Architects’ perception of selected bio-based building materials in France and Gabon
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Introduction

As a part of a larger research project that examined bio-based building materials that are underutilized in the construction of non-residential buildings, the presented mail survey was conducted in France and Gabon to determine how architects specify selected bio-based building materials. This study provides a preliminary assessment of the potential segments of architects in practice based on their attitudes to the use of wood in non-residential construction.

Methods

• Gabon: 10 architects members of Conseil National de l’Ordre Gabonais des Architectes, France: 78 architects from Conseil National de l’Ordre des Architectes de France

Survey questionnaire was developed by an international group of architects; to evaluate cooperation between architects, wood engineers and civil engineers.

Results

Engineered wood products (EWP)

Only recently has wood been developed to form a range of products that are increasingly functional, based on a combination of performance and sustainability requirements.

Discussion

Using the information obtained in this study will contribute to an understanding of the probability that bio-based building materials are chosen in residential and non-residential buildings and to an understanding of the drivers and barriers for increased use of EWP. The survey was conducted at two stages: in the first stage, personal interviews with a selected group of ten architects from architects professional organization were conducted. Based on the information from these in-person interviews, an exploratory web-based survey was subsequently designed for France and in-person interviews for Gabon.

Survey questionnaire was developed by an international group of architects.

Data were collected through on-line survey in France and personal interviews in Gabon.

Survey questionnaire was developed by an international group of architects; to identify the use of EWP in loadbearing and non-loadbearing systems; to characterize the information sources and their perceived value used by architects; to identify EWP’s information needed by architects; and to evaluate cooperation between architects, wood engineers and civil engineers.

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