

Sawmilling as a stepping-stone to
increased sustainability

A Wood-Mizer Africa Perspective

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What if sawmilling can nurture sustainability?

Is this possible, or are sawmillers just part of the problem? Wood-Mizer's global story, and specifically its story in Africa reveals a different narrative, one in which sawmillers are fostering sustainability, for timber – for people.



Wood-Mizer – We Are From Africa



Wood-Mizer
from forest to final form
For timber, for people.

AFRICA
A world in one place



Wood-Mizer's passion for Africa, its ties with timber, reveal the timber potential that Africa holds, to grow economies, build better lives.



But Wood-Mizer's vantage point on timber also reveals a different story. A story of a continent at odds with the timber potential that it holds.



- Forests growing smaller
- Limited replanting
- Fuel wood
- Log exports dominate
- Limited local value add
- Sawn wood imports
- Sawmill sector small
- Limited to large mills
- Dated Equipment
- Replacement expensive
- Not suitable
- Limited support

Wood-Mizer founders Don Laskowski and Dan Tekulve's

1982 sawmill innovation brought sawmilling to the neighbourhood, made sawmilling democratic.

In doing so, it paradoxically also kickstarted the creation of a sustainable future for timber and people – a future that can be Africa's if managed well



What do the numbers say?

Table 1: Forest Cover as a % of total land area: International Comparisons, 2020

Country	Forest area (million ha)	Total land area (million ha)	Forest as % of land area
Europe			
United Kingdom	3	24	13
Denmark	1	4	15
Finland	22	30	74
France	17	55	32
Germany	11	35	33
Ireland	1	7	11
Italy	10	29	33
Spain	19	50	37
Sweden	28	41	69
Other EU	47	124	38
Total EU¹	159	400	40
Russian Federation	815	1,638	50
Total Europe²	1,017	2,213	46
Africa	637	2,989	21
Asia	623	3,109	20
North & Central America	753	2,133	35
Oceania	185	849	22
South America	844	1,746	48
World	4,059	13,039	31

Source: FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020.

Forest Cover

Africa only has 21% forest cover when forests as a percentage of the total land area are used as a measure.¹ This puts Africa second last on the global list of six regions. This deficit has a clear message - use the resource carefully.

Global Forest Reduction

The world's global forest area has reduced by around 4.7 million hectares or -0.1% per year on average between 2010 and 2020.

Of the six global regions, Africa lost most of its forests (-0.6%). Africa is also not replanting timber - the continent's total plantation area and the annual replanting area the lowest of all the continents.³

Region	1990-2000	2000-2010	2010-2020
Europe			
UK	0.6	0.4	0.4
EU ¹	0.5	0.3	0.2
Total Europe	0.1	0.1	0.0
Africa	-0.4	-0.5	-0.6
Asia	0.0	0.4	0.2
North and Central America	0.0	0.0	0.0
Oceania	-0.1	-0.1	0.2
South America	-0.5	-0.6	-0.3
World	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1

Wood Fuel

A total of 4.0 billion m³ of underbark wood was removed from global forests in 2018, of which (49%) was used as wood fuel and the remainder as round wood (for manufacturing). ¹

Nearly three quarters (73%) of all wood fuel removals in 2018 happened in Asia & Africa. Africa's slow economic development see people relying on wood fuel.

million m³ underbark

Region	1990	2000	2010	2015	2018
Industrial roundwood					
Europe					
UK	6	8	8	9	9
EU ¹	311	335	331	338	378
Total Europe	517	519	533	574	650
Africa	61	71	72	75	79
Asia	268	273	379	403	442
North & Central America	595	632	485	516	561
Oceania	34	47	57	64	77
South America	110	147	198	217	248
World	1,585	1,690	1,723	1,849	2,057
Woodfuel					
Europe					
UK	0	0	1	2	2
EU ¹	67	85	115	120	122
Total Europe	138	109	154	170	180
Africa	445	551	644	679	700

Roundwood:

Global industrial roundwood removals totalled 2 057 million m³ in 2018, with 79 million m³ or 4% of this total coming from Africa. ²

FIGURE 1A. Industrial roundwood removals

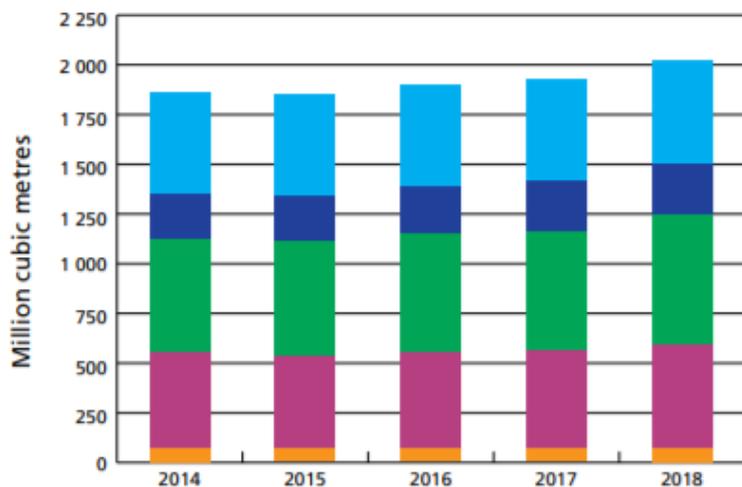
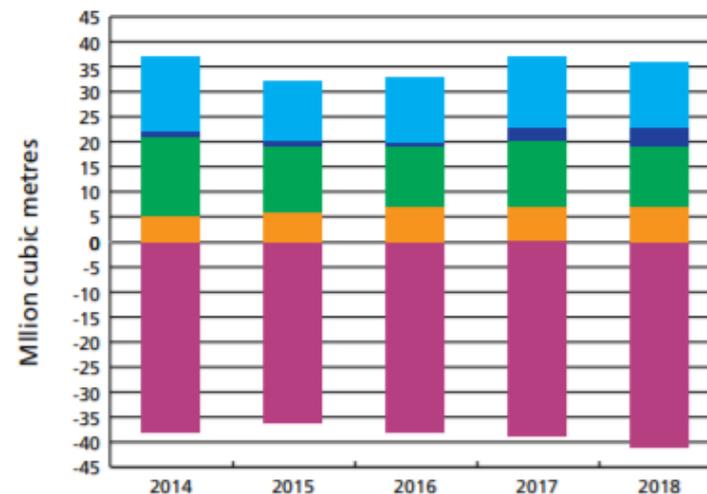


FIGURE 1B. Industrial roundwood net trade



■ Africa
 ■ Asia-Pacific
 ■ Europe
 ■ Latin America and Caribbean
 ■ Northern America

Sawn Wood Production

Global sawnwood production totalled 493 million m³ in 2018. Africa only produced 11 million m³ or 2% of that total.

Africa (6 million m³) and the Asia-Pacific (55 million m³) were then the two largest re-importers of the sawn timber that left its shores as logs originally. ² Africa therefore sells logs cheaply and then buys it back at a premium as sawn or finished products.

FIGURE 4A. Sawnwood production

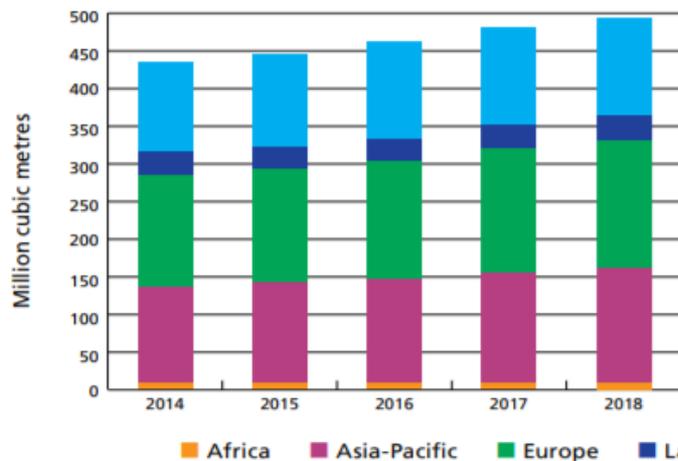
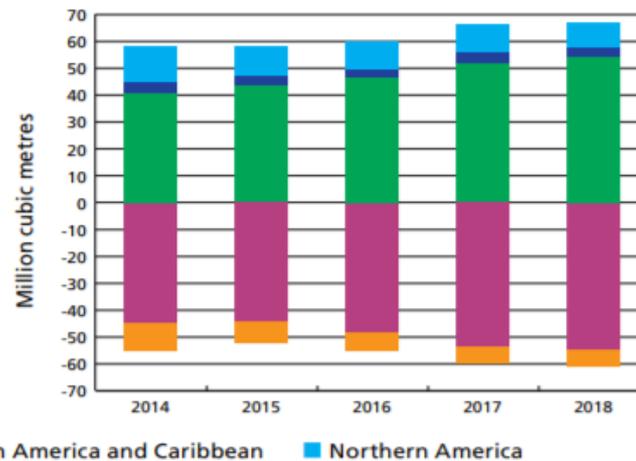


FIGURE 4B. Sawnwood net trade



Facts on the table?

- We see global forest reserves that are declining, Africa's already small total forests are declining by 0.6% every decade.
- Africa is not replanting timber to replace losses. In 2000, the total plantation area in Africa only accounted for 4.3% of the global plantation area.
- Africa continues to use its forests for fuel. Out of the 4.0 billion m³ timber used in 2018, 49% was used as wood fuel. Nearly three-quarters or 73% of this total was used in Asia and Africa, slow economic growth & poverty the principal reason for this.
- Global industrial roundwood removals saw Africa removing 79 million m³ or 4% of the global total in 2018. Out of the total amount of logs cut down in Africa 2018, we only produced 1.3% or 6 million m³ of sawnwood locally. 73 million m³ of logs left Africa in raw form, the loss of economic opportunity resulting from this staggering.
- Africa pays a premium to buy back its own timber back in sawn form or as finished products. Cheap manufactured wood products coming back to Africa also effectively displaces any emerging African manufacturing capabilities.

Can sawmilling build sustainability?

Wood-Mizer started trading in Africa in 1987, the opening of a Wood-Mizer subsidiary in 2011 in South Africa providing the direct technical and sales support needed by sawmillers in Africa to unlock the timber potential that the continent holds.



Can sawmilling build sustainability – Cont.?

Being local and supporting sawmillers in Africa where they work is about respect.

Wood-Mizer respects sawmillers, their families, their businesses, and we strive to give them sawmilling solutions that really work because we know it's often bought with a lifetime's savings.

Because we respect sawmillers, we match it with support structures that make it easy for sawmillers to get the support they need wherever they work in Africa. We don't just sell a machine, we sell a partnership for life.

It's also about improving lives.

When sawmillers run businesses that work, and their lives improve as a result of timber and sawmilling, trees are viewed differently. Instead of seeing a tree as a cheap commodity to make fast money out of, forests gain renewed value and trees are replanted, because they are the heartbeat of a business that can go from father to son, daughter.

Based on this, Wood-Mizer has key precepts that guide the corporation's approach to sawmilling.



Can sawmilling build sustainability – Cont.?

Faith

Wood-Mizer's founders were men & women of faith, a legacy we continue by being grateful and careful stewards of His creation.



Can sawmilling build sustainability – Cont.?

Experience

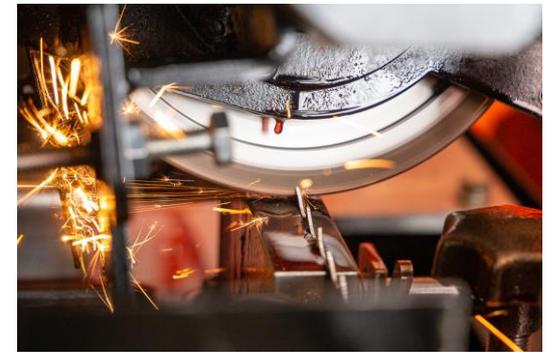
We are from Africa. We use our global and local experience to innovate and produce class-leading timber processing solutions, and support structures to grow businesses that work.



Can sawmilling build sustainability – Cont.?

Range

Our range includes sawmilling and woodworking technology, blades and blade maintenance equipment, and biomass solutions. First-time and established sawmillers and manufacturers can start small, grow, and then build further over time to be globally competitive.



Can sawmilling build sustainability – Cont.?

Engineering

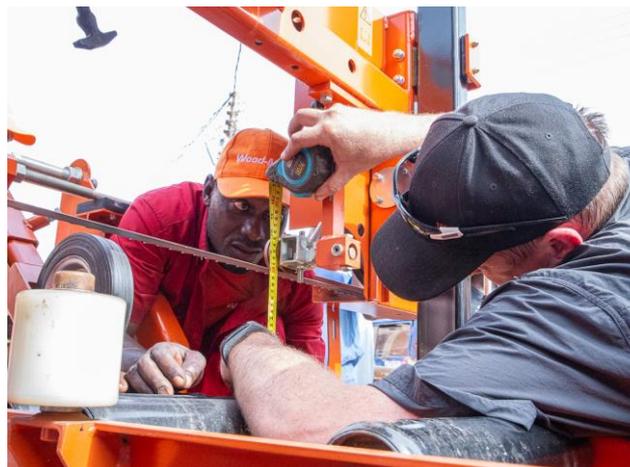
We invest in the best engineering skills and global production facilities to build the best and most affordable timber processing technology that suits the production requirements of modern sawmillers. No more obsolete, dated, and energy inefficient equipment. Efficiency builds competitiveness and success



Can sawmilling build sustainability – Cont.?

Support

Wood-Mizer's global after-sale service support network is the backbone of its business. With +100 service locations globally and +30 in Africa, sawmillers can maintain machines, get technical support, spares and blades, training, and advise no matter the location - to grow businesses into the future.



Can sawmilling build sustainability – Cont.?

Commitment

We don't make empty promises. Wood-Mizer's experience, know-how, range, and service are the result of years of commitment to sawmillers and what we do best – Cutting Timber. We commit to building successful timber businesses. When lives improve through timber, the resource is cared for with broad sustainability finally allowed to kick into gear.



Can sawmilling build sustainability – Cont.?

Africa prospers

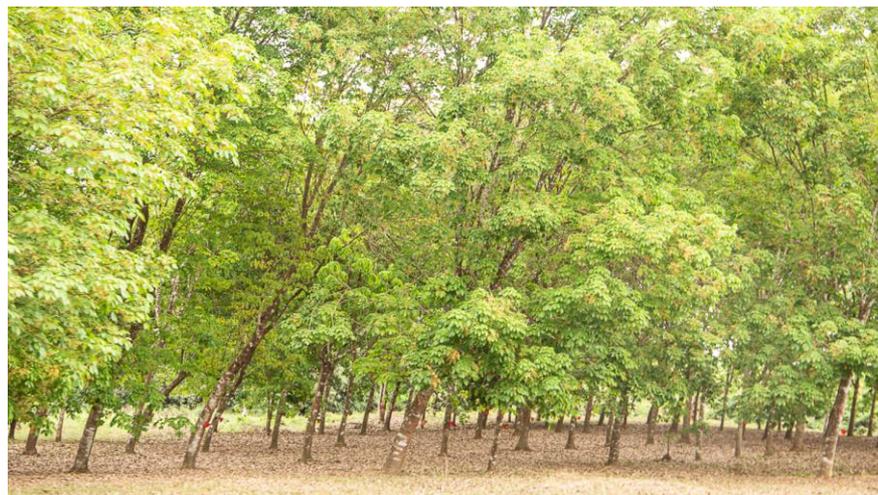
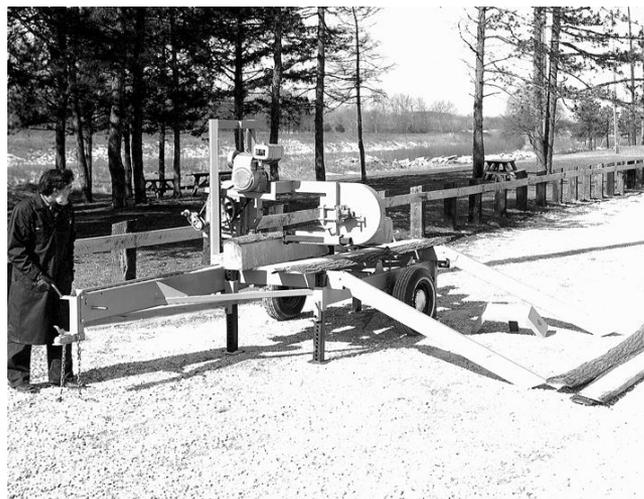
With profitable sawmilling businesses unlocking the real timber potential that Africa holds, its people and ultimately also its timber resources benefit. We see this with sawmillers that replant timber to sustain their business into the future.



Can sawmilling build sustainability – Cont.?

Sustainability

The first Wood-Mizer in 1982 took sawn timber production out of the hands of large sawmills and gave it to the people. One-man businesses using affordable and modern sawmilling technology can now produce sawn timber that builds businesses. The value of that gives a reason to protect forests, plant trees – for a sustainable future.



The End
Thank you