	Import	17791	89417	8107	62306	90730	6351	274702
Malawi	Balance	-26949	-45352	-10381	-23315	-65752	-4740	-176489
	Export	200	413	793	24	57	441	1928
	Import	27149	45765	11174	23339	65809	5181	178417
Mauritius	Balance	-19729	-24272	-83589	-37674	-109973	-102569	-377806
	Export	867	2128	348	1033	3274	1651	9301
	Import	20596	26400	83937	38707	113247	104220	387107
Mozambique	Balance	-15760	-23135	-13296	-11565	-114735	-16385	-194876
	Export	864	140	109	4711	1760	652	8236
	Import Value	16624	23275	13405	16276	116495	17037	203112
Namibia	Balance	-6374	-65709	-12964	-39496	-96713	-66371	-287627
	Export	67308	45	107	450	1434	10830	80174
	Import	73682	65754	13071	39946	98147	77201	367801
Seychelles	Balance	-707	347	-9043	-1251	-8580	-2332	-21566
	Export	126	1136	83	41	1375	676	3437
	Import	833	789	9126	1292	9955	3008	25003

ANNEX 3: Trade balances for tertiary processed wood products by countries in the SADC (\$*1000) -2010-2019. Continued								
Country	Trade	Cartonboard	Case materials	Household /sanitary papers	Newsprint	Printing/ writing papers	Wrapping papers	Grand Total (\$*1000)
South Africa	Balance	-1894311	1965597	-104961	137376	-2109508	-731862	-2737669
	Export	265556	2251869	94049	287150	1165691	220150	4284465
	Import	2159867	286272	199010	149774	3275199	952012	7022134
Tanzania	Balance	-39052	8053	-10874	-132082	-323446	42493	-454908
	Export	438	119446	5540	1561	8393	74941	210319
	Import	39490	111393	16414	133643	331839	32448	665227
Zambia	Balance	-111207	-99435	-32197	-49588	-115252	-23572	-431251
	Export	11647	518	1069	155	1078	1138	15605
	Import	122854	99953	33266	49743	116330	24710	446856
Zimbabwe	Balance	-77747	-189416	-33472	-69153	-151488	-24758	-546034
	Export	690	1437	8073	121	854	10692	21867
	Import	78437	190853	41545	69274	152342	35450	567901
Grand Total (SADC)	Balance	-2288261	1220318	-423689	-376823	-3633246	-999027	-6500728
	Export	352262	2385801	110495	296726	1218931	331032	4695247
	Import	2640523	1165483	534184	673549	4852177	1330059	11195975



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