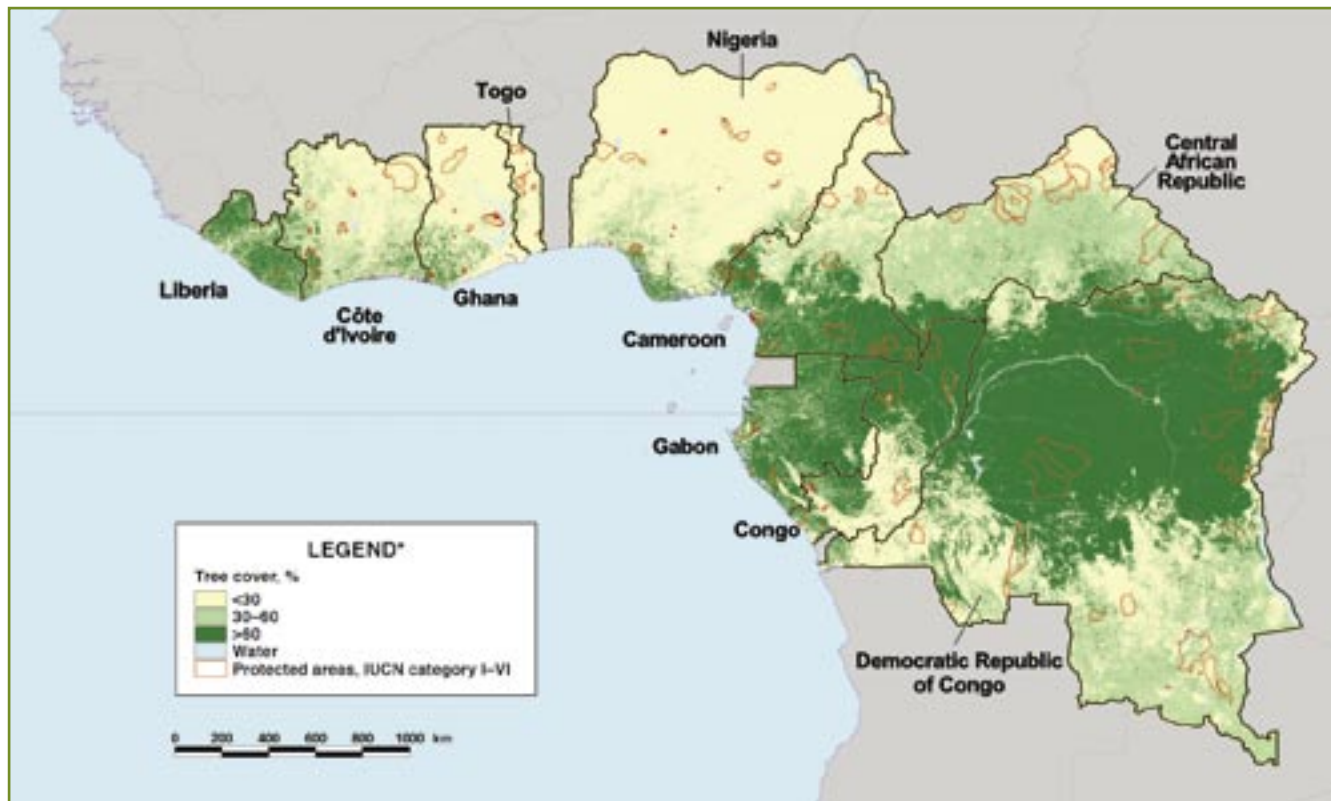


AFRICA



*Same legend applies to country maps, but protected areas are not shown

CAMEROON



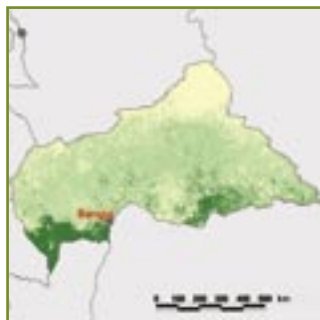
Cameroon possesses significant forest resources with good potential for SFM. The policy environment is sound and governmental responsibility for forests is vested in a single ministry, the Ministry of Forests and Fauna (MINFOF). However, the capacity of the ministry to fully enforce the forest law and implement

the forest policy is low. Cameroon is yet to translate many of its ambitious forest management goals into practice and effectively protect its PFE from deforestation and degradation.

KEY POINTS

- Cameroon has an estimated 12.8 million hectares of PFE, comprising 8.84 million hectares of natural production forest, 3.90 million hectares of protection forest and 17,000 hectares of industrial timber plantations.
- At least 500,000 hectares of natural-forest production PFE are estimated to be managed sustainably. Insufficient data were available to estimate the area of protection PFE so managed.
- In 2004, nine foreign companies held 3.15 million hectares of the concession area in 45 FMUs. Of 72 FMUs, 32 had approved management plans, the management plans of 17 had been rejected by MINFOF, the status of 14 was unknown and 19 were in process.
- Of the 4.95 million hectares of PFE under licence or allocated to concessions, about 1.76 million hectares had a management plan or had completed forest inventories for the preparation of a management plan.
- The integrity of the PFE is threatened by encroachment, poaching and poor logging practices, including illegal logging, but no official data on the extent of these are available.
- There is a good framework of policy and legislation but its implementation is limited.
- Despite considerable efforts to reorganize the forest administration and improve forest law enforcement, the implementation capacity of MINFOF remains weak due to a lack of funding, training and internal control.
- Cameroon is rich in biodiversity, accommodating more than 8,300 plant species, about 297 mammal species and 848 bird species; nearly half of all the bird and mammal species of Africa are present in Cameroon's forests.
- Hunting for wild meat, including for commercial sale, is believed to have significantly reduced the abundance of certain mammals in some areas.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



CAR possesses a substantial forest resource base in the south with a sizeable growing stock of high-value hardwood timber. Forest production provides important export revenues and contributes 5% or more to GDP. Two forest inventories have been carried out, the results of which can support

forest management planning and economic analysis. In 1990, the country introduced a forest code that sets out social, environmental and silvicultural norms. However, there is a gap between the law and its implementation in the field.

KEY POINTS

- CAR has an estimated 3.80 million hectares of PFE, comprising 3.50 million hectares of natural production forest, 300,000 hectares of protection forest and 3,000 hectares of industrial timber plantations.
- At least 186,000 hectares (about 5%) of the natural-forest production PFE are under SFM. Insufficient data were available to estimate the area of protection PFE so managed.
- Commercial harvesting is carried out mostly by private entrepreneurs under management permits (*Permis d'exploitation et d'aménagement*), which are valid for the lifetime of the company.

- In mid 2005, ten timber companies, all foreign-owned, were operating in the southwest of the country in an area of 3.3 million hectares.
- A relatively small area of closed forest is contained in protected areas.
- There is little awareness in the private sector of the need for sustainable management, although such awareness may be growing as companies are obliged to develop forest management plans.
- The ministry in charge of forests, *Ministère des Eaux, Forêts, Chasses, Pêches, Environnement et du Tourisme*, generally lacks the capacity to oversee management of the PFE and to enforce the law, including sanctions when rules and regulations are infringed.
- The forest sector generates about 14% of state revenues.
- Wild meat and the gathering of edible fruits, nuts, insects and roots are of great importance for local communities.
- According to the forest law, a significant share of revenues generated by forest taxes is to be redistributed to local communities. However, such revenues are unevenly distributed between and within such communities.
- CAR is a landlocked country and the transport costs of exported timber are relatively high compared to those of other countries in the Congo Basin, limiting the profitability of SFM.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



A recent civil war took a heavy toll on DRC's infrastructure and development. Despite vast forest resources, the forestry sector failed to attract international investors or donors and remains undeveloped. There has been some improvement since 2002 (when the war ended) and

the government has developed a policy aimed at encouraging the sustainable use of forest resources. The arrangements for forest and concession management and the enforcement of rules are currently in a state of flux; capacity for SFM remains minimal and its widespread adoption seems a long way off. Nevertheless, the forest sector has the potential (with appropriate planning and regulation) to play a crucial role in the country's recovery and subsequent development.

KEY POINTS

- DRC has vast closed tropical forests and a relatively low level of conversion to other uses, but the forest sector is in disarray as the country emerges from a long civil war.
- DRC has an estimated 47.6 million hectares of PFE, comprising 20.5 million hectares of production forest, 27.0 million hectares of protection forest and 55,000 hectares of industrial timber plantations.
- At least 284,000 hectares of the natural-forest production PFE are being managed sustainably, comprising three

research and education forests. No areas of protection PFE are deemed to be so managed.

- Although not under formal management, large areas of DRC's forests are currently under no threat from deforestation or other significant human-induced disturbance due to their remoteness.
- Only one area of production forest, of about 1.1 million hectares, is covered by a management plan.
- Under the 2002 forest law, concessions of up to 500,000 hectares can be allocated for 25-year periods (renewable).
- Forestry administration is the responsibility of three directorates within the Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation, Water Resources and Forests. A severe lack of capacity hinders efforts to supervise the forestry sector.
- The volume of timber harvested in DRC is only a tiny fraction of the potential sustainable yield, even accounting for likely significant levels of illegal logging.
- Four of the country's ten national parks are listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites; an estimated 9.32 million hectares of forest are contained in protected areas conforming to IUCN categories I–IV.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO



The Republic of Congo has a large forest resource, supportive government policies, little population pressure, and at least one large concessionaire well advanced along the path to SFM. The stage therefore seems set for the forestry sector – particularly in northern Congo – to expand the area of forest under

SFM, provided that issues related to local communities and the over-hunting of certain mammal species can be addressed.

KEY POINTS

- The Republic of Congo has a large resource of closed tropical forests, particularly in the north, and a relatively low level of conversion to other uses, although there is significant encroachment in the southern forests.
- The PFE is an estimated 21.3 million hectares, comprising 18.4 million hectares of production forest, 2.86 million hectares of protection forest and 72,000 hectares of industrial timber plantations.
- At least 1.30 million hectares of the natural-forest production PFE, comprising the concession areas of *Congolaise Industrielle des Bois* in northern Congo, are thought to be under SFM. Some 380,000 hectares of protection PFE are deemed to be so managed.
- The over-hunting of wild meat within concessions, and social relations between indigenous forest dwellers and migrants, are possibly the biggest constraints to SFM in northern Congo.
- Forestry administration is the responsibility of the Ministry of Forest Economy and the Environment (MEFE). Institutional capacity remains relatively weak.
- In the south, more than 1 million hectares of forest have been allocated for harvesting in lots of about 50,000 hectares to operators largely unskilled in forest management.
- In the north, concession-holders are expected to collaborate with MEFE in the development of forest management plans; inventories have been carried out on at least 6.4 million hectares.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE



Côte d'Ivoire's 230 state-owned classified forests (*forêts classées*) have been over-harvested and have become depleted of timber; natural forests in the rural zone (*domain rural*) and planted forests are providing an increasing part of the timber supply. Institutional responsibility for forestry administration

has changed several times in recent years, with the likely result of reducing administrative effectiveness. The level of enforcement of existing laws and decrees appears to be low in much of the PFE. Forest management plans are under preparation or have been prepared for the forest reserves, but few have been prepared for the *domain rural*. Illegal logging and deforestation are thought to be widespread, exacerbated by civil unrest.

KEY POINTS

- Côte d'Ivoire has a relatively low forest cover which continues to diminish.
- The country has an estimated 4.30 million hectares of PFE, comprising 3.40 million hectares of natural production forest, 167,000 hectares of industrial timber plantations and 734,000 hectares of protection forest.
- The estimated area of production PFE under SFM is 277,000 hectares, which is about one-quarter of the forest reserves covered by management plans. About 150,000 hectares of protection PFE are considered to be so managed.
- Forestry administration is currently the responsibility of the Ministry for Water and Forests (MINEF), which operates under a 1965 forest code and subsequent decrees. A process to revise the code is under way.
- Ten regional offices are responsible for forest protection and law enforcement. SODEFOR, a government corporation, manages the forest reserves and provides advisory services.
- MINEF and SODEFOR employ 2,000 people combined.
- Concession-holders are obliged to present a forest management plan that includes a reforestation scheme and social investments for the rural population living in or adjacent to the forest.
- There is a discrepancy between the standards applied in the forest reserves of the PFE and in the *domaine rural*.
- There is conflict between communities and harvesting operators over the use of forests.
- Poaching is believed to be a significant problem.

GABON



Over the past ten years, Gabon has gone through a profound process of reform affecting the forest and environment. A new forest law has come into force that emphasizes SFM as the overall approach in the PFE. Forestry is, and will remain, one of the pillars of Gabon's economic and social development.

The private sector has become a major driver of industrial forest development and the export of forest products. The government has introduced a system to institutionalize community forestry as a way of meeting local needs for timber and other forest products. Gabon has a low deforestation rate, forests rich in valuable timber species and among the best prospects for a healthy and sustainable forest industry. There are still problems – mainly in governance. For example, there is little civil advocacy and few participatory processes in the forestry sector. Protected-area management in Gabon is still in its infancy and requires greater planning and effective enforcement.

KEY POINTS

- Gabon has timber-rich and extensive forest resources with a relatively low risk of conversion to other uses.
- The PFE is an estimated 13.3 million hectares, comprising 10.6 million hectares of natural production forest, 2.70

million hectares of protection forest and 25,000 hectares of plantations.

- At least 1.48 million hectares of natural-forest production PFE are thought to be managed sustainably; at least 1.09 million hectares of the protection PFE are considered to be so managed.
- The financial viability of SFM is greatly enhanced by the high quantity and quality of a prime species (okoumé) in a large part of the forest estate, particularly on the coastal plains.
- However, because of its high value, okoumé tends to be over-harvested.
- Community forests may be created in rural forests, but few had been as of 2004.
- High standards for concession management have been developed on paper, but still need to be fully introduced and enforced. There is interest in the application of C&I as a monitoring tool and forest certification has been encouraged.
- Many protected areas do not appear to be managed effectively.
- Management for wild meat and other NWFPs is still largely uncontrolled in forest concessions.

GHANA



Ghana has favourable conditions for the achievement of SFM, such as impressive human resources – including a strong Forestry Commission – and a long history of forest management. Nevertheless, many challenges must be met. For example, fire plays an influential and – in some

forests – destructive ecological role and is difficult to control. Some forest reserves are well-managed, but others may have been over-harvested and off-reserve forests are often unregulated. Moreover, illegal activities such as chainsaw lumber production and poaching are thought to be widespread.

KEY POINTS

- The area of PFE is an estimated 1.60 million hectares, comprising 1.15 million hectares of natural-forest production PFE, 353,000 hectares of protection PFE and 97,000 hectares of plantations.
- At least 270,000 hectares of natural-forest production PFE are considered to be managed sustainably; an estimated 108,000 hectares of protection PFE are so managed.
- The silvicultural system used in natural forests is a polycyclic selection felling system using a cutting cycle of 40 years; a national AAC has been set at 500,000 m³.

- There are manuals for production, management and planning, which set out the obligations of logging contractors.
- Ghana is establishing a sizeable plantation estate of teak.
- Community participation in forestry is being facilitated through community forest committees (CFCs) and a collaborative forest management unit of the Forestry Commission; in 2003 there were some 100 CFCs.
- An estimated 2 million people depend on forests for subsistence uses and traditional and customary lifestyles.
- Ghana has introduced a new timber utilization contract system to improve efficiency, transparency and accountability in forestry, particularly in forest production activities.
- There is limited information about the condition of protected areas.

LIBERIA



Liberia is blessed with a rich forest resource, a substantial part of which, however, has been lost or degraded in recent years during civil war. Once the country emerges from its political problems, a newly reconstituted and restructured forest sector, built on the pillars of accountability and

transparency, could play a major role in economic growth and sustainable development. But its success will depend very much on strong political will and international support.

KEY POINTS

- Liberia's PFE covers an estimated 1.41 million hectares, comprising 1.31 million hectares of natural-forest production PFE and 101,000 hectares of protection PFE. More forest could be committed to the PFE from the presently uncommitted area of about 2 million hectares.
- None of the PFE is currently thought to be under SFM.
- The existing protection PFE comprises less than 3% of the country's forests.
- The UN Security Council imposed an embargo on the export of timber from Liberia in 2003 and it remains in force. The embargo was designed to minimize the extent to which revenues from timber exports contributed to private militias.

- In the past, the Liberian forestry sector has generated up to a quarter or more of GDP, but this has declined due to the embargo and the general disarray of the sector.
- There are few or no reliable inventory data available to facilitate forest management.
- The Forest Development Authority (FDA) is responsible for overseeing the forestry sector, but it is seriously under-resourced.
- The FDA has recently attempted to review concession agreements and decide which are legitimate, a difficult task since many files were lost or destroyed during the civil war.
- There is strong support across a range of stakeholders for community-based forest management and greater benefit-sharing with rural people.
- No silvicultural system has been devised for Liberian forests other than a selective logging regime. The prescribed felling cycle of 25 years is relatively short.
- Much of the timber-processing capacity and other infrastructure was destroyed during the civil war and is yet to be rebuilt.

NIGERIA



There are several obstacles to SFM in Nigeria. These include the discretionary power of government to de-reserve or harvest the forests; the lack of a coherent forest policy; the prevalence of illegal logging and harvesting of NWFPs in most of the high-forest states; chronic under-resourcing of forestry

programs and forest management; overlapping responsibilities among federal, state and local governments and excessive bureaucracy; the lack of inter-sectoral coordination; and the overall absence of reliable data on which to base forestry planning and development. Nigeria has a long history of forest management and the formal goal is to achieve self-sufficiency in all aspects of forest production; however, the country, once a significant exporter, is now a net importer of primary forest products and considerable work must be done to achieve this goal.

KEY POINTS

- Nigeria has an estimated PFE of 4.11 million hectares, comprising 2.72 million hectares of natural production forest, 1.01 million hectares of protection forest and 375,000 hectares of planted forest. The PFE covers less than 5% of Nigeria's total land area.
- Data are generally weak and the federal government cannot confirm the accuracy of the data presented herein.

- A forest reserve system was created in 1937 covering 9.7 million hectares (10% of the land area), but much of this is no longer forested.
- The goal of the 1988 forest policy is to expand the forest estate from 10% to 20%, but this has not occurred.
- Insufficient information was available to estimate the area of PFE under SFM.
- The forestry sector is administered at the federal, state and local government levels according to the Nigerian constitution. However, there is a lack of clarity in the mandates of the three levels.
- The main concerns of the federal government are to provide an adequate policy framework for the states and to support afforestation and conservation programs.
- State governments are solely responsible for the management of forest resources and the coordination of forest development activities with local communities.
- Forest production has fallen, creating an imbalance between supply and demand. From its previous status as a significant exporter of forest products, Nigeria has become a net importer.
- The wood-processing industry is characterized by outdated technology, poor recovery and inefficiency.
- A National Forestry Development Program designed to encourage community plantation development is in place.
- A proportion of revenues from timber should go to local communal landowners but, in practice, funds are often diverted, reducing the incentive for local people to protect forests.

TOGO



The main difficulty in protecting and managing forests in Togo is the heavy pressure on them from an impoverished rural population. Indeed, pressure on the existing forest reserves is already high and the Ministry for Environment and Natural Resources, which is in charge of forests, is unable to secure

their integrity. Capacity for forest management is low, and improvement is inhibited by a lack of means. This affects many forestry operations: for example, management plans are confined to a few teak plantations, scarcely 300 hectares of new plantations are established annually, and protection against fire is mostly ineffective. A process of decentralization has been initiated, whereby communes, prefectures and regions have responsibilities for the management of the state domain and on environmental issues, but the effects of this process on forest management are yet to be seen.

KEY POINTS

- Togo has an estimated PFE of 368,000 hectares, comprising 41,000 hectares of natural production forest, 313,000 hectares of protection forest and 14,000 hectares of plantations (and additional private plantations outside the PFE).
- At least 5,500 hectares of natural-forest production PFE are considered to be managed sustainably. Insufficient

information was available for an estimate to be made of the area of protection PFE so managed.

- Forest reserves and protected areas are not effectively protected or managed, and many are heavily degraded and subject to uncontrolled encroachment, the illegal gathering of NWFPs, poaching and timber theft.
- Forestry training capacity is very limited, and fewer than ten personnel in the forestry administration have higher education in forestry or environmental management.
- There is a lack of a national SFM framework and of forest management standards for natural forests.
- Privately owned, planted forests are now being developed and will complement the teak and other plantations in the PFE.
- However, planted forests in the PFE are small and generally lack proper planning, monitoring and silvicultural follow-up.
- Many villages adjacent to forest reserves have forest committees to manage local interests in the use of forest reserves.



J. Blaser/IITO