

Forest-based value chains by product

#GlobalGateway #ForOurPlanet

September 2026

Health product ingredients

Okoumé essential oil



A niche product driven by the growth of diterpenated essential oils with opportunities in perfumery and cosmetics.

VALUE CHAIN MAP

The collection of resin by tapping on living trees in natural forests is carried out by rural producers.

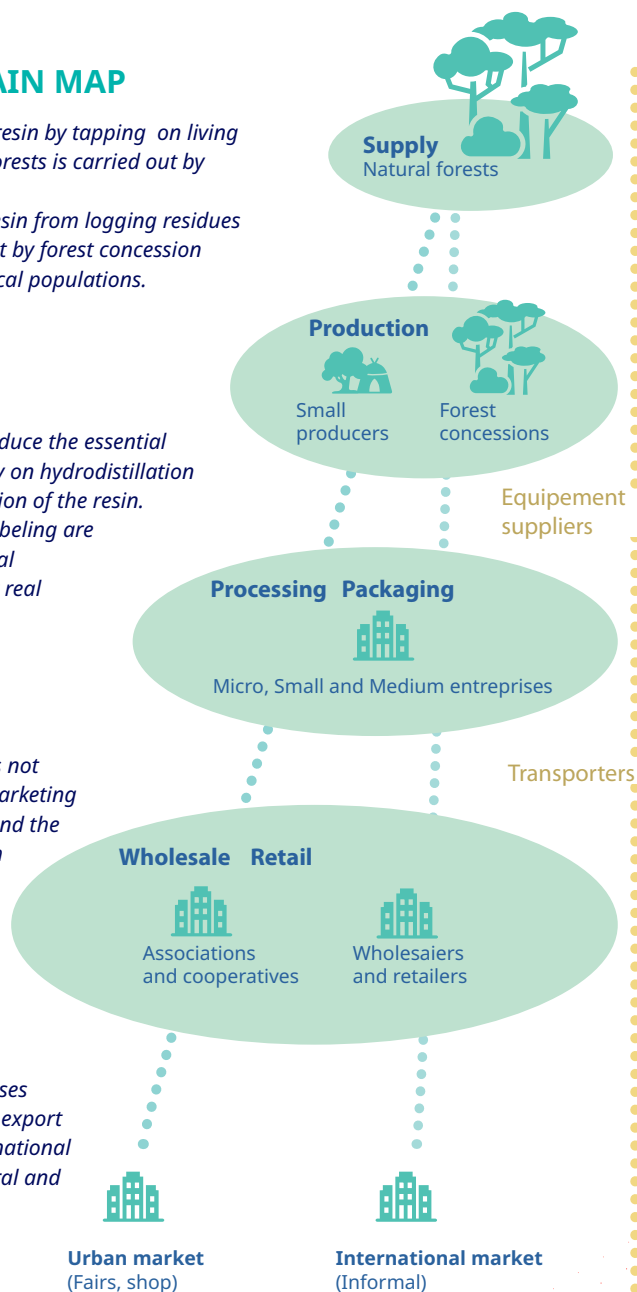
The recovery of resin from logging residues can be carried out by forest concession managers and local populations.

Processing to produce the essential oil relies primarily on hydrodistillation or solvent extraction of the resin.

Packaging and labeling are done by traditional methods, without real standardisation.

The value chain is not structured and marketing is organised around the local market, with some (informal) international outlets.

The sector possesses largely untapped export potential in international markets for natural and organic products.



SCIENTIFIC NAME

Aucoumea klaineana

REPUTATION The okoumé is the king of the Gabonese forest, an emblematic tree in Central Africa

PRODUCT Essential oil from okoumé resin

ORIGIN Resin that flows from trees in natural forests (after tapping), or the recovery of resin from the bark of felled trees.

USE Cosmetics and health (dermatology)

PRICE From 800 €/L to 2,200 €/L for fragrances; 2,300 €/L for pure essential oil

CODE

- SH 330129 essential oils
 - SH 33012949 non-deterpenated oils in their natural state
 - SH 33012991 diterpenated oils, from which certain terpene compounds have been removed to improve their stability and shelf life

PROPERTIES antioxidant, antifungal, antibacterial

KEY FEATURES

- Large tree (35 to 50 m) found mainly in Gabon
- Okoumé is a widely traded timber species

CHALLENGES

- Compliance with quality standards is essential for the cosmetics sector
- Securing a continuous supply and guaranteeing traceability
- Need to structure the value chain

SUSTAINABILITY

Recovering resin from the bark of felled trees adds value to logging residues, which in Gabon are 350,000 tonnes per year.

EUROPEAN UNION INTERESTS IN THE VALUE CHAIN

A growing interest among EU cosmetic companies in **natural and organic products**, provided that the gaps are filled to meet the **high demands** of the European market.



POTENTIAL SUPPORT FROM EU, MEMBERS STATES AND PARTNERS



INSTITUTIONAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

- Support to norms development and enforcement
- Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol



VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

- Stakeholders formalisation, technical and commercial training, technology transfer



BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

- Tax incentives, favourable investment climate



LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS

- Research and Development
- Global Gateway Projects

AN ACTIVE GLOBAL MARKET

The global market for cosmetic active ingredients has a turnover of €15 billion. The market is expected to grow by more than 6% per year on average by 2028. The share of natural ingredients represents approximately 50%.

*EU could support **value** chain development (high value-added products) and **research** (active ingredients in cosmetics and medicines).*



Distribution area of the okoumé



GABON

Growth of essential oil exports to the EU can contribute to the development of Gabon's potential as a supplier for European companies.

Key actors in Gabon

- N'Kira Cosmétiques
- Biokoume
- Tropicalthèque

COSMETIC VALLEY



N'kira
Cosmétiques naturels



CASE STUDIES

Cosmetopoeia – Bassin du Congo, a fund of Cosmetic Valley (France) contributes to the preservation of biodiversity in the Congo Basin forest.

- In partnership with N'Kira Cosmétiques, the fund organises technical training to develop eco-responsible resin harvesters.

Biokoume is a Gabonese-French startup (2023) that produces innovative natural extracts. Its products include:

- essential oils of okoumé resin, for their aromatic properties and potential applications in cosmetics; and
- active ingredients derived from okoumé resin, for their applications in cosmetics and the medical sector.

Data source:

Forests for the Future Facility (F4F) - *EU Market Assessment of Seven Selected Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFPs) from West and Central Africa, 2025.*

Forests for the Future Facility (F4F) - *Gabon / Cameroun: Chaînes de valeur d'ingrédients forestiers pour des produits de santé, 2025.*

*A Global Gateway
flagship initiative*



For more info: INTPA-F2@ec.europa.eu

DG International Partnerships Unit F2 – Environment, Natural Resources, Water,
[Sustainable Forests for the Future Group](#)