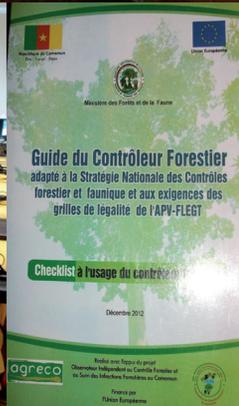
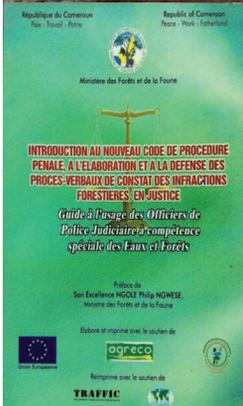


TRAFFIC REPORT

AUGUST 2016

EVALUATION OF THE MONITORING OF FOREST LAW ENFORCEMENT IN CAMEROON

Paulinus NGEH, Tabi Philip TAKO-ETA, Denis MAHONGHOL, Hin Keong CHEN.





TRAFFIC REPORT

TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, is the leading non-governmental organization working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. TRAFFIC is a strategic alliance of WWF and IUCN.

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Cover page : MINFOF staff and Independent Observer during a joint control mission.

Other photos from left to right :

- 1) Introduction to the Cameroonian criminal law for the use of forest agents;
- 2) Law Enforcement officers (Gendarmerie) at a TRAFFIC training workshop;
- 3) Copy of Guide (checklist) for forest controllers;
- 4) Law Enforcement officers (Police) at a TRAFFIC training workshop.

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Illegal timber seized at a logging site in the Eastern Region of Cameroon.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACP	The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
AEC.....	Annual Exploitation Certificate
AGRECO	The Belgian Consortium
ANAFOR	Agence Nationale d'Appui au Développement Forestier (National Forestry Development Agency)
CAB	Cabinet
CAWTLEAP.....	Central Africa Wildlife Trade Law Enforcement Action Plan
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CD2	Contrat Développement Désendettement (Debt reduction development contract)
CED	Centre for Environment and Development
CENADEFOR	Centre National de Développement Forestier (National Centre for Forest Development)
CEW	Centre for Environmental Watch
CIFOR	Centre for International Forestry Research
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
COMIFAC	Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Central (Central African Forest Commission)
CSO	Civil society organisation
D	Decision
DGSN	Direction Générale de la Sûreté Nationale (General Directorate for National Security)
DIT	Douala International Terminal
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
F CFA	Franc de la Communauté Financière Africaine (African Financial Community Franc)
FLE	Forest Law Enforcement
FLEGT.....	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FMU	Forest Management Unit
FOB	Free On Board
FS.....	Forest Service
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
GDP	Gross Domestic Product

IO	Independent Observer
IRAD	Institut de Recherche Agricole pour le Développement (Institute of Agricultural Research for Development)
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LC	Lettre Circulaire
MINADER	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MINAGRI.....	Ministry of Agriculture
MINATD	Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation
MINDEF	Ministry of Defence
MINEF	Ministry of Environment and Forestry
MINEPAT	Ministry of Economy, Planning and Territorial Development
MINEPDED	Ministry of the Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development
MINFI	Ministry of Finance
MINFOF	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
MINJUSTICE	Ministry of Justice and Keeper of Seals
MINT	Ministry of Transport
MINTPS	Ministry of Labour and Social Security
NA	Native Authority
NCB	National Brigade for Control and anti-poaching
NEMP	National Environmental Management Program
NFFA	National Fund for Forestry and Aquaculture
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NIFM.....	Norms for Intervention in Forest Milieu
NSFWC	National Strategy for Forest and Wildlife Control
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Product
ONADEF	Office National de Développement Forestier (National Office for Forest Development)
ONAREF	Office National de Régénération Forestière (National Office for Forest Regeneration)
OLB	Origine et Légalité du Bois (origin and legality of timber)
PAFRA	Programme d'Appui à la Foresterie Rurale (Rural Forestry Support Project)

PIB	Produit Intérieur Brut (see GDP)
PM	Prime Ministry
PSFE	Programme Sectoriel Forêt et Environnement (Forest and Environment Sector Program)
PSRF	Programme de Sécurisation des Recettes Forestières (Programme to Secure Forest Revenue)
RCB	Regional Control Brigade
REM	Resource Extractive Monitoring
REPAR	Réseau des Parlementaires d'Afrique Centrale (Central Africa Parliamentary Network for the sustainable management of central African forest ecosystems)
SAG	Service des Affaires Généraux
SDIAF	Sous-Direction des Inventaires et Aménagement Forestiers (Forest inventories and management sub-directorate)
SEPBC	Société d'Exploitation des Parcs à Bois du Cameroun (Cameroon timber yards operating company)
SETAT/MINFOF	Secretary of State to the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SG	Secretary General
SIGICOF	Système Informatique de Gestion des Infractions et du Contentieux Forestiers (Forest offence and litigation management System)
SIGIF	Système Informatique de Gestion des Informations Forestières (Forest Information management system)
SMP	Simple Management Plan
SSD	Secretary of State for Defense in charge of Gendarmerie
SSV	Sales of Standing Volume
TLTV	Timber Legality Traceability Verification accreditation
TOU	Technical Operation Unit
TRAFFIC	Wildlife trade monitoring network
UFA	Unité Forestière d'Aménagement (see FMU)
USD	United States Dollar
VAT	Value Added Tax
VPA	Voluntary Partnership Agreement
WCS	World Conservation Society
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The forest sector in the Republic of Cameroon has undergone considerable reforms since independence in 1960 to the present date. The apex of these reforms was after the Rio Earth summit of 1992 which saw the creation of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MINEF) which was to oversee the management of the nation's natural resources as well as protect the environment. Since then there has been profound legal, legislative and institutional reforms of the forestry sector in Cameroon. A new forest policy was adopted; the forest law of 1981 was revised and replaced by a new one in 1994.

In order to preserve the rich biodiversity, a zoning plan was developed after an inventory covering a total of 14 million hectares of forest below latitude four degrees north. This zoning plan divided the national forest estate into two broad categories: the permanent and non-permanent forest estates.

In the non-permanent forest estate, the policy is to encourage forest conservation and management approaches that take into consideration the needs of local communities, while in the permanent forest estate, the focus is to have forest cover of at least 30 % of the national territory, representative of the national biodiversity and with plans to sustain their management.

The permanent forest estate is further subdivided into production and protection forests. Forest Management Units are attributed in the production forest to concessionaires for exploitation and management. Councils and communities can also apply for and manage their own forest called council and community forests respectively.

Sustainable management is aimed at increasing forest sector's contribution to GDP and to strengthen the local economy, reduce poverty and improve livelihood of local people. With an annual production of about 2.3 million m³, the forestry sector contributes 456.9 billion F CFA (780.4 million USD) or 30% to the national economy and accounts for 4% of the GDP.

In tandem with logging, a forest restoration program was developed for the renewal and enrichment of the resource. The forest restoration program gathered momentum under the National Office for Forest Regeneration (ONAREF) created in 1982, which was later replaced by the National Office for Forest Development (ONADEF) in 1990 and currently is replaced by the National Forestry Development Agency (ANAFOR) established in 2002 under the supervision of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF).

Forest management has undergone considerable change over the years. Before the adoption of the 1994 forest law (current legislations), forest exploitation was done through licences and sales of standing volumes. Control of exploitation was by girth, species, authorised volumes and area of operation. Management plans were not a prerequisite for forest exploitation/management. These regulations were enshrined in the 1981 forest law.

The current legislation and regulatory instruments have made provisions for the participation of local communities and decentralised structures (councils) in the management of forests resources through the acquisition of community forests and council forests respectively.

The stakeholders involved in forest management in Cameroon include:

- The state of Cameroon who is the guarantor, through MINFOF, of the forest patrimony and other ministerial department, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER), Ministry of Finances (MINFI), etc ;
- Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities;
- Decentralised structures (councils) ;

- Civil society organisations (Independent Observers, International and National NGO);
- International organisations;
- Regional Organisations;
- The Business community involved in the forestry sector.

The reforms contained in the current forest law were put in place to rectify among other things the exclusion of communities and civil society in the forest law of 1981. The inclusion of local communities enabled the State not only to better conserve its forest and its resources but also meet the livelihood needs of local communities, increase revenues and ensure its fair and equitable distribution especially to local communities. Several regulatory instruments, frameworks and guidance notes have been developed to ensure proper management, monitoring and control of forests in Cameroon.

In 1998 the Norms and field guide for Intervention in the forest milieu were elaborated and approved by decision No. 108/D/CAB of MINEF of 9 February, 1998. The main objective is to promote the protection of the environment during execution of forest management activities. The norms are obligatory elements that must be considered during the elaboration of management plans both detail and simple management plans.

Cameroon is also signatory to other international conventions and agreements directly or indirectly related to forest, forest biodiversity or the management of forests. Furthermore, in order to promote transparency and good governance, all logging companies were to develop sustainable management plans for their concessions and new procedures for the award of logging permits with stronger criteria as well as involvement of an independent observer were adopted. Cameroon has also signed the Voluntary Partnership Agreement/Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (VPA/FLEGT) with the European Union to boost legality, good governance and enhance trade in the forest sector.

There are also modalities for the elaboration, approval, monitoring and control of the implementation of management plans developed for production forests enacted by Order N° 0222/A/MINEF of 25 May 2001. A national control strategy was also developed to support the enforcement and effectiveness of the forest law.

Forest reforms, law enforcement and monitoring have been ongoing for decades in Cameroon. This study is aimed at evaluating the effectiveness of forest law enforcement monitoring in Cameroon so as to identify gaps and propose recommendations to fill them and enhance monitoring in general.

In spite of the advances and improvement in forest management law enforcement and control of forests resources, there are still challenges and incidences of illegality throughout the timber trade supply chain.

The key findings of the study are highlighted below.

- The past and on-going reforms in the forestry sector, in spite of their short comings have resulted in improved governance and the amelioration of monitoring and control of activities in the forestry sector.
- Several logging companies are certified in Cameroon indicating they are undertaking good logging practices and adhering to the principles of sustainable forest management (e.g. it is estimated that more than 1 million ha of forests are under Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification alone in Cameroon).
- Export of logs has reduced significantly in favour of processed timber. This has resulted in the establishment of many more timber processing companies in the country resulting in increased employment and income. 21 902 jobs have been generated in the sector of industrial timber work for a turnover of 368.3 billion CFA francs per year, while in the chainsaw milling sector there have been 45,000 jobs for annual turnover of 65.2 billion CFA francs per year (CIFOR, 2013).

- The design of more secure documents and increase control and verification of their authenticity has greatly reduce the number of falsified documents in the system. However, there are still observed cases of falsified documents and inconsistencies in specifications of products being transported. The increase number of control posts meant to dissuade defaulters leads to delays during transportation which sometimes encourages corruption, in a quest to safe time.
- The current functioning of the Douala International Terminals (DIT) at the Douala port causes bottle-necks which is a great hindrance to companies especially logging companies. Forestry staff at Douala Port 2 are not involved in the verification of containers scanned by DIT. It was also noted that Cameroon timber yards operating company (SEPBC-French acronym) did not allow forestry staff to also monitor and control the final loading of goods onto ships.

The study also found that there is a need:

- for continuous recruitment of personnel to replace ageing and retired staff;
- to strengthen capacities of existing personnel in forest management, law enforcement and monitoring and evaluation;
- to maintain an independent observatory in monitoring and control of forest activities;
- to strengthen coordination with other enforcement agencies, especially the customs in the Douala sea port;
- for information and intelligence collection, analysis and communication especially on illegal activities;
- for increased good governance in the forestry sector and further reduction of corruption.

Recommendations

The key recommendations formulated for corresponding stakeholders to implement are:

For Decision Makers:

- Increase the penalties of some of the offences to deter offenders;
- Restrict the option of negotiation to minor offences only. Offences such as falsification of documentation and/or outright fraud should not be opened for negotiations on penalties;
- Sworn officers of the administrations in charge of forests and wildlife should be granted benefits and judicial privileges prescribed under Article 634 (2 & 3) of the Criminal Procedure Code.

For the Administration in charge of Forest (MINFOF)

- MINFOF should assume full responsibility for carrying out of forest inventory as enshrined in the forestry law of 1994. The results of all inventories should be uploaded into the SIGIF as well as made available to the respective permit holders;
- MINFOF has to embark on a nationwide sensitisation campaign to ensure the appropriation of various forest management and conservation tools that have been developed to improve monitoring and the management of forest resources, notably NIFM. Strengthen institutional and structural capacities, especially of National Brigade for Control and Anti-Poaching (NCB) and Regional Control Brigades (RCB) (office, documentation, archiving system, logistical and financial resources, staff training, etc.);
- Revamp the Independent Observer (IO) and formalize MINFOF-Civil Society Organizations (CSO) partnership in independent observation of forest management and monitoring and control of forest activities;
- Render the Forest offence and litigation management System (SIGICOF-French acronym)

functional to improve the monitoring of litigations and partnership between MINFOF and other administrations involved in litigation management (Customs (MINFI), competent courts and forces of law and order (gendarmerie, police);

- Improve the collection of statistical data and archiving of documents, particularly at checkpoints and Forestry and Wildlife Post of Douala Port I and II;
- There is a need for technical capacity building for communities with community forests. In order to ensure the respect of exploitation norms in community forest, it is necessary to train technicians within the management committee responsible for forest operations in identification and tree marking for felling;
- The administration also has to sensitise the communities on the risk of changing the status of community forest, particularly problems of ownership which could arise and the sustainability of the forest which could no longer satisfy population needs;
- Improve the organization of the Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) sector to facilitate sustainable management, monitoring and control and especially the payment of taxes;
- Strengthen the control and monitoring of permits for small enterprises which are prone to corruption. Formalize the national timber market to render it easy to monitor and control;
- Reduce the number of check points along the various transportation roads to key locations only to save time and deter corruption;
- Advocate for forestry staff to be included in the inspection team of final loading for shipment at the SEPBC and scanning operation at the DIT terminals. The data captured should be analyzed and verified on a regular basis by enforcement agencies and reports released regularly on the trade for transparency purposes.

For MINFI (PSRF)

- Improve the collaboration with MINFOF by harmonizing tax recovery procedures and other forest fees and facilitate enabling traceability for logs and processed timber. Promote increase collaboration at checkpoints, control of processing companies and especially at the Douala Port 1 and SEPBC loading terminal.

For Gendarmerie and Police:

- The Forces of law and Order (Gendarmerie and police), should provide support to MINFOF in line with laws and regulations of Cameroon and in their capacity as judicial police (special and general);
- The roles and responsibilities of the forestry officers should be clearly explained to forces of law and order to enhance collaboration and deter conflict.

For Customs:

- Facilitate access of MINFOF control teams into SEPBC Park during loading of timber to ensure that appropriate species are loaded and in the scanning of containers at the DIT to control and verify timber products. Information and data to be shared with MINFOF directly.

For Justice Department:

- Improve collaboration and the involvement MINFOF in all court decisions relating to forest/wildlife crime as stipulated by the law;
- Ensure the judiciary is trained in the laws and penalties and understanding their role in helping to conserve and protect the natural resources of Cameroon.

For development Partners:

- Continue support to MINFOF in the development and execution of projects for capacity building in monitoring and control such as SIGIF 2, traceability, CD2-MINFOF-PSFE and fight against corruption;
- Support actions in favour of transparency and strengthen MINFOF's capacity in the management of forest litigations;
- Support the civil society in activities of independent observation of monitoring and forest control;
- Facilitate the institutionalisation of an independent observer in monitoring and control of forest management activities;
- Assist MINFOF and other government agencies in regular reviewing of legislations, and regulations, systems and providing recommendations for improvement, and assess capacity building needs to ensure the agencies continues to be innovative and efficient and effective.

For Logging companies (economic operators)

- Provide data systematically on export volumes to harmonize export data;
- Provide information and data systematically on the origin of exported timber for reliable traceability.

Finally, the authors have prepared the first final code of conduct for forest staff involve in forest monitoring and control for Cameroon for deliberation by stakeholders and encourage their adoption by stakeholders.

RESUME

Le secteur forestier au Cameroun a connu des réformes considérables depuis l'indépendance de 1960 à la date actuelle. Le clou de ces réformes était après le sommet de la Terre de Rio de 1992, qui a vu la création du Ministère de l'Environnement et des Forêts (MINEF), qui était chargé de superviser la gestion des ressources naturelles de la nation ainsi que protéger l'environnement. Depuis lors, il y a eu des réformes juridiques, législatives et institutionnelles profondes du secteur forestier au Cameroun. Une nouvelle politique forestière a été adoptée; la loi forestière de 1981 a été révisée et remplacée par une nouvelle en 1994.

Afin de préserver la riche biodiversité, un plan de zonage a été élaboré après un inventaire couvrant un total de 14 millions d'hectares de forêts en contrebas de la latitude quatre degrés nord. Ce plan de zonage a divisé le domaine forestier national en deux grandes catégories: les domaines forestiers permanents et non permanents.

Dans le domaine forestier non permanent, la politique est d'encourager les approches de conservation et de gestion des forêts qui prennent en considération les besoins des communautés locales, tandis que dans le domaine forestier permanent, l'accent est d'avoir un couvert forestier d'au moins 30% du territoire national, représentatif de la biodiversité nationale et avec des plans pour soutenir leur gestion.

Le domaine forestier permanent est subdivisé en zones de production et de protection des forêts. Les Unités d'Aménagement Forestières (UFA) sont attribuées dans la forêt de production aux concessionnaires pour l'exploitation et la gestion. Les communes et les communautés peuvent également demander et gérer leurs propres forêts appelées forêts communales et forêts communautaires, respectivement.

La gestion durable vise à accroître la contribution de secteur forestier au PIB et à renforcer l'économie nationale, réduire la pauvreté et améliorer la vie des populations locales. Avec une production annuelle d'environ 2,3 millions de m³, le secteur forestier contribue à 456 900 000 000 F CFA (780.4 million de dollars américains) ou 30% de l'économie nationale et représente 4% du PIB.

En tandem avec l'exploitation forestière, un programme de restauration de la forêt a été développé pour le renouvellement et l'enrichissement de la ressource. Le programme de restauration de la forêt prenait de l'ampleur dans le cadre de l'Office Nationale pour la Régénération Forestière (ONAREF) créée en 1982, qui a ensuite été remplacée par l'Office Nationale de Développement des Forêts (ONADEF) en 1990 et actuellement par l'Agence Nationale de Développement Forestier (ANAFOR) créé en 2002 sous le contrôle du Ministère des Forêts et de la Faune (MINFOF).

La gestion des forêts a considérablement évolué au fil des ans. Avant l'adoption de la loi forestière de 1994, (législations en vigueur), l'exploitation forestière a été faite par le biais des licences et des ventes de coupe. Le contrôle de l'exploitation était celui des circonférences, des espèces, des volumes autorisés et de la zone d'exploitation. Les plans d'aménagement ne sont pas une condition préalable à l'exploitation forestière / gestion. Ces règlements ont été inscrits dans la loi forestière de 1981.

La législation actuelle et les instruments réglementaires ont pris des dispositions pour la participation des communautés locales et des structures décentralisées (communes) dans la gestion des ressources forestières par l'acquisition de forêts communautaires et forêts communales respectivement.

Les parties prenantes impliquées dans la gestion des forêts au Cameroun comprennent:

- L'Etat du Cameroun qui est le garant, à travers le MINFOF, du patrimoine forestier et d'autres départements ministériels, le Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural (MINADER), le Ministère des Finances (MINFI), etc;

- Les peuples autochtones et communautés locales;
- Les structures décentralisées (communes);
- Les organisations de la société civile (des observateurs indépendants, ONGs internationales et nationales)
- Les organisations internationales;
- Les organisations régionales;
- Le secteur privé impliqué dans le secteur forestier.

Les réformes contenues dans la loi forestière en cours ont été mises en place pour remédier entre autres à l'exclusion des communautés et de la société civile dans la loi forestière de 1981. L'inclusion des communautés locales permettrait à l'Etat non seulement à mieux conserver sa forêt et ses ressources mais aussi de répondre aux besoins de subsistance des communautés locales, augmenter les revenus et assurer leur répartition juste et équitable, notamment pour les communautés locales. Plusieurs instruments réglementaires, des guides et des notes d'orientation ont été développés pour assurer une bonne gestion, le suivi et le contrôle des forêts au Cameroun.

En 1998, les normes et guides pratiques pour l'intervention en milieu forestier ont été élaborés et approuvés par la décision n° 108 / D / CAB du MINEF du 9 Février 1998. L'objectif principal est de promouvoir la protection de l'environnement lors de l'exécution des activités de gestion forestière. Les normes sont des éléments obligatoires qui doivent être considérés lors de l'élaboration de plans d'aménagement détaillés et simples.

Afin de promouvoir la transparence et la bonne gouvernance, toutes les sociétés d'exploitation forestière devraient élaborer des plans d'aménagement durables pour leurs concessions et de nouvelles procédures, pour l'attribution des permis d'exploitation forestière avec des critères plus solides ainsi que l'implication d'un observateur indépendant, ont été adoptées. Le Cameroun a également signé l'Accord de Partenariat Volontaire / Application des réglementations forestières gouvernance et échanges commerciaux (APV / FLEGT) avec l'Union Européenne pour stimuler la légalité, la bonne gouvernance et renforcer le commerce dans le secteur forestier.

Il y a aussi des modalités pour l'élaboration, l'approbation, le suivi et le contrôle de la mise en œuvre de plans d'aménagement élaborés pour les forêts de production édicté par le décret N° 0222 / A / MINEF du 25 mai 2001. Une stratégie nationale de contrôle a également été élaborée pour soutenir la mise en œuvre efficace de la loi forestière.

Les réformes forestières, l'exécution et le suivi de la loi sont en cours depuis des décennies au Cameroun. Cette étude vise à évaluer l'efficacité du suivi de l'application de la loi forestière au Cameroun de manière à identifier les lacunes et de proposer des recommandations pour les adresser et de renforcer le suivi en général.

En dépit des progrès et l'amélioration de l'application de la loi forestière et le contrôle des ressources forestières, il y a encore des défis et les incidences de l'illégalité dans toute la chaîne d'approvisionnement du commerce du bois.

Les principales conclusions de l'étude sont présentées ci-dessous :

- Les réformes passées et en cours dans le secteur forestier, en dépit de leurs faiblesses ont permis tout de même d'améliorer la gouvernance et le suivi et le contrôle des activités dans le secteur forestier.
- Plusieurs compagnies forestières sont certifiées au Cameroun indiquant qu'ils entreprennent de bonnes pratiques d'exploitation forestière et respectent les principes de la gestion durable des forêts (ex. On estime que plus de 1 million d'hectares de forêts sont sous le Forest

Stewardship Council (FSC) seulement au Cameroun).

- L'exportation de grumes a été réduite de manière significative en faveur du bois transformé. Cela a abouti à la création de nombreuses entreprises de transformation du bois dans le pays entraînant une augmentation de l'emploi et des revenus. 21 902 emplois ont été créés dans le secteur du bois industriel pour un chiffre d'affaire de 368,3 milliards de francs CFA par an, tandis que dans le secteur du sciage artisanal, il y a eu 45.000 emplois pour le chiffre d'affaire annuel de 65,2 millions de francs CFA par an (CIFOR, 2013).
- La conception de documents plus sûrs et l'accroissement du contrôle et de la vérification de leur authenticité a grandement réduit le nombre de documents falsifiés dans le système. Cependant, on observe des cas de documents falsifiés et des incohérences dans les spécifications des produits transportés. Le nombre d'augmentation des postes de contrôle destinés à dissuader les mauvais payeurs entraîne des retards pendant le transport qui encourage parfois la corruption, dans une quête de réduction du temps d'arrêt.
- Le fonctionnement actuel de la Douala International Terminal (DIT) au port de Douala provoque des goulots d'étranglement qui est un grand obstacle pour des entreprises en particulier les sociétés forestières. Le personnel forestier à Douala Port 2 n'est pas impliqué dans la vérification des conteneurs scannés par la DIT. Il a également été noté que la Société d'Exploitation des Parcs à Bois du Cameroun (SEPBC) ne permet pas au personnel forestier de surveiller et contrôler également le chargement final des marchandises sur les navires.

L'étude a également constaté qu'il y a un besoin:

- de recrutements continus du personnel pour remplacer le personnel vieillissant et en retraite;
- de renforcer les capacités du personnel en aménagement forestier, application de la loi et au suivi et évaluation des opérations forestières ;
- pour maintenir un observatoire indépendant de suivi et de contrôle des activités forestières;
- de renforcer la coordination avec d'autres organismes à l'application de la loi forestière, en particulier les douanes au port de Douala;
- de collecte de l'information, l'analyse et la communication en particulier sur les activités illégales;
- d'une meilleure gouvernance et d'une réduction future de la corruption.

Recommandations

Les principales recommandations formulées et les parties prenantes correspondantes pour les mettre en œuvre sont:

Pour les décideurs:

- Augmenter les peines de certaines infractions pour dissuader les délinquants.
- Restreindre l'option de la transaction aux délits mineurs seulement. Les infractions telles que la falsification de documents et/ou la fraude ne devraient pas purement et simplement être ouvertes à des négociations.
- Les agents assermentés des administrations en charge des forêts et de la faune devraient se voir accorder des avantages et privilèges judiciaires en vertu des prescriptions de l'article 634 (2 & 3) du Code de procédure pénale.

Pour l'Administration en charge des Forêts (MINFOF)

- Le MINFOF doit assumer la pleine responsabilité pour la réalisation de l'inventaire forestier tel qu'il est consacré dans la loi forestière de 1994. Les résultats de tous les stocks devraient

être téléchargées dans le Système Informatique de Gestion des Informations Forestières (SIGIF) ainsi que mis à la disposition des titulaires de permis respectifs;

- Le MINFOF doit lancer une campagne nationale de sensibilisation pour assurer l'appropriation des différents outils de gestion de la forêt et de conservation qui ont été développés pour améliorer le suivi et la gestion des ressources forestières, notamment les NIMF. Renforcer les capacités institutionnelles et structurelles, en particulier de la Brigade Nationale de Contrôle (BNC) et Brigades Régionales de Contrôle (BRC) (bureau, documentation, système d'archivage, de ressources logistiques et financières, la formation du personnel, etc.);
- Réorganisez l'OI et officialiser le partenariat MINFOF-Organisations de la Société Civile (OSC) dans l'observation indépendante des forêts et le suivi et le contrôle des activités forestières;
- Rendre le Système Informatique de Gestion des Infractions et du Contentieux Forestier (SIGICOF) fonctionnel pour améliorer le suivi des litiges et le partenariat entre le MINFOF et les autres administrations impliquées dans la gestion des litiges (douanes (MINFI), les tribunaux et les forces de l'ordre (gendarmerie, police));
- Améliorer la collecte de données statistiques et l'archivage des documents, en particulier aux postes de contrôle et des Forêts et de la Faune de Douala Port I et II.
- Il est nécessaire de renforcer les capacités techniques des communautés ayant des forêts communautaires. Afin d'assurer le respect des normes d'exploitation dans la forêt communautaire, il est nécessaire de former des techniciens au sein de la commission compétente pour les opérations forestières en identification et marquage des arbres pour la gestion de l'abattage.
- Sensibiliser les communautés sur le risque de changer le statut de forêt communautaire, en particulier, les problèmes de propriété qui pourraient survenir et la durabilité de la forêt qui ne pourrait plus satisfaire les besoins de la population.
- Améliorer l'organisation du secteur des Produits Forestiers non Ligneux (PFNL) pour faciliter le suivi et le contrôle et surtout le paiement des impôts;
- Renforcer le contrôle et le suivi des petits permis qui sont enclins à la corruption. Formaliser le marché national du bois pour le rendre facile à suivre et à contrôler;
- Réduire le nombre de points de contrôle le long des diverses routes de transport pour gagner du temps et décourager la corruption;
- Faire le plaidoyer pour le personnel forestier afin qu'il soit inclus dans l'équipe d'inspection de chargement final pour l'expédition à la SEPBC et à l'opération de scannage au terminal de la DIT.

Pour le MINFI (PSRF)

- Améliorer la collaboration avec le MINFOF en harmonisant les procédures de recouvrement des taxes et autres redevances forestières et faciliter la traçabilité des grumes et bois transformés. Promouvoir l'accroissement de la collaboration aux points de contrôle, le contrôle des entreprises de transformation et surtout au niveau du terminal de chargement au Port I de Douala et SEPBC.

Pour la Gendarmerie et la Police:

- Les Forces de l'ordre (gendarmerie et police), devraient fournir un soutien au MINFOF en droite ligne avec les lois et règlements du Cameroun et en leur qualité de police judiciaire (à compétence générale et spéciale).
- Les rôles et les responsabilités des agents forestiers doivent être clairement expliqués aux forces de l'ordre pour améliorer la collaboration et prévenir les conflits.

Pour les douanes:

- Faciliter l'accès des équipes de contrôle du MINFOF dans le parc SEPBC pendant le chargement de bois à pour s'assurer que les espèces appropriées sont chargés et au scannage des conteneurs à la DIT pour contrôler et vérifier les produits bois.

Pour le Ministère de la Justice:

- Améliorer la collaboration et la participation du MINFOF à toutes les décisions judiciaires relatives à la criminalité forestière / faunique comme stipulé par la loi.

Pour les Partenaires de développement:

- Continuer à soutenir le MINFOF dans le développement et l'exécution de projets de renforcement des capacités en matière de suivi et de contrôle comme SIGIF 2, traçabilité, CD2-MINFOF-PSFE et la lutte contre la corruption;
- Appuyer les actions en faveur de la transparence et de renforcer la capacité du MINFOF dans la gestion des contentieux forestiers;
- Soutenir la société civile aux activités de l'observation indépendante au suivi et contrôle de la forêt;
- Faciliter l'institutionnalisation d'un observateur indépendant dans le suivi et le contrôle des activités de gestion forestières.

Pour les entreprises d'exploitation forestière (opérateurs économiques)

- Fournir systématiquement des données sur les volumes d'exportation pour harmoniser les données d'exportation;
- Fournir des informations et des données systématiquement sur l'origine du bois exporté pour une traçabilité fiable.

Enfin, cette étude a permis de développer le premier code de conduite pour les agences responsables du suivi et contrôle du bois au Cameroun.

INTRODUCTION

The republic of Cameroon is located in western central Africa and bounded on the north by Lake Chad; on the east by Chad and the Central African Republic; on the south by Congo, Gabon, and Equatorial Guinea; and on the west by the Bright of Biafra (a part of the Atlantic Ocean) and Nigeria. It covers a surface area of 475 442 square kilometers (Jonkers *et al*, 2003) lying between latitudes 2° and 13° N (about 1 200 km) and longitudes 8° 30' and 16° 10' E and for the most part between 200 and 800 m above sea level.

Cameroon has a tropical climate, humid in the south but dryer in the northeast, with rainfall ranges from about 4 000 mm on the coast to about 400 mm in the northeast. The average temperature in the south is 25° C, in the north about 32° C, and in the mountain about 21° C, depending on the altitude.

Cameroon is well forested with more than 40 percent forest cover and, additionally more than 30 percent of other timbered land. The forests are mainly closed tropical broad-leaved rainforests with three predominant types: lowland evergreen; lowland semi-deciduous; and montane (Jonkers *et al*, 2003).

Estimated at 20.0 million people in 2011 by the World Bank (2013) with a density of 42 persons per km², the population of Cameroon is projected to increase to 23 million in 2015 and 26.5 million in 2020 with women accounting for 50.5 percent (MINEPATa, 2009). Population density varies considerably per region from less than five persons per km² in some savanna and moist forest regions to 90-100 persons per km² in parts of the west (Jonkers *et al*, 2003).

The contribution of the forest-wildlife subsector to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has consistently been 2.7% for the period between 2008 and 2010. Cameroon is classified as a low income country and has a tradition of political stability. Because of its timber and oil revenue and favorable agricultural conditions, Cameroon has one of the best-endowed primary commodity economies in the sub-Saharan Africa. Cameroon's per-capita GDP (Purchasing power parity) was estimated at US\$2,300 in 2008. Major export markets include France, Italy, South Korea, Spain, and the United Kingdom. Cameroon is aiming to become an emerging country by 2035 (MINEPATb, 2009).

The forest sector has undergone considerable reforms since independence in 1960. In 1982, an inventory covering a total of 14 million hectares below latitude four degrees north was completed with Canadian Cooperation assistance. This permitted the elaboration and adoption of a zoning plan which was promulgated into law in 1995 by Decree N° 95/678/PM of 18 December 1995 – establishing an indicative framework for land use in southern forest area of the country. This plan divided the national forest patrimony into two broad categories: the permanent and non-permanent forest estates, imposing a system of sustainable forest management. Following the classification of forests, production forests were divided into Forest Management Units (FMU) to be leased out to concessioners for sustainable management in conformity with the approved management plans.

Several Decrees and regulatory instruments, frameworks, strategies and guidance have been drawn up and/or developed to ensure monitoring and control of forest activities in addition to the 1994 law.

The current legislations make provisions for the participation of local communities and decentralised councils in the management of forests resources through the acquisition of community forests and council forests respectively. The stakeholders involve in the management of forests include:

- The state of Cameroon who is the guarantor, through MINFOF, of the forest patrimony and other ministerial department, MINADER, MINFI, etc ;
- Local populations;

- Decentralised government organs (councils);
- Civil society organisations(Independent Observers, International and National NGO);
- International organisation, Conventions, Agreements;
- Regional Organisations;
- The Business community in the sector.

These stakeholders contribute in one way or the other in the elaboration, adoption and implementation of regulations in the forestry sector.

Sustainable forest management is not only an issue of concern in Cameroon but for the entire Central Africa region. As a result of these common concerns, the Heads of States of Central Africa issued the Yaounde Declaration in 1999 in which they expressed the desire for the collaborative management of the forests and ecosystems of the central Africa region. This resulted in the establishment of the Central Africa Forest Commission commonly known by its French acronym COMIFAC. COMIFAC is an intergovernmental organization focusing on the sustainable management and conservation of forests in Central Africa. It develops a convergence plan which defines a common regional intervention strategy for its 10 member countries and their international development partners.

In spite of the advances in sustainable management of forests, facilitated by the 1994 law and its instruments of application and the increase in forest law enforcement, there are still incidences of illegality throughout the timber trade supply chain. The continuous and even increasing illegality is due to many factors including poor monitoring of forest law enforcement.

This study on the evaluation of the monitoring of forest law enforcement in Cameroon whose poor enforcement is considered as one of the reasons for the illegality in the forest sector, was undertaken with funds provided by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) under the framework of the Project, 'strengthening the national process for controlling illegal logging and associated trade in Cameroon' that was jointly implemented by TRAFFIC and MINFOF.

This report is structured as follows; it starts with the objective of the study and then outline the methods used to undertake the study; the forest of Cameroon is presented with focus on its importance; efforts made by Cameroon to manage its forest sustainably are captured before focusing on the objective of the report which is the monitoring of law enforcement; information on forest monitoring and control starts with its genesis followed by a review of the legal instruments and legislative instruments and agencies involved in law enforcement; a comparative analysis is made of the agencies and how they collaborate; the report ends by presenting the key findings and formulating recommendations for implementation by the various stakeholders.

Objectives

The overall objective of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of forest monitoring and law enforcement along the timber supply chain and its conformity with the national and international laws and regulations.

The specific objectives of the study are to:

- Review legislative instruments in place and their appropriateness to ensure effective monitoring, control and forest law enforcement.
- Determine the level of collaboration between the various law enforcement agencies and its impact on forest law enforcement, control and monitoring.
- Identify gaps in current forest monitoring, control and law enforcement and formulate recommendations to fill them.
- Develop a code of conduct and ethics for MINFOF personnel involved in monitoring and forest law enforcement.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology used for this study was as follows: literature review, and interviews and discussions with resource persons.

The literature review consisted of reviewing and analysing different reports deemed useful, including the preliminary report done by a first consultant whose contract was cancelled because of the poor quality of his report.

The interviews and discussions began with the TRAFFIC team with the aim of sharing a common understanding of the terms of reference and expected output. However, most of the interviews and discussing meetings were held with resource persons and officials in the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife at the central level in Yaounde as well as those in the decentralized services. A total of 23 resource persons (Annex 1) were interviewed and/or contributed information for this study. They ranged from the Secretariat General in the MINFOF, inspectors of MINFOF, Regional and Divisional Delegates of MINFOF, forest controllers both at the national level and checkpoints on the road and sea port in Douala as well as member of the management teams of partner projects (IO-AGRECO, Traceability and parastatals such as, ANAFOR and research, IRAD. Information was also gathered through telephone conversations with resource persons involved in monitoring and forest control and internet.

Constraint

The main constraint was the time allocated for the completion of this study that was largely underestimated. The three weeks over which the study was done was very inadequate. Although this was a repeat consultancy, we discovered the draft report from the first consultant was of no help hence most of the work had to be done from scratch.

OVERVIEW OF THE FORESTRY SECTOR IN CAMEROON

The Republic of Cameroon stretches between latitudes 2° and 13° north from the Gulf of Guinea to Lake Chad and has a total surface area of 475 000 km², with 40% of the total surface area covered by an estimated 22.5 million hectares of forests (MINFOF, 2013) and constitute principally humid dense evergreen forest, humid dense deciduous forest, gallery forest, swamp forest and mangroves.

The coastal plain is about 600 km long and 100–200 km wide, its inland limit marked by slopes and steep scarps. The southern plateau, the site of Cameroon's major closed-forest area, is 500–800 m in altitude and the central Adamaoua high plateau is generally 1000 m or more above sea level (ITTO, 2011).

The country is characterized by a great diversity and the contrast in the regions with respect to geomorphology, climate, vegetation cover and human makes Cameroon to be considered as Africa in miniature inhabiting the quasi-totality of Africa's natural and forest ecosystems (ECOR sarl, 2013).

Cameroon has four major natural ecosystems sub divided into twelve ecological regions with common characteristics notably climate, topography, vegetation, prevailing manner of managing resources with respect to their way of life and demographic pressure. These four major natural ecosystems, from north to south, are:

- Soudano- sahelian ecosystems;
- Savannah ecosystems;
- Tropical forest ecosystems;
- Coastal and marine ecosystems.

The Soudano- sahelian zone which comprises the grand ecological regions of Mount Mandara, the Extreme North Plains and the plains of Benoue is permanently confronted with desertification.

The savannah zone, which comprises altitude savannah of the Adamoua (66 000 km²), low savannah of the Centre, East (58 660 km²), High plateau of the West and North West and the Tikari plane approximately 23 000 km², covers regions of high population density, as the high plateau of the West and North West Regions and the less populated regions of Adamoua and East.

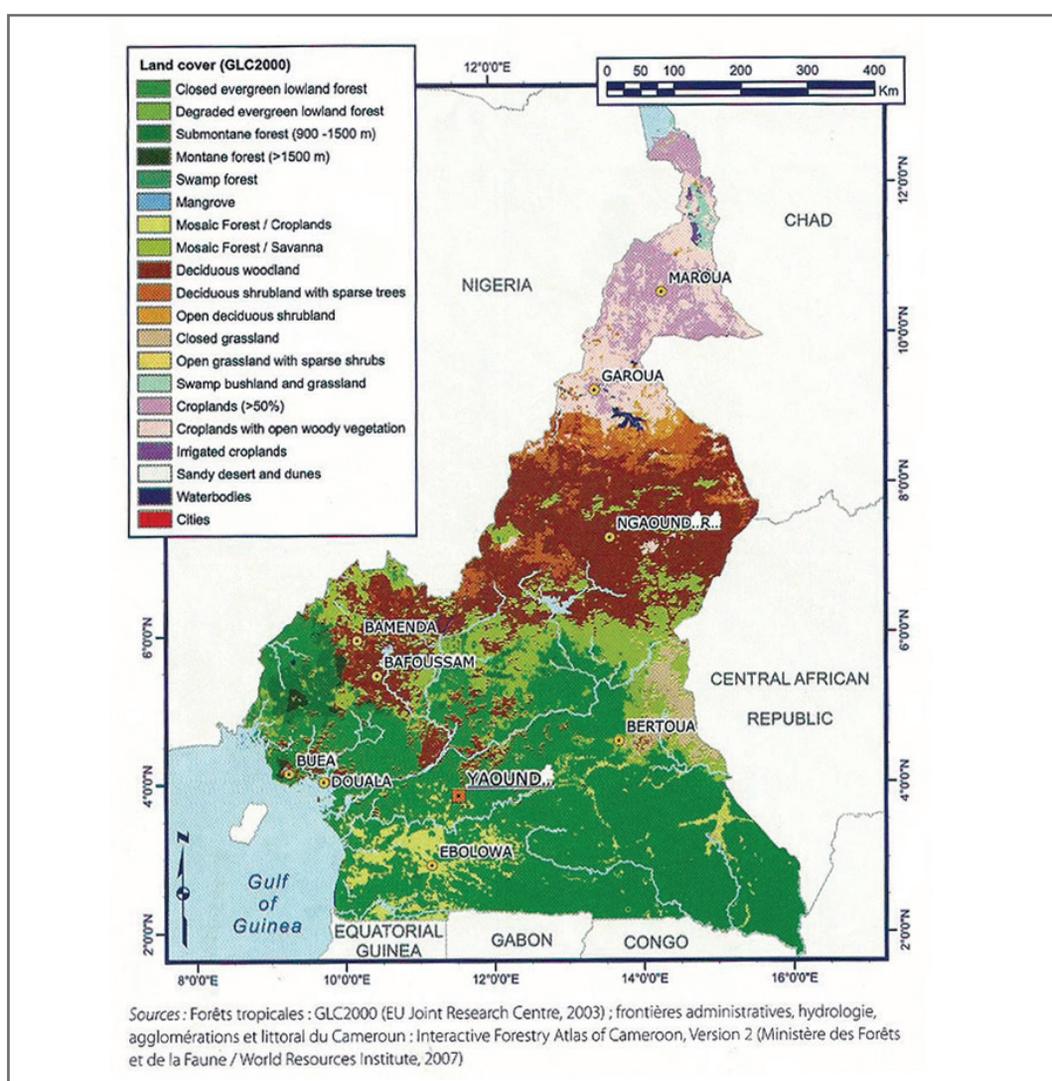
The tropical forest zone comprises the ecological regions of the degraded forests of the Centre-Littoral and the dense humid forests of the South West-East.

Cameroon's forests are mainly tropical rainforests of two predominant types: lowland evergreen (54% of total forest area), and lowland semi-deciduous (28%) (ITTO, 2011). They are particularly rich in commercial species, including various species of Meliaceae, such as *Entandrophragma cylindricum* (sapelli) and *E. utile* (sipo). The evergreen forests can be divided into two broad categories: the Biafran forests, forming an arc around the Gulf of Guinea, and the Congo Basin forests in Cameroon's south and southeast. The Biafran forest, which formerly covered the entire coastal lowland, has been largely cleared. Where it still exists, it consists of secondary forests and degraded primary forests, characterized by species such as *Lophira alata* (azobé) and *Sacoglottis gabonensis* (ozouga). Mangroves are found along most of the Cameroonian coast, with a total area of about 120 000 hectares. The two largest areas are in the Rio del Rey estuary and the Bay of Douala. The Congo Basin forests differ from the Biafran forests in the absence of species of Caesalpiniaceae, with the exception of *Gilbertiodendron dewevrei*; another feature is the importance assumed by *Baillonella toxisperma* (moabi). Inland, semi-evergreen lowland forest gives way to a mosaic of degraded rainforest and secondary grassland. The medium-altitude closed semi-deciduous forests are marked by an abundance of Sterculiaceae, such as *Cola spp*, *Eriobroma oblonga* (eyong), *Mansononia altissima* (bété) and *Triplochiton scleroxylon* (ayous). North of this is Sudanian woodland, with predominantly Acacia wooded grassland. The surface areas of the different forests types in Cameroon are indicated in table 1, while figure 1 shows the extent and cover of these areas.

Table 1: Forested area of Cameroon by land cover category

Land cover	Area (ha)
Low land dense forest	16 467 570
Sub-montane forests (900-1 500 m)	270 540
Montane (>1 500 m)	17 685
Mangrove	120 348
Total dense forests	16 876 143
Forests -cropland Mosaic	4 501 395
Forest-savanna Mosaic	5 867 865
Dense deciduous forest (Miombo)	105 984
Other plant formations	14 066 352
Cultivated Land	4 873 077
Other Land Uses (Miombo)	341 766
Total	46 632 582

Source: de Wasseige et al, 2008



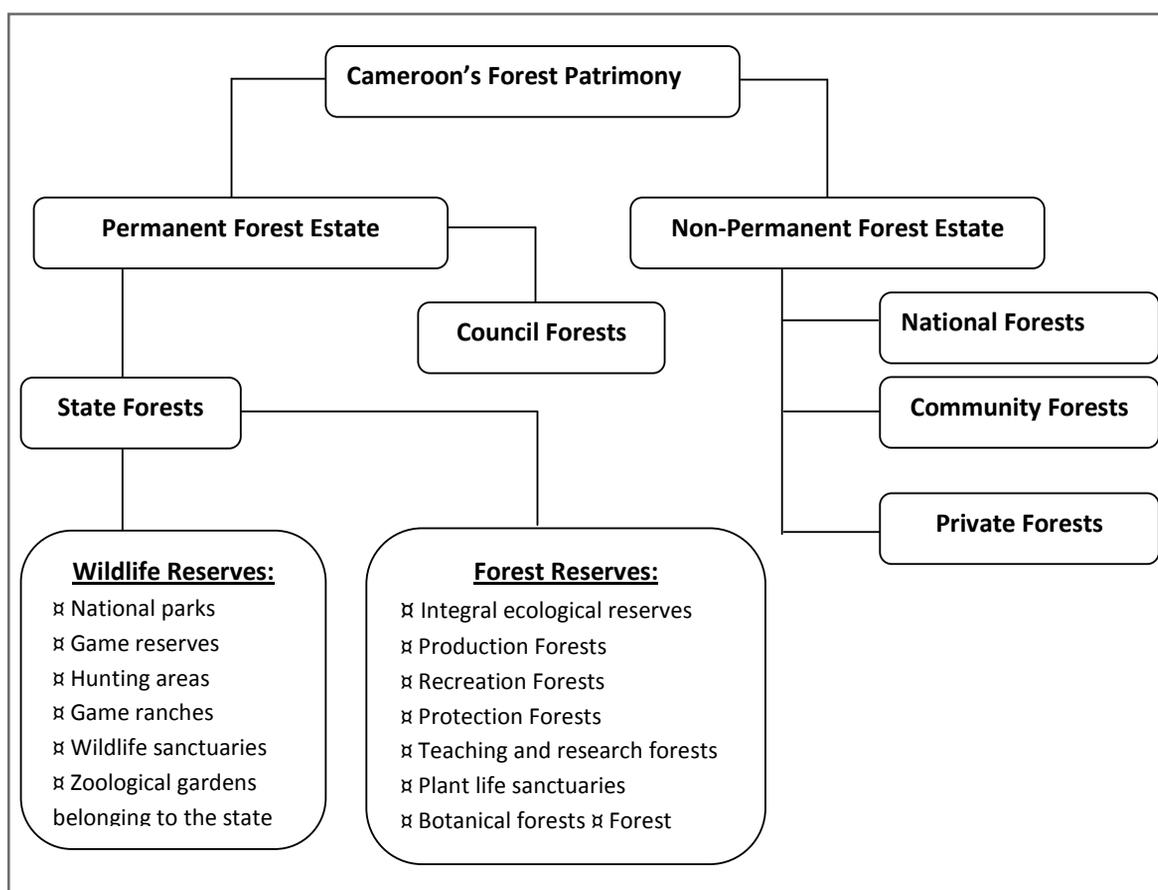
Source: EU Joint Research Centre, 2003 and MINFOF & WRI, 2007

Figure 1: Map of vegetation cover of Cameroon

FOREST CLASSIFICATION IN CAMEROON

Cameroon Law N° 94/ 01 of 20 January 1994 to lay down Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries regulations divides the national forest estate into permanent and non-permanent forests. The forest law aims at ensuring that the permanent forest category covers 30% of the national territory.

The permanent forest estate is subdivided into state and council forests. State forests are divided into two broad categories; Wildlife reserves and Forest reserves. The wildlife reserves include; national parks, game reserves, hunting areas, game ranches, wildlife sanctuaries, buffer zones and zoological gardens belonging to the State while the forest reserves include: integral ecological reserves, production forests, protection forests, recreation forests, teaching and research forests, plant life sanctuaries, botanical gardens and forest plantations. A diagrammatic presentation of the categorization of the forest estate in Cameroon is shown in figure 2 while the various areas covered by the permanent forest estate are given in table 2.



Source: adapted from the Law n° 94/01 of 20/01/1994 to lay down forestry and wildlife regulations.

Figure 2: Categorization of Cameroon's Forest Estate

Table 2: Sub divisions of the of Permanent forest estate

Forest Type	Classified		Declared	Total	
	Surface area (ha)	%	Surface area (ha)	Surface area (ha)	%
Protected areas for conservation	3 709 355	7.8	581 412	4 290 767	9.0
Protected areas for wildlife management	3 855 946	8.1	68 608	3 924 555	8.3
State production forests	4 404 542	9.3	3 256 183	7 660 725	16.1
Council forests	286 440	0.6	281 968	568 408	1,2
TOTAL	12 256 283	25.8	4 188 171	16 444 451	34.6

Source: MINFOF, 2013

The non-permanent forests comprise land that can be converted to other purposes than forest. They are not classified and situated on non-permanent forest land. In this category are communal forests, community forests and forests belonging to private individuals (Figure 2).

IMPORTANCE OF FOREST IN CAMEROON

Ecological/Environmental

Due to her diversity in natural habitats as result of the variability in physical and climatic characteristics, Cameroon has rich and abundant biodiversity with several rare, threatened and endemic species such as chimpanzees, gorillas, elephants, etc. These ecosystems are also habitates for diverse plant species numbering more than 9000, 1500 species of insects and butterflies, more than 900 species of birds, more than 400 species of mammal, 250 species of reptiles and 200 species of amphibians. Some of these species are endemic (160 plant species, 16 species of mammals, 20 species of reptiles, 60 species of amphibians (MINFOF, 2013).

Forests also provide intangible environmental benefits such as production of oxygen and play a key role in environmental protection (European Commission, 2012), watershed protection, prevention of runoff and regulate water percolation.

Socio-economic

Many people depend on forests for their livelihoods. Forests are a source of timber for many uses such as construction, furniture, packing and paper, fuel timber, fruits, bush meat, medicine, and non-timber forest products.

According to a study conducted by the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) (Eba'a *et al*, 2013), the contribution of the forest-wildlife subsector to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has consistently been 2.7% from 2008 and 2010. Hunting alone during this period contributed 0.2% to the GDP, higher than the contribution from the mining sector excluding petroleum products which contributed 0.18% to the GDP. In 2010 alone the contributions of the sub-sector including non-deductible Value Added Tax (VAT), taxes on products, import-export represented 16.176 billion F

CFA (27 630 400 United States dollars) for the sub-sector and 16.086 billion F CFA (27 476 700 United States dollars) for the mining sector. Exports of the sub-sector between 2008 and 2009 were heavily hit by international financial crises and stood at an average of 218.5 billion F CFA annually (373.2 million United States dollars). The estimated job opportunities offer by this sector stands at about 22 722 direct jobs of which 21 902 are in the timber industry and 802 attributed to sport hunting. Tables 3 summaries the various economic and development opportunities provided by the forest sector in Cameroon.

Table 3: Contribution of the Sub-sector in national economy

Type	Value
Stabilised production	2 300 000 m ³
Direct taxes	18 billion FCFA
Indirect revenue	350 000 000 FCFA
Direct jobs	27 000
Indirect jobs	150 000
Contribution of the Sub-sector in the GDP	6 %
Number of transformation units.	200 transformation units
Contribution of the Sub-sector to national exports	30 %

Source: MINFOF/Department of Forestry, 2014.

FOREST MANAGEMENT IN CAMEROON

This section is presented in two parts. Part one traces the evolution of the forest policy, legislative and institutional frameworks, while part two deals with the efforts and progress made in forest management.

Evolution of forest policies, legislative and Institutional frameworks

Pre-independence era

Like most nations, the environmental issues in Cameroon have gone through a number of stages (Lowry, 2003 cited by Mbatu, 2006). Up until now, the country has experienced five distinct eras of environmental resources policy changes.

Before the institution of the system of resource managing by the colonial administrations, the paramount traditional rulers of the people (chiefs) had the overall authority in every aspect of life including the use of village natural resources. This meant that management of natural resources was the responsibility of these chiefs. In short, natural resources belonged to and were managed by the people.

The history of forest management in Cameroon is captured in Adeyoju, 1976 cited by Mbatu, 2006. According to him when the first colonial powers, the Germans, arrived in the 1890's, they declared all natural resources state property. Consequently, traditional authority over these resources began to diminish. A new system was instituted as the new administration established the first natural

reserve in the country in 1892, the Limbe Botanical and Zoological Gardens (which still exists today) and began setting up plantations in the coastal areas of the country. Therefore, formal forest administration in Cameroon began in the 1890s when the German colonial administration legally alienated communities from the vast majority of their land (Adeyoku, 1976 cited by Mbatu, 2006). In 1912 the German administration established the Forest Service (FS) and introduced provisions for timber harvesting concession.

Adeyoku, 1976 cited by Mbatu, 2006 also points out that the German forest law in Cameroon consisted of nine main provisions:

Reservation of forest Areas;

1. Classification of forest offences and procedure for the arrest and prosecution of offenders;
2. Issuance and control of timber licenses;
3. Issuance of special licenses for the local use of timber and secondary forest produce;
4. Compounding of forest offenses by duly appointed forest officers;
5. Establishment of the procedures and functions of the forest service;
6. Prescription of circumstances in which bona fide land owners and certain forest operators could take specified forest produce free of charge;
7. Rule governing the payment of fees and royalties for forest produce harvested; and
8. Responsibilities for licenses for the establishment and maintenance of succeeding forest crops.

After the defeat of the Germans in the First and second World War (1918 and 1947) Cameroon was partitioned between the French (80% of the territory) and the British (20% of the territory) who continued to manage the natural resources, though with different interests as shown by the management systems they put in place. The British were more conservative in the management of forest resources in southern Cameroon while the French encouraged the expansion of logging activities in the eastern part of Cameroon (Adeyoku, 1976 cited by Mbatu, 2006). In the early 1930s, the British colonial administration established the Forestry Department and the Native Authority (NA) (Jua, 1999; Chilver, 1963 cited by Mbatu, 2006). In efforts to ease land and forest resource management for the Native Administrators, the Colonial Forestry Department established Forest Reserves in the 1940s and 1950s.

The British established seven forest ordinances to guide forest management in British-Cameroon. Under these ordinances, a reservation program was created to protect forest areas that were already showing signs of over exploitation by timber exploiters and poor farming practices by the natives (Adeyoku, 1976 cited by Mbatu, 2006). Prominent provisions of the ordinances include:

1. The obligation of a timber operator to plant seven saplings for each felled tree;
2. Acquisition of land in which the destruction of forest affected continuous supply of forest produce;
3. The establishment of mobile courts to speed up the reserve program;
4. The establishment of the Native Authority (NA) to control all unoccupied land and forest resources; and
5. The requirement that not less than 25 per cent of the land be set aside as forest reserves.

The French on their part introduced basic forest legislation in 1946, through a general decree (ordinances) on forestry and land use (Mbatu, 2006). Prominent provisions of the French colonial forestry policies in Cameroon include:

1. The reorganization of a 1920 forestry service to cater for log exploiting services;
2. The creation of botanical and vegetation institutions to promote studies on the potential value of forest resources; and
3. Reinforcement of state ownership of all forest lands in the colony.

The 1946 forestry legislation was in use until 1973 when a national forest law was enacted. The 1973 law was prompted by reunification of the English and French speaking Cameroons whose forest legislations had evolved along different lines. By declaring all forests public lands and alienating the local population from getting involved in the management process, the colonial administration created animosity and resistance within forest communities. This resistance led to illegal activities, notably illegal logging and consequently corruption within the Native Administration that acted as a link between the colonial administration and the local population (Mbatu, 2006).

The post independence era

When Cameroon was granted independence in October of 1961, management of forest resources became a shared responsibility of the Native Administration and the State Forestry Service (Acworth *et al.*, 2001). In the years following independence, the management of natural resources was the shared responsibility of a number of government ministries, including the Rural Development Secretariat, the Department of Tourism, and the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry. During these years, forest resources, water resources and agriculture were managed by the Rural Development Secretariat. In 1972 a Ministry of Agriculture was created taking the responsibility of managing forest and water resources, while park management was entrusted to the Department of Tourism.

In 1973, the State passed the Land Ordinances, declaring all lands as national lands and putting them under its control (Acworth *et al.*, 2001). Forest exploitation and the management of land resources operated under the Forest Ordinance n° 73/18 of 22 May 1973 stipulating the judicial regime of forestry, wildlife, and fisheries. Inspired by the colonial administration the State, in 1974 and 1976, passed Land Tenure legislations putting a stop to traditional land tenure systems. In a bid to better conserve and ensure the rational management of forest resources, different legal and regulatory instruments were put in place to replace old and inappropriate ones. It is for this reason that the Forest Ordinance n° 73/18 of 22 May 1973 was replaced by Law N° 81/13 of 27th November 1981 barely 8 years after its adoption.

Current forest Policies and legislative instruments

The year 1992 saw a new beginning in the history of natural resource management in Cameroon. As a signatory to the Rio Earth Summit agreement on global warming and biological diversity conservation, the Cameroon government was required to establish a Ministry of Environment which was to oversee the management of the nation's natural resources as well as protect the environment. The government in 1992 brought together the forest and wildlife sectors in the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Tourism respectively to form the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MINEF). The creation of this Ministry precipitated institutional and legislative changes which had been in process since 1989 (Mbatu, 2006). In 1994 MINEF tabled a new forest code in Parliament. This was adopted and promulgated into Law n° 94/01 of 20/01/1994 to lay down forestry and wildlife regulations. Following the adoption of the new forestry law of 1994, the forestry policy of 1993 was reviewed and a new one was adopted in 1995. Prominent in the new forestry policy is the Land Use Planning frame work (zoning plan), the National Environmental Management Program (NEMP) and the National Energy Plan. Together, these policy components are aimed at enhancing rural economic activities and fostering participatory sustainable management of forest resources in the country (Mengang, 1998).

The current forest policy has five principal objectives:

- Ensure the protection of the forest estate and participate in environmental protection and preservation of biodiversity;
- Increase the participation of rural population in the conservation and management of forests to raise their standard of life;
- Develop forest resources in a manner to increase the contribution of forest production in the GDP while maintaining its productivity;

- Ensure renewal of the resource through regeneration and reforestation in a manner to perpetuate its potential; and
- Re-dynamise the forest sector by putting in place an efficient institutional mechanism that integrates all stakeholders in the management of the sector.

The current forest policy and law are undergoing review to adapt them to current global and national environmental, economic and social exigencies.

Progress and achievements in forest management

As quoted in Karsenty *et al.*, 2008 cited by Alemagi, 2011, the United Nations Forum for Forests defines sustainable forest management as “the stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfill, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national, and global levels and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems”.

The Republic of Cameroon embarked on significant political and economic reforms in forestry from the 1990s. Under pressure from international engagements and the civil society the country engaged in a process of democratisation and reconstruction involving the redistribution of roles. In this regards, the roles and competences of decentralised territorial communities and the rural populations were recognised and affirmed in the different sectors of activities (Yadji, pers. comm. April 2015).

The forestry sector was particularly affected by these reforms. As indicated above, in the past, rural communities were marginalised in the management of forest resources. However, the new legal and regulatory texts changed this and opened opportunities for their involvement especially communities in the forest zones. The economic crises of the 90s resulted in considerable loss of jobs and as a result pressure and heavy dependence on forests and forest land for agriculture and harvesting to sustain livelihoods and loss income. This partly explains the change in policy to officially recognise and include the local communities in forest use and management.

In 1982, with financial assistance from the Canadian Cooperation a national programme of inventory consisting seven phases was established. Four of these phases, covering a total of 14 million hectares below latitude four degrees north were completed. This permitted the elaboration and adoption of a zoning plan which was promulgated in 1995 by Decree N° 95/678/PM of 18 December 1995 – establishing an indicative framework for land use in southern forest area of the country. Another national inventory co-financed by FAO and MINFOF and realised between 2003 and 2005 placed the total surface area of forests at 22.5 million hectares being 45 percent of the total surface area of the nation (MINFOF, 2007).

This zoning plan divided the national forest estate into two broad categories: the permanent and non-permanent forest estates. In the non-permanent forest estate, the policy advocates for a conservatory management approach adapted to the evolution and needs of local populations, while in the permanent forest estate, the strategy is to have a forest area that covers at least 30 % of the land area of the national territory, representing the national biodiversity and composed of forests whose vocations and management modes are defined by management plans.

Forest inventory

Forest management inventory is used for the elaboration of a management plans and consist in evaluating on a qualitative or quantitative basis, the resources of a given forest, with a view of ensuring the rational management of all resources. Forest exploitation inventory which guides the exploitation of timber resources, on the other hand, consist of an exhaustive enumeration of all commercial species in accordance with the norms laid down by government.

“Norms governing forest management and inventory” were established in June 1991 and those for forest exploitation were established in May 1995. For the management of concessions and other production forest in the permanent forest estate, modalities for the elaboration, approval, monitoring and control of the implementation of management plans were approved by Order N° 0222/A/MINEF of 25 May 2001. This order fixes the following inventory rates: greater than or equal to 1 percent for forest concessions less than or equal to 50 000 ha and 0.5 percent for concessions greater than or equal 50 000 ha. The norms for forest exploitation established in 1995 had rates of 100 percent.

Law N° 94/01 of 20th January, 1994 that lay down forestry, wildlife and fisheries regulations provides in section 40 that forest inventory is the prerogative of the state. However, inventory (for management and exploitation) is carried out at the request of the permit holders by a person or corporate body with a permit to conduct inventories. The Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife approves the inventory results after field verification and control. Modalities for approval are contained in Circular Letter No. 6396/LC/MINEF/DF/SDIAF/SI of 24 April, 2012. The approval of the inventory paves the way for the elaboration of the Management Plan in conformity with the guidelines contained in Order No. 0222. The Management plan is examined by an inter-ministerial committee (composition in Order No. 0222) that makes proposal to the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife for approval or rejection.

As indicated in figure 2 and summarized in table 4, the forest reserves are divided into seven categories one of which is production forests. The production forests are subdivided into Forest Management Units (FMU) to be leased out as concessions to concessioners for sustainable exploitation and management in conformity with the approved management plans.

Table 4: Brief overview of Forest-estate in Cameroon

Domain	Total Area (ha)	Percentage
Forests of Cameroon	22 000 000	46 % of surface area of national territory
Permanent Forests	7 300 000	
Non-Permanent Forests	6 000 000	
Exploitable forests	17 500 000	79% of total forest area
		36% of surface area of national territory
Forests under definitive conventions	2 023 612	33% of attributed forests
		37% of forests under management
91 Classified forests	4 305 333	
109 FMU attributed or leased out	6 593 023	
107 FMU under Management	6 541 793	88% of attributed forests

Source: MINFOF, 2014.

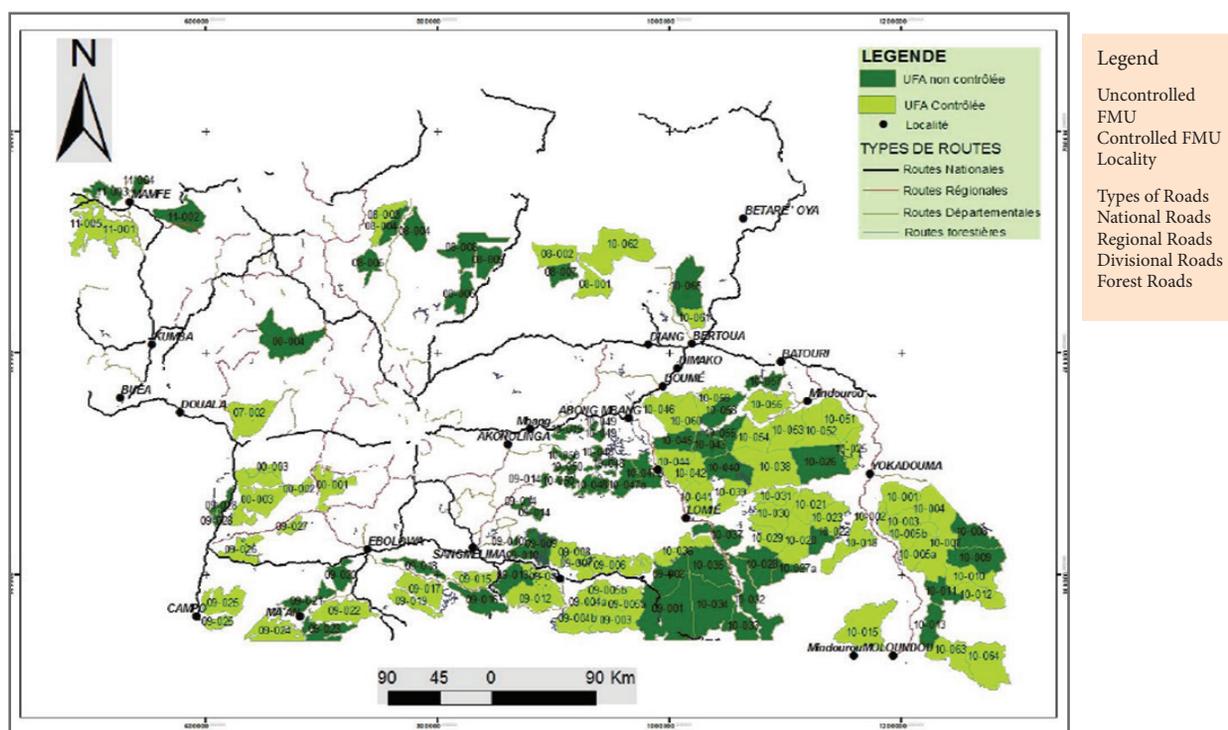
Forest management Units (FMU)

Article 47 of the 1994 forest law defines a FMU as an area attributed for logging and sustainable management of forest. It can be made up of one or several logging units. Table 5 provides a summary of the status of FMU/concessions in Cameroon while figure 3 presents their spatial distribution.

Table 5 : Status of FMU/Concessions in Cameroon in 2014

Domain	Number	Total Area (ha)	observations
FMU	116	7 043 784	
FMU attributed	109	6 593 023	
FMU under management	107	6 541 793	
FMU classified	73		73 have signed decrees and 36 decrees awaited
FMU on-going classification (2014)	7	260 916	
FMU certified (FSC, OLB, TLTV)	41	2 909 684	
FMU in activity (production)	77	88% of attributed forests	

Source: MINFOF, 2014.



Source: IO, 2014.

Figure 3: Map of Concessions/FMU

By legalizing forestry operations and including local communities in forest management, the government of Cameroon has taken a fundamental step toward improving the socio-economic and ecological sustainability of its forestry sector. As Kishor and Rosenbaum, 2003 cited by Alemagi, 2011 pointed out, legalization is vital in mitigating unacceptable forest management practices. Indeed, effective and efficient implementation of forestry legislation is essential in eliminating operational hurdles that affect sound management and productivity (Alemagi, 2011).

Concession-based forestry remains the dominant business model in Cameroon’s forestry sector (Alemagi and Kozak, 2010). In order to further promote the socioeconomic sustainability of this model, the provision of social services (like schools, hospitals, good roads, and electricity) to the communities in which logging concessions are located is part of a contract that is negotiated by concessionaires and communities after the logging contract is awarded to a concessionaire by the state (Karsenty, 2007; Karsenty *et al.*, 2008 cited by Alemagi, 2011). This applies to FMU and Sale of Standing Volume (SSV). In addition, as a means of providing local employment, concessionaires are also obliged to set up timber processing units within each forest concession (Siebock, 2002) and offer jobs to members of the riverine community.

Council Forests

Article 30 paragraph 1 of the 1994 forest law defines Council Forests as any forest having made the subject of a classification act on behalf of a municipality or a forest that has been planted by it. Table 6 below shows the status of council forests in 2014.

Table 6: Status of Council Forests in 2014

Domain	Number	Total Area (ha)
Classified Forests	19	498 150
Classified Forests with approved management plans	12	303 424
Forests with classification files forwarded to the PM office	08	239 724
Classified forests with management plans being elaborated	9	270 899

Source: MINFOF, 2014.

Community Forest

Community forests are part of the non-permanent forest estate and are attributed by the state for the use of and management by riverine communities for their economic development and livelihood. The conditions for the attribution and management of these forests are outlined in article 37 and 38 of the 1994 forestry law. The total number of community forests and surface area covered is summarized in Table 7.

Table 7: Status of Community Forests in Cameroon

Domain	Number	Total Area (ha)
Forests with signed conventions (definite)	267	918 033
Forests with provisional convention	12	303 424
Approved simple management plans	306	933 457
Request for attribution	506	1 743 5694
Forest in activity	114 annual exploitation certificate	16 269
	9 special exploitation certificates	6 380

Source: MINFOF, 2014

Forest Restoration

Forest restoration historically was restricted to afforestation and dates back to the colonial era. After independence, the establishment of forest plantations has been the remit of a number of established agencies. The first was the National Fund for Forestry and Aquaculture (NFFA, 1973-1981) (Tene, 1978; MINAGRI, 1981); this was replaced and split into the National Agency for Forest Regeneration (ONAREF, 1982-1990) (J.P., Ngansop, pers. comm., April 2015), responsible for restoration and the National Centre for Forest Development (CENADEFOR, 1981-1990) (J.P., Ngansop, pers. comm., April 2015) responsible for timber promotion. Both were again merged in 1990 to create the National Forestry Development Agency, (ONADEF, 1990-2002) (J.P., Ngansop, pers. comm., April 2015). All these structures have established a total 37 621 hectares of forest based on statistics of 2003 (MINFOF, 2010).

The policy to restore forests is enshrined in the current forest law of 1994. This policy has been supported by a number of succeeding legal and policy instruments over the years such as; the Framework Law on the Management of the Environment of 1996, the Yaounde Declaration of 1999 on Central African Forests, the Strategy Document on Poverty Reduction of 2002 and the Forest Environment Sector Programme. The global trust of all these instruments is to promote private and collaborative initiatives in reforestation and plantations establishments in order to increase the productivity and conservation of diverse ecosystems as well as ensuring the contribution of the forest sector in ameliorating the livelihoods of populations. Concretely, the National Afforestation Programme elaborated in 2006 for a period of three years had as objectives to:

- increase and support forest production in the dense forest zone and to conserve biodiversity;
- intensify afforestation in the humid savannah zone in order to meet the demands for service timber and fuel timber; Stabilise and improve on the forest cover to combat the ills of desertification and climate change while providing other multiple use forest products;
- ensure a permanent forest cover in forest reserves and plantations and transferring their management to decentralised communities and private individuals;
- develop urban and semi-urban forestry for the embellishment of towns and to promote proximity ecotourism; and
- valorise scientific and technical achievements; and develop new sustainable forest management tools.

To attain these objectives the government is gradually relinquishing some of its roles and responsibilities to the private sector, individuals and decentralised communities (cf. Decision n° 2002/D/MINFOF/

SG/DF/CSRRVS of 21 August 2012), establishing the list and management transfer modalities for certain forest reserves.

Forest concession holders are expected by law to plant trees as part of the forest management plan. Nationally, more than 5 000 hectares are expected to be planted annually by concessionaires. At the end of the 30 years rotation these enriched forests should be able to produce 1.5 million cubic meters of service timber representing close to 70% of the current production by natural forests (MINFOF, 2010).

In the non-permanent forest estate, restoration in community forests is to be done by the stakeholders while that of other forests is supported by the Rural Forestry Support Project (PAFRA) (MINFOF, 2010). PAFRA has permitted the realisation of the following activities:

- Between 1998 and 2005 PAFRA provided support for private plantation initiatives in the Adamaoua, North West and West regions where, through diverse forms of support (silvicultural tools, plants, technical advice), 8 million trees (approximately 20 000 hectares) were planted (MINFOF, 2010).
- Sensitisation of actors in all the Regions resulted in the massive involvement of the populations in afforestation activities. Mention should be made of the huge involvement of councils whose actions resulted in 31% of plantations in 2009.
- Diverse support (funds, silvicultural tools, plants, etc;) were offered to principal actors in afforestation such as the Parliamentary Network on Forest (REPAR), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Associations, and Decentralised Territorial Communities. This support accounted for 50% of more than the 2 million trees recorded as planted in 2009.

In contrast to PAFRA, the National Afforestation Programme covers the whole national territory since it was launched in 2006, under the coordination of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife.

The number of trees planted and corresponding surface areas covered from the 2006 and 2009 under the restoration programme is summarised in Tables 8 and 9.

The main species planted in the dense forest zone are local species such as Ayous (*Triplochiton scleroxylon*), Moabi (*Baillonnela toxisperma*), Bubinga (*Guibourtia tessmannii*), Iroko (*Mellicia excelsa*), Azobe (*Lophira alata*), Sapelli (*Entandrophrgma cylindricum*), Wenge (*Millettia laurentii*), and Frake (*Terminalia superba*). In the humid and dry savannahs exotic species are mainly used due to the non-mastery of the silviculture of indigenous species, common species include Eucalyptus and conifers in the humid savannah and Acacia, and Neem in the dry savannah.

Table 8: Status of reforestation in 2014

Actors	Number	Amount of financial support from MINFOF (in millions F CFA)	Surface area to be reforested (ha)
Councils	88	374,46	1382,5
NGO/CIG/Associations	50	212,76	117,5
Traditional chiefdoms	03	12,780	/
ANAFOR	01	200	500
Total	142	870	2 000

Source: MINFOF, 2014.

Table 9: Statistics of planted stock 2006-2007

Year	N° of Trees Planted	Surface area planted (hectares)	Cost × 1 000 FCFA	
			Budgeted	Spent
2006	3 405 924	8 515	850 000	300 000
2007	746 066	1.065	200 000	50 000
2008	2 332 706	5.832	800 000	200 000
2009	2 225 167	5.563	500 000	70 000

Source: MINFOF, 2010

The total number of seedling produced by the state in support of the restoration programme is provided in Table 10.

Table 10: Production Statistic for ANAFOR (2008-2013)

Year	Production of seedlings (Numbers)	Support for the creation of plantations (councils, communities, private) regeneration in state forests (ha)	Maintenance of old plantations (councils, communities, private, and State forests) (ha)
2008	1 158 775	2 270	0
2009	1 299 982	2 456	0
2010	368 088	509	14 729
2011	1 471 302	1 367	856
2012	1 175 570	1 700	41
2013	1 103 668	1 586	1 135
Total	6 577 385	9 888	16 761

Source: ANAFOR, 2014

Forest monitoring and control in Cameroon

Genesis and evolution

Monitoring and control are based on the principle that better law enforcement leads to a reduction of illegal forest exploitation and thus allows better revenue mobilization through more sustainable exploitation and use. It can also help recovery of potential revenue lost through legal proceedings (Global Witness, 2002). Forest monitoring is critical because of its importance for the socio-economic development and environment protection (Nguiffo *et al.*, 2012). Some of the importance of forest include:

- The daily sustenance of millions of people depends directly on forests , as well as economic activities of a number of companies of various sizes ;
- Damage in the area can be irreversible, compensation for the damage in this area is only symbolic or non-existent as a felled tree is not automatically replanted ;

- The forest has a local, national and global value , linked to its ecological , economic and social functions that must be preserved at all times;
- forest management is of interest to present and future generations, benefactors of our choice for good management, or victims of our errors today;
- Forests regroup various actors of different modes of action and variables influence.

It is therefore the responsibility of the forest administration to ensure that a balance is struck between these different actors, functions and powers. The evolution of monitoring and control are directly linked to evolution in legal and legislative contexts which are themselves influenced by changes in economic, social and international environment.

The first two forest codes adopted (Ordinance No. 73-78 of 22 May 1973 and law No. 1981-13 of November 27, 1981) in Cameroon had no focus on monitoring and control. Indeed, in order to preserve the forest heritage while enabling necessary harvesting, the forestry administration was content to take a series of measures, the most important being the fixing of minimum exploitable diameters at higher levels for all commercial species to protect plus trees and the reconstitution of the forest cover after logging.

The worse economic crises that ever faced Cameroon started in the 1980s. The most significant consequent was increased poverty and degradation of public morals (corruption) plunging the country into bad governance (Global Witness, 2002). To rebuild her economy, Cameroon was forced to adopt the structural adjustment programs of the World Bank which affected all sectors of public life particularly the forestry sector whose potentials to contribute to the fight against poverty and the promotion of development are well known.

The forestry sector experienced vast reforms as part of the remedies to tackle the economic crises. Support was provided by international partners to improve the management of forest resources. The most important reforms were the elaboration and adoption of the forest policy in 1993, a new forest law (Law n° 94/01 of 20/01/1994 to lay down forestry and wildlife and fisheries regulations) and adaptation of the institutional and regulatory framework. Other relevant mechanisms for improved forest management and control that have been used in Cameroon included:

Computerized system for the management of forest information which enabled partial monitoring of forestry activities;

Development of procedures for the preparation, approval and monitoring of management plans;

Guidelines for the award of permits was adopted in 1999 and revised in 2000;

Development and adoption of National Strategy for forest and wildlife control;

The introduction of independent observation in the process of granting concessions and sales of standing volumes;

The development and institutionalization of norms of intervention in forest milieu by Decision n° 108/D/MINEF/CAB of 9 February 1998.

Elaboration and legalization of modalities for the elaboration, approval, monitoring and control of the implementation of management plans of production forests (order N° 0222/A/MINEF of 25 May 2001).

Further improvement of forest management has been boosted through government commitment to the FLEGT VPA process which would permit her to sell forest products on the international market

with added value (Saunders, 2014) As a result of engagement in this VPA process, Cameroon has been obliged to put in place the following additional measures such as; the development and adoption of a guide for forest controllers; the establishment of the traceability system, adoption of the legality matrix to fight against corruption and enhance good governance both at the levels of the forest administration and economic operators. Improved transparency in monitoring and control of forests has had ecological impacts on forests and the livelihood of citizens.

Institutional and regulatory INSTRUMENTS IN cameroon

This section will present and review the legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks governing the forest sector in Cameroon.

Legal and regulatory instruments

The different legal and regulatory instruments governing monitoring and control in the forestry sector in Cameroon are:

- a) National legal and regulatory instruments
 - Law n° 94/01 of 20/01/1994 to lay down forestry and wildlife and fisheries regulations
 - Framework law on the Environment;
 - Criminal Procedure Code;
 - Decree No. 95/531/PM of 23 August 1995 to determine the conditions for the implementation of Forestry Regulations;
 - National Strategy for forestry and wildlife controls;
 - The Forestry control guide adapted to the National control strategy and the criteria of FLEGT VPA;
 - Decision No. 0108/D/MINEF/CAB of 19 February 1998 specifying norms of intervention in forestry milieu;
 - Decision No. 08102/MINFOF/SG/DF of 10/02/2012 cancelling authorization for recuperation and timber removal;
 - Order No. 0000133/CF/MINFI of 23 August 2012 specifying FOB values for timber logs for export;
 - Circular letter No. 0147/LC/MINFOF/CAB of 12/06/2013 laying the procedure for auctioning seized timber and the applicable minimum price;
 - Circular letter No. 0003/LC/MINFOF/CAB of 09/01/2015 related to illegal logging and public auctioning of seized timber;
 - Circular letter No. 0170/LC/MINFOF/PCLCC/MCLCC of 18/09/2014 instituting the application of the rules of Best Practices in the procedure and methods of Control on road for ligneous and non-ligneous forest products;
 - Circular letter N° 354 on timber recuperation.

- b) International Conventions and Agreements with other Parties
 - Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
 - Convention on Migratory Species (CMS),
 - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES),
 - Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar),
 - Forum on China-Africa Co-operation (FOCAC),
 - International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA),
 - Partnership Agreement between the Members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group

- of States and the European Community (ACP),
- UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC),
- UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC),
- UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD),
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC),
- World Trade Organization, (WTO).

Institutional frameworks and their roles and responsibilities in forest law enforcement

The different institutions and agencies involved in the monitoring and control chain at different levels and their roles are as follows:

Government (State) institutions

A. Ministry of Forest and Wildlife (MINFOF)

❖ Services in the Central Administration

Decree N° N°2004/320 of 08 December 2004 defines the Organisational Chart of MINFOF and specifies the services involve in monitoring and control as follows:

- 1) **General Inspectorate:** The General Inspectorate controls the internal functioning of services hence the monitoring of the respect of control procedures by competent services.
- 2) **The National Brigade for Control and Anti-Poaching (NCB):** The NCB is in charge of the following; (1) Implementation of Government Strategy on forestry and wildlife control (2) Supervision of control teams; (3) Control of logging sites; (4) Control of the implementation of regulations; (5) Control the compliance with engagements taken by logger and hunting guides; (6) Monitoring of offences (7) Under take investigations in the forest sector at the instructions of the Minister and in the presence of the Independent Observer; (8) Control of timber transformation industries; (9) Consolidation and centralisation of information from the various control brigades.
- 3) **Department of Forestry according to the forest code of 1994** is in charge among other things for (1) undertaking inventory of forest resources, 2) verification of the conformity of forest activities with inventories; (3) Monitoring the implementation of detail and simple management plans; surveillance of spatial evolution of the forest cover (4) Monitor forest production and forest revenue through the SIGIF and PSRF, traceability of non-timber forest products, the implementation of management plans, respect of silviculture norms and implementation of regeneration and reforestation program.
- 4) **Department of Promotion and Transformation** is in charge of: (1) monitoring the respect of processing norms, commercialisation activities of transformation industries and export of timber and NTFP, internal timber market, exploitation and commercialisation of NTFP; (2) respect of norms for export of forest products (CITES, dimensional standards, and quotas).
- 5) **The Legal Unit** participates in the elaboration of NCB mission reports in conformity with the recommendations of the Review Committee, notifications of fines and forest negotiations signed by the Minister in charge of Forestry and Wildlife to offenders; Assist control structures in taking statements of offenders; supervise the monitoring of case files and advise and train control officers in judicial and legal procedures.

❖ MINFOF External Services

External structures representing the Central Administration undertake same and/or similar roles and responsibilities in their respective territories.

1. **Technical Operation Units (TOU)** are in charge of monitoring and control within their geographical limits.
2. **Forestry and wildlife control posts are in charge of:** (1) monitoring and control of the application of forestry and wildlife legislations in their jurisdiction; (2) physical control (hammering, inspection of limits) of logging permits; (3) control of hunting zones and hunters within their territories of competence.
3. At **check points** in their territory, the legality of transported forest products is verified.

B. Other Government (State) Institutions

The government ministries and partners identified below collaborate with MINFOF in the monitoring and control of forestry and forestry related activities in the country. They provide MINFOF with copies of their reports and after review MINFOF can launch investigations and controls as and when necessary.

1. **Ministry of Defence, Secretary of State for Defense in charge of Gendarmerie (SSD)**

Judicial Police officers with general jurisdictions over all types of crime can take statements from offenders and submit their reports to their immediate boss in charge of forestry and wildlife. In this regard they can summon, search and confiscate illegal products and handover to the Ministry in charge of Forestry and Wildlife. They are called upon to support staff of MINFOF in operations against poaching and illegal loggers.

2. **General Directorate for Public Security (DGSN)**

is responsible for the maintenance of law and order. As per the forestry regulations being a judicial police officers with general jurisdiction, police officers have the responsibility to control illegally exploited forest products as well as assisting MINFOF staff when requested to conduct searches, arrest offenders and keep them under provisional custody.

3. **Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation (MINATD).**

Local Administrative Authorities intervene in forestry control in their capacity as representatives of the MINFOF. They ensure an enabling administrative environment for effective operations of controllers in their jurisdiction.

4. **Ministry of Justice and Keeper of Seals (MINJUSTICE)**

The ministry of Justice and keeper of the seals, coordinates actions of all judicial police officers in his jurisdiction, including the MINFOF controllers who are judicial police with special jurisdiction. It can order judicial action when a case is not concluded at the level of MINFOF.

5. **Ministry of Finance (MINFI)**

contains technical departments which play specific roles in forest monitoring and control.

- **The General Directorate of Customs** control certificates of origin for forest and wildlife products for export, timber specifications, export taxes and CITES permits. They deliver Certificates of Loading when forest products are transported in sealed containers.
- **The General Directorate of Taxation** with the PSRF and the Division of Grand Enterprises is responsible for 1) recovery and control of the payment of surface area tax, felling tax, export tax and entry tax into transformation units; 2) control of forest products at check points.

- **The General Directorate of Treasury** intervenes in the recovery of wildlife taxes.

6. Ministry of the Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED)

Delivers certificates of environmental conformity and monitors the implementation of environmental management plans of logging companies.

7. Ministry of Economy, Planning and Territorial Development (MINEPAT)

MINEPAT is responsible for territorial development which involves preparing zoning plan which include forest lands. It also has the responsibility of ensuring that the zoning plans are respected during the award of FMU and other logging and protection areas. MINEPAT is represented in the Inter-Ministerial Commission for the attribution of FMU and Sales of Standing Volume.

8. Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MINTPS) monitors

The implementation of the Labour Code for all workers many of whom are employed in the forestry sector. The fair payment of wages and social benefits of workers constitute part of the legality requirement in the labour code to be complied with by all employers including logging companies.

9. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER)

This ministry is responsible for agricultural activities which have a considerable impact on forest. They have the responsibility to ensure that agricultural projects respect the zoning plan before they are approved. MINADER is a member of the Inter-ministerial Commission for attribution of FMU and Sales of Standing Volume.

10. Ministry of Transport (MINT)

This ministry is responsible for regulating all transportation activities including transportation of logs and processed timber as well as non-timber forest products. They control weighing stations where vehicle weights are verified. These stations facilitate the control and impounding of vehicles that evade forest control check points.

C. MINFOF Partners:

1. National and International Civil Society Organizations

They provide support to MINFOF in various ways including, capacity building, financial and technical support, information sharing, law enforcement assistance including arrest and support to MINFOF in the prosecution of offenders. Some of the broad categories of partners include:

- Independent Observers: Global Witness (2001-2005), REM (2005-2009), AGRECO- CEW (2010-2013) (Alison, 2015)
- International Non-Governmental Organizations: IUCN, WWF, WCS, TRAFFIC, etc.
- National Non-Governmental Organizations: Cameroon Environmental Watch (CEW), Centre for Environment and Development (CED).

2. Regional organisations

COMIFAC has the mandate to assist its member countries of Central Africa sub-region to manage their forest ecosystems and as such it has developed a number of tools and committees to provide technical support to forest management including, the Central Africa Wildlife Trade Law Enforcement Action Plan (CAWTLEAP) and COMIFAC convergence plan.

3. Local communities and indigenous people

Forests have to be managed to also provide benefits to the local communities so they have an interest to ensure the sustainable use of forest resources. They have a role in the surveillance of forests in their territories by denouncing all forms of illegal activities. Village forest management committees are formed in communities that have forests under management or exploitation and assist in monitoring and control.

4. Decentralise communities (councils)

With the option of government for decentralization, councils have been given more responsibility in forest management. In addition to forest classified for council, some forest reserves have been transferred to some councils for management. These councils create forest management units that control all activities in the forest including monitoring and control.

Frameworks and guidelines for forest monitoring and control along the trade chain

This section describes the legal and regulated monitoring and control expected along the timber trade chain, from the forest along the roads to the processing units and finally at the ports of export. The guidelines on forest monitoring and control are contained in provisions outlined in the various legal texts and regulatory instruments, especially in the Guide for Forest Controller (Checklist for forest controllers, 2012). The guide is adapted from the National Control Strategy on Forestry and Wildlife and includes relevant elements of the FLEGT VPA compliance.

Monitoring and control is envisaged at different levels of the timber trade chain from the forest to exportation through transportation, and transformation. Each level involves one or many of the institutions listed above. Only MINFOF with overall remit for forest monitoring and control is involved at all levels of the timber trade chain. Monitoring and control, in fact, starts at the level where the inter-ministerial commission analyzes applications and makes recommendations for the award of forest concessions (Decree n° 95/531 of 1995). An independent observer is present at the deliberations of the inter-ministerial commission. At this stage, focus is placed on the technical and financial capacity and ability of the economic operator to log and sustainably manage the forest; his experience, and level of governance to ensure transparency is also evaluated. Transparency is assured through the presence of an Independent Observer.

Cameroon's National Strategy on Forest and Wildlife Control (NSFWC) provides for four types of control to be undertaken namely:

- ❖ Scheduled control: Control carried out based on an annual program established at the beginning of the fiscal year by the territorially competent structure and endorsed by the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife;
- ❖ Routine control: This is conducted on a daily basis by the territorially competent structure/ units by fixed or mobile check-points, sawmill entry points, border check points, and other relevant services;
- ❖ Special Control: Refers to unscheduled control visits ordered by the decision-makers following denouncement, information or for any other reason;
- ❖ Continuous monitoring of forest resources: These are permanent actions taken at all levels by agents of MINFOF, NGOs, the private sector and civil society intended to provide information to territorially competent structures.

Monitoring and control at the forest level

Control of forest activities is the prerogative of the state through the MINFOF (Cameron forest law, 1994). However, MINFOF is assisted by the IO to ensure effectiveness, transparency and limit attempts of corruption. Concretely in the field, control is done in two phases: Phase one comprises the control of documents which are the administrative documents which give the company access to the forest and exploitation documents of the permit (DF 10, daily log registration booklets). The second phase is the technical control of forest exploitation activities (F. Ngibaot, pers. comm., March, 2015).

Activities of monitoring and control in sales of standing volume are carried out to confirm the authenticity of the annual felling permit, notification to start operations by MINFOF Divisional Delegate, the respect of minimum exploitable diameters, norms for intervention in forest milieu and social commitments agreed and documented in the minutes of meetings with the rural communities and indigenous people (F. Ngibaot, pers. comm., March, 2015).

While concessions are managed in conformity with their management plans, the logging of sales of standing volume is done in conformity with a felling plan established annually by the Administration of Forestry (J. Belinga, pers. comm., March, 2015).

Control and monitoring of production forests is to ensure that:

- The concessioner invests for a sustained production of the forest attributed for logging and management;
- Management and exploitation activities do not jeopardize the potential of the forest in future rotations;
- Local communities have permanent access to available resources;
- The environment is not destroyed and the life of the communities is not at risk.

These objectives guide monitoring and control and enable the control team to ascertain compliance with:

- Annual and five-year operational plans;
- Minimum exploitable diameters and management diameters ;
- Norms for intervention in forest milieu, notably organisation of the road network, opening and closure of forest roads and extraction roads (secondary roads);
- identification of logs and stumps;
- Identification and respect of protection zones (zones of fragile ecosystem) and silviculture zones (areas containing plus trees for regeneration);
- Reforestation plan ;
- Plan for equipment ;
- Measure to support wildlife conservation (anti-poaching barriers, legal source of bush meat) ;
- Social corporate responsibilities of forest concessionaires ;
- Support to village-forest committees through permanent dialogue ;
- The payment of surface area tax.

At the end of each monitoring and control mission, two reports are produced; one by the Independent Observer (IO) and the other by the Control Brigade of MINFOF. They are both submitted to the review committee. These reports will be examined by the Review Committee and recommendations made for their harmonization and penalties based on the legal provisions in law n° 94/01 of 1994, art 154-165. All offenders identified by the committee are informed of their offences and respective penalties. Those who opt for amicable settlement will enter into negotiations with MINFOF (Law n° 94/01 of 1994, art 146) on how to schedule the payment of penalties. Proposals for negotiated payments are studied by a group chaired by the SETAT/MINFOF in the presence of the IO to ensure transparency and recommendations made to the Minister for action (P. G., Boyomo, pers comm.,

April 2015). Meanwhile, offenders who do not agree with the findings of the review committee and do not apply for a negotiated settlement are transferred to the judicial service for action as outlined in the Forestry Law of N° 94/01 of 1994.

There is no Independent Observer in Cameroon since 2014. However, to maintain the quality of control, the Review Committee continues to meet on average, four times per year to examine the reports of the NCB. Due to budgetary constraints, the Committee met only twice in 2014 (F. Ngibaot, pers. comm., March, 2015). There are ongoing discussions between MINFOF and partners for the identification and funding of another IO.

Other state institutions involved at this level are MINFI and MINEPDED. MINFI's involvement at this level is to follow up the fiscal obligations of concessioners to make sure they are not indebted to the state as well as meeting their social obligations vis-à-vis concerned rural communities (J. A., Kongape, pers comm., April 2015). MINEPDED on her part monitors and controls the environmental aspects of the exploitation to ensure that all environmental obligations are respected as prescribed in the Framework law n° 96/12 of 5 August 1996, relative to the management of the Environment in Cameroon.

Monitoring and evaluation during transportation

Activities involved in the monitoring and control of timber during transportation are outlined in the National Strategy for forestry and wildlife controls and the checklist for forest controllers (2012). This starts at the point of departure of the timber. The chief of Forestry post at the departure point of logs in the harvesting area ascertain the conformity of the logs to be transported and the information contained in the waybill. The timber is marked using a hammer and the waybill is endorsed. This control is also done at each Forestry control Post along the way where they verify the coherence of the waybill and the produce being transported as well the marked number on the timber. This process is the same for logs, sawn timber and non-timber forest product (A. Tende., pers comm., April 2015).

Monitoring and Control at the different Check Points where this is done with the help of a form enable the following information to be registered and verified:

- Transportation company;
- Vehicle registration number;
- Number of the waybill and the authenticity of the visa of the Regional Delegate;
- Source of produce (permit);
- The destination;
- The buyer;
- Species;
- DF 10 number; and
- For each log (the number of the log, length, diameters at both ends and the volume).

From an established list of debtors quarterly published, control is done to verify if the permit holder is not indebted to the State (F. Mboutou, and T. Ndabekai, pers comm., April 2015).

Control of NTFP is centered on the conformity of the waybill, while for Special Produce (e.g. ebony) the following information is verified:

- Waybill;
- Certificate of origin;
- CITES export certificate and;
- Prove of quarterly payment of regeneration tax.

Other government agencies involved in the verification of timber in transportation are MINFI, Ministry of Transport and the Forces of Law and Order (Gendarmeries, police).

MINFI is interested in compliance with fiscal obligations; Ministry of Transport verify the weight of vehicle carrying logs to ensure they are not above regulated weights and hence cause damage to the road.

The Forces of Law and Order (Gendarmes and Police) in addition to ensuring security of persons by verifying that the vehicles are road worthy also verify timber being transported by same via verifications of the authenticity of documents.

Monitoring and control during processing

Monitoring and control at the level of processing factory is carried out in accordance with the category of the factory as classified by Ministerial Decision n° 0353/D/MINFOF of 27 February 2012 which groups log processing factories into four categories: 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Monitoring and control of categories 1, 2 and 3 factories consists of verifying first of all if the factory is registered as a timber processing factory, the waybill of logs/timber arriving the factory or the intermediate gantry to determine the origin. There is also an entry register or booklet to verify the entry volume. Finally, verification is done of waybills for sawn timber exiting the unit. This control is done with the participation of PSRF staff.

Factories in category 4 are artisanal factories for the processing of special products. Monitoring and control consists of verifying the following:

- Waybill;
- Certificate of origin;
- Stock register and;
- Prove of quarterly payment of regeneration tax.

The objective of monitoring and control is also to encourage higher levels of processing (C. Tekwe, pers. comm., April, 2015).

Monitoring and control at the level of export/exit points

At the level of the exit port (Douala), monitoring and control involve MINFOF agents, Customs agents, Douala International Terminal staff and SEPBC (Société d'Exploitation des Parcs à Bois du Cameroun). MINFOF has two Forestry Control Posts: Forestry Control Post Douala Port 1 and Forestry Control Post Douala Port 2.

The type of control to be done at the exit port is also outlined in the Checklist (2012) for forest controllers, and can be summarized as follows:

- Douala Forest Post Port 1 monitors and controls logs and sawn timber entering the port of export. Verification has to be made to ascertain that the waybill and the bulletin of specifications conform to the timber entering the port.
- Douala Forest Post, Port 2 on their part monitor and control of logs/sawn timber ready and being loaded for export from the SEPBC and DIT terminals, making sure that the company is registered as a timber exporter, the bulletin of specifications has the visa of the Regional Delegate and conforms to the timber being exported.
- SEPBC provides storage facilities for timber (sawn and round logs). Before timber is released for shipment, verification has to be made to confirm ownership and authenticity of the

bulletin of specifications and payment of taxes.

- In addition, the DIT provides facilities for shipment of containers and has to verify the payment of export taxes before loading the log/timber unto the ship. At this terminal there is a scanner to authenticate the contents of the containers.

current status of forest law enforcement

This section will present the ongoing control and monitoring of law enforcement along the timber trade chain vis-à-vis the policies, legal instruments and other regulations governing the forest sector.

This section also presents an analysis of the collaboration that exist between the different actors involved in forest monitoring and control along the trade chain.

The 1994 forest law, authorizes the issuance of seven types of forest logging permits.

1. Personal harvesting authorization;
2. Harvesting permits for timber;
3. Timber recovery permit (timber salvage authorization and timber removal authorization);
4. Community forest;
5. Sales of standing volume;
6. Council forest;
7. Timber concession.

The decree N° 95/531/PM of August 23, 1995 outlines the conditions for the implementation of the forest law of 1994. Sections 63-64, provide information and conditions for the award of these permits which include; who is eligible, maximum attributable volume for personal use permit; areas to be logged; conditions for logging, etc.

The monitoring and control of these permits is done by MINFOF at central and decentralized levels and supported by the IO as prescribed in the code of procedure for forest control and summarized above. But since end of 2014 the IO mission in Cameroon has come to its ends reducing the confident and assurance of forest operations and timber trade control in the entire supply chain.

As indicated in Article 35 of Decree N° 95/PM of 23 August 1995, any person or corporate body that intends to carry out commercial activity in the forestry sector must be registered in one of following professions:

- ❖ Forest Inventory;
- ❖ Forest logging/exploitation and
- ❖ Silviculture.

Control of forest inventory

Forest inventory for both forest management and logging is the responsibility of the concessionaires or other legal permit holders. The Ministry of forestry and Wildlife reviews the inventory report and undertake field verification mission and either approves or rejects the inventory based on their findings. It is only after the approval of results that the elaboration of the management plan can commence. The management plan is submitted to the inter-ministerial committee that reviews and makes recommendations to the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife on the way forward (rejection, approval with or without conditions) (Mendomo, pers. comm., March 2015).

However, it is worth noting that article 40 of the Cameroon forest law of 1994 states that the inventory of forest is the prerogative of the state and that the results would be used for estimating income and

planning of management. Some MINFOF officials think that asking concessionaires to undertake their own inventories and MINFOF limiting itself to the certification of findings, provides an opportunity for fraud through presentation of untrue results.

Status of forest law enforcement at the forest level (FMU)

Control of forest concessions

The frequency of control in general, have resulted in better management practices by the concessioners some of whom have engaged in forest certification which increase credibility of their products in the international market (F. Ngibaot, pers. comm., March, 2015). Certification involves the respect of the entire chain of custody and sustainable forest management. The three types of certification offered in Cameroon are the; OLB, FSC and FLEGT. While OLB and FSC certificates are being issued no FLEGT has been issued as yet partly because it is a recent initiative. It is hoped that this will soon change since the procedures and legal requirements for the issuance of FLEGT certificate are already in place.

According to field interviews, one of the major problems concessionaires face is encroachment and illegal exploitation from owners of adjacent permits and artisanal loggers. In the case of the sales of standing volumes the problem observed is exploitation beyond authorized limits and the non-respect of exploitation norms. This is caused by the desire to maximise financial profit. The increase number of big agro-industrial units have a considerable effect on the permanent forest estate and require MINFOF to put in place measures and mechanisms to monitor and sensitise the population, local administrative and traditional authorities on the impact of this phenomenon and its impact on forests and biodiversity. This phenomenon although more serious in the Littoral Region is gradually spreading to other forest regions (E. Pandong, pers. comm., April 2014).

It is anticipated that once the SIGIF is functional this will definitely improve monitoring and control with rippling effect on general forest management and livelihood of local communities.

One of the concerns with the current control of FMU is that the forest inventories used are done by the logging companies and not by MINFOF as prescribed by the law. Although, MINFOF verifies the inventory results, this does not permit them to have a comprehensive understanding of the real status of the resources of the forest.

Monitoring and control of small logging/exploitation permits

In the category of small permits (max of 2500 ha) are personal harvesting permit, harvesting permits for timber and timber recovery permits. Monitoring and control of small permits is to ensure the respect of authorized quota and the area of operation.

The monitoring and control of small permits over the years has revealed several irregularities in its issuance and use. This prompted the forestry administration in 1999 to suspend its award by Decision n° 944/MINEF/DF dated 30th July 1999. This suspension was lifted in 2006 by circular letter 0124/LC/MINFOF/SG/DF/SDAFF/SAG of 16/03/2006). This led to the development and endorsement of guidelines and procedures for attributing, monitoring and controlling of these permits (see letter 0131/LC/MINFOF/SG/DF/SDAFF/ SN of 20/03/2006). These guidelines were strengthened through another circular letter dated 5/06/2007. Some of the provisions in the guidelines include; sales of salvage fell timber exceeding 1000 m³ requires permission from an Inter-ministerial commission chaired by the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, the list of authorized small permits to be published quarterly and information relating to these permits is sent to SIGIF.

In spite of these efforts, it is still being observed that the attribution of small permits continues to encourage illegal exploitation through timber laundering resulting in considerable loss in revenue and forest cover (Topa et al, 2010). This has prompted the Administration of Forestry to once again

suspend their attribution since 2011. However, for development projects that require timber salvage operations, inventory of available exploitable volume is done by the Forestry Administration and this is sold in situ through a bidding process. From field interviews, usually seized timber are sold to the same offenders.

Monitoring and Control of Community forests

Although there is no clear and agreed definition of community forest, section 37 of Law n° 94/01 of 20/01/1994 to lay down forestry and wildlife and fisheries regulations recognize the right of rural population to have access to forest resources and participate in their management. Procedures for the acquisition and management of a community forests exist and it requires inter alia, the development of a Simple Management Plan (SMP) which is reviewed and validated through a participatory process (including inter alia communities population, designated members of the development of the development committee, public administration representatives (Divisional officer or sub divisional officer), council representatives and MINFOF representatives) and approved by the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife.

The monitoring and control of these forests is done by the Forestry Administration, the Village Forest Management Committee and IO to ensure the strict implement of the SMP and includes verification of annual felling certificates, exploitation procedures and norms (Ottou, pers. comm., March 2015). However, it is worth noting that control of community forests is not regularly done because of financial limitations.

Another sad observation with community forest is that many are sub-contracted to concessionaires for logging hence defeating the purpose of the community forest which was to ensure communities benefit from these adjacent resources.

Monitoring and Control of Council forest

The exploitation of Council forest is regulated by Law n° 94/01 of 20/01/1994 to lay down forestry and wildlife and fisheries regulations and Decree N°95/531/PM of August 23, 1995 to determine the conditions of implementation of forestry regulations. Council forests are expected to contribute resources for the management of councils.

In conformity with Art 79 of the Decree, Council forest are managed by the council in accordance with its management plan under the supervision of the administration of forestry, through sales of standing volume, exploitation permit or personal harvesting authorization. Monitoring and control is done to verify the implementation of management plan (M. Niassan., pers. comm., March 2015) which contains the following aspect:

- Technical;
- Environmental;
- Wildlife;
- NTFP; and
- Social obligations.

It was also noted that the regular monitoring and control of council forests was hampered because of financial constraints.

Monitoring and Control of NTFP

The management of NTFP is confronted with difficulties due to legal, institutional and regulatory insufficiencies (E. Pandong, pers. comm., March 2015) which include:

- Absence of inventory norms for NTFP leading to inadequate knowledge of their potential ;
- Inadequate regulations to permit support for actors in this sector as only those who have approval into the different professions are actually monitored by the forestry administration ;
- Inadequate knowledge of the economic value and economic impact of this sector on the national economy ;
- Taxation in this sector has no consideration of the economic value of certain product (unique regeneration tax fixed at 10 F CFA/kg regardless of the special product considered).

These problems have resulted in less intensive monitoring and control of NTFP at check points and in the national generally (E. Pandong, pers. comm., March 2015).

Status of FLE at the level of transportation

Interview and discussion with the two MINFOF/MINFI staff (F. Mbotou, and T. Ndabekkai, pers. comm., March 2015) at the Forestry Checkpoint adjacent the weighing station at Mbankomo, at the outskirts of Yaoundé resulted in the following findings:

- Generally, monitoring and control is done based on national laws and other legislative instruments and frameworks. Unfortunately, in some cases check point and other control staff have been compelled to let go offenders on instructions from their superiors.
- If no abnormality is found on the waybill, it is stamped and vehicle allowed to continue its journey with the goods. Where an abnormality is discovered the vehicle is impounded for follow-up actions. However, in about 4-5 cases per year the impounded drivers abandon the falsified waybills and their trucks while others simply refuse to submit to control.
- Working together with the ministry of transport at weighing stations has been of great assistance to timber and log controls. The weighing of vehicles helps significantly in tracking down drivers who might have evaded previous check point controls.
- Meantime drivers thought the multiplicity of control points on highways is a probable source of corruption as drivers are tempted to bribe their way.

Status of FLE at the level of processing/transformation

According to the Regional Delegate for Forestry in the Littoral Region (E. Pandong, pers. com., April 2015) the control and monitoring of timber processing factories are not regularly done, especially with regards to the category 4 factories (small scale processing factories). The reasons for the irregularity in control and monitoring include; limited human resources; financial constraints; difficult access to the sites of the factory all year round, etc.

In order to assist the low producing and ineffective category 4 wood processing factories, MINFOF has launched a program to train their workers in order to diversify production and increase quality of products. Training courses delivered range from drying techniques to methods of ensuring good finished and quality products in line with international standards. A total of 120 persons were trained in 2014 and it is expected that 1000 persons will be trained at the end of 2015.

Status of FLE at the level of exportation

Monitoring and control of timber at the point of export is done respecting the official procedures. However, at the point of loading of the lumber onto the ships the forestry administration is not represented. The conformity of the bulletin of specifications and the species actually loaded is therefore not verified and guaranteed since custom officers are not trained in timber identification techniques (Y. Moumini, pers. comm., April 2015). This is a situation that urgently needs to be rectified to increase assurance of the legality of exported lumber from Cameroon.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF MONITORING AND CONTROL AT THE DIFFERENT LEVELS AND BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS

This section discusses the interactions and level of collaboration between the key government agencies involved in forest law enforcement with focus on timber monitoring and control along the trade chain.

MINFOF – Independent Observer (IO)

MINFOF central and decentralised departments have the overall responsibility for the implementation of Governments forest policy and programmes which include inter alia forest control and monitoring. MINFOF therefore intervenes at all stages of the forest and timber trade chain starting from classification of forests, logging transportation to the export and use of products and its derivatives. The IO was instituted to help improve forest governance and reduce corruption among other things. Before the end of mandate in December 2014 the IO intervenes at two levels: helps to ensure the objectivity and transparency in the award of permits, control documentations along the trade chain (from logging, transportation, processing and export) to ensure the respect of technical norms and the monitoring of case files.

From 2010 to 2013 a total of 21 meetings were held between the IO and NCB facilitated by the IO, AGRECO-CEW. The majority of meetings took place in 2011. The frequency of the meetings can be partly explained by the intensity of their activities and the good collaboration between the IO and the NCB. A total of 9 missions were organised within this period as indicated below:

1. One thematic mission for wildlife and illegal exploitation of fuel timber in Adamoua, North and Extreme North Regions;
2. Four programmed missions in the five forest regions of Cameroon: Centre, Est, Littoral South and South West;
3. One monitoring and evaluation mission for the implementation of decision on small permits undertaken by MINFOF;
4. One crackdown operation at the Douala Port;
5. One thematic mission on a community forest; and
6. One statutory mission on sales of standing volume.

In spite of the generally good collaboration there were often discrepancies in the mission reports of the IO and MINFOF and at times heated debates in the review committee meetings.

The joint control activities conducted with the support of the IO as well as the results of short-term studies conducted by the IO indicate that very few companies will be able to satisfy the exigencies of the legality framework. A lot more has to be done to achieve the objective of the FLEGT VPA with all the different types of permits issued by MINFOF to ensure log harvested and timber produced qualifies for a VPA certificate.

Although the mandate of the IO is ended, the NCB is capable to continue monitoring and control unilaterally due to increase in capacity over the years. However, there is still need for the IO and therefore efforts need to be made to recruit another IO in the near future.

MINFOF-MINFI (PSRF) -TRANSPORTATION LEVEL

The intervention of MINFI is done in the office at the General Directorate of Taxation (for grand enterprises and in the field by the General Directorate of Treasury (PSRF) at Check-Points where with MINFOF staff they work in synergy to monitor statistics of different transported products, and verify the effective payment of corresponding taxes.

MINFOF-MINDEF (GENDARMERIE) AND DGSN (POLICE)-ALL LEVELS

Collaboration between MINFOF and the forces of law and order (gendarmerie and police) is fragile if not difficult on highways. As a result of being judicial police officer with general jurisdiction, they control transported forest products at their control points despite the fact that MINFOF have their own Points. In addition to identifying the vehicle and driver, they control forest products even when a MINFOF control post or MINFOF/MINFI Check point is adjacent to theirs (Tende, pers. comm., April 2015). Sometime question are raised by the police on the control done by MINFOF staff which often results in tensions between field teams creating unfavourable climate for collaboration (E. Pandong, pers. comm., March 2015). It is therefore important that the roles and responsibilities and special competence bestowed on staff of MINFOF be reiterated and through awareness raising and other means to deter such events and foster collaboration between field teams of the different law enforcement agencies.

MINFOF-MINT -TRANSPORTATION AND EXPORT LEVELS

The transportation and loading of forest products in ships require two levels of control by MINTRANSPORT.

The ministry of transport has weighing stations along roads that verify the weights of vehicles to ensure they do not exceed prescribed limits. If such weighing points have MINFOF check points also, and if there is a need to remove lumber to meet prescribed limit, MINFOF is often requested to take responsibility of the lumber removed. At the level of transportation there is generally good collaboration between MINFOF and MINT staff.

On the contrary, forestry staffs do not have access to the loading zone at the ship yard and hence do not do a final verification of lumber before it is loaded in the ship. This might partly explain the discrepancies in statistics, often produced by MINFOF and the Department of Customs. A similar situation exist with lumber exported in sealed containers. No MINFOF staff is represented at the point of loading of the lumber into the containers and at the final verification of containers at the port before shipment. In addition, most vehicles with sealed containers do not stop at the Forestry Posts Douala Port 1 and 2 but drive into DIT where forestry staff have no access (Y. Ebot, pers. comm., April, 2015). There is no collaboration between MINFOF staff and those of the DIT (M. Yaya, pers. comm., April 2015). In order to enhance transparency and harmonize export statistics of forest products, it is necessary to enhance collaboration at all stages of the timber trade chain including the final control points not accessible to MINFOF at the moment.

MINFOF-MINTPS -TRANSFORMATION LEVEL

The Ministry of Labour and Social welfare intervenes during evaluation of the performance of companies to ensure they respect the provisions of the labour code and as well as their social and cooperate responsibilities. Collaboration with MINFOF staff is good although the intervention of this ministry has no significant direct impact on forests.

MINFOF-MINATD -FOREST LEVEL

In addition to its remit of territorial management and surveillance, local administrative authorities preside over information meetings during the process of classification and award of forestry

concessions, SSV and permits and ensure that the interests of the populations are considered in the award documentation.

They also intervene in case of conflicts in forestry and MINFOF supports MINATD field missions to control social and development projects agreed and prescribed in forest management plans. There have been cases of conflict reported between MINFOF and MINATD either because MINATD staff have abused their powers and/or MINFOF staff has been involved in illegal activity or not reported offenders (E. Pandong, pers. comm. March 2015).

MINFOF-MINJUSTICE - ALL LEVELS

The Ministry of Justice and Keeper of the Seals is an important partner in the monitoring and control chain being responsible for judicial actions against defaulters. It is for this reason that SIGICOF was created to fast track the processing of offences and bring offenders to book. Presently, SIGICOF is no more functional. Generally, the magistrates are quiet knowledgeable with legal texts on forests and there is good collaboration between MINFOF and MINJUSTICE staff at all levels. However, there are instances when the independence of the judiciary is utilised to justify poor decisions which favour offenders but are inconsistent with forest law and regulations (E. Pandong, pers. comm., April 2015).

MINFOF- MINEPDED -FOREST LEVEL AND TRANSPORT LEVELS

MINEPDED is supposed to be the closest and strongest collaborator of MINFOF in view of its environmental focus. However, frequent conflicts of interest are observed in the field generally caused by MINEPDED staff who usurp the remit of MINFOF by undertaking monitoring and control of forest activities and products (E. Pandong, pers. comm., April 2015). MINEPDED staffs are either doing so deliberately or do not know their roles and responsibilities (E. Pandong, pers. comm., April 2015). It is worth noting that a forester can either opt to work for MINFOF or MINEPDED. However, once one has opted for one ministry, it is important that s/he respect the remit of the ministry irrespective of the fact that they have the competence to undertake activities under the other ministry. They must remember that they do not have the authority which is a pre-requisite for one to act on behalf of any ministry.

MINFOF- MINADER -FOREST LEVEL

Agriculture is considered as one of the main drivers of deforestation. The recent development of new private plantations and the extension of existing agro industries would therefore impact the forest directly (R. Dongmo., pers. comm., April 2015). An authorization approved by MINADER to salvage timber is needed during the execution of agriculture projects in forested areas. A precondition for this authorization is a confirmation from MINADER that the zoning plan has been respected. There is therefore need for collaboration between these two institutions, especially if one considers the increasing rate of encroachment upon forest reserves for agriculture often resulting in conflict. It worth noting that some companies proceed with the salvage felling and execution of their projects without fulfilling these requirement.

MINFOF- OTHER ORGANISATIONS OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY -ALL LEVELS

Many civil society organisations accompany MINFOF in the control and monitoring of forest exploitation to ensure the respect of norms of intervention and to denounce cases of illegality (MINFOF, 2005). These organisations operate within networks with or without official agreements of collaboration with MINFOF. However, when any of these organisations publish results of their research and findings in the forestry sector (some of which are critical of MINFOF) it is a courtesy to obtain prior information or consultation with MINFOF. This usually result in conflict between them and MINFOF. In general, the participation of other institutions and the civil society enables MINFOF to reinforce the capacity of her personnel in forest monitoring and control.

OVERALL IMPACT OF FOREST MONITORING AND CONTROL

The general improvement in forest law enforcement evaluated here with focus on forest monitoring and control has impact on various aspects of forestry.

IMPROVED STATE REVENUE

Improved monitoring and control has contributed to the economic viability of the forest sector. Indeed, it is through proper conception and effective implementation of the process of planning, monitoring and control that investments in forest activities will generate expected fallouts for the state, local communities and economic operators. Thanks to technical assistance from IO-AGRECO-CEW, forest control has contributed significantly to Government revenue from public auction, payment of fines and others transactions by defaulters. For example, as mentioned in the short term mission report at the level of the BNC, revenue from public auction increased from 441 350 335 F CFA (753 875 USD) in 2012 to 628 151 906 F CFA (1 072 950 USD) at the end of the first half of 2013 which represents a significant contribution of forest control to the economic viability of forest exploitation.

Forest transactions increased from 34 676 161 F CFA (59 230 USD) in 2011 to 293 433 635 F CFA (501 217 USD) in 2012 and 46 033 001 F CFA (78 629 USD) at the end of the first half of 2013. The timely production of secured documents prevents use of previous years' documents by economic operators. Indeed, the use of documents for previous years distorts annual statistics and cause prejudice to tax recovery.

ECOLOGICAL IMPACT

Monitoring has contributed to maintain forest ecosystems, increasing respect of Norms for Intervention in Forest Milieu (NIFM) in the different exploitation permits and communal forest particularly the dispositions of chapters IV, V, V and VII with respect to:

- Protection of slopes, water courses and water quality; that is why felling of trees at less than 30 metres from river courses is often noticed causing clogging of waterways and consequently flooding upstream and water shortage downstream;
- Wildlife protection ;
- Planning, construction and maintenance of road network and bridges.

The non-respect of these dispositions particularly those of NIFM in permits in non-permanent forest estate compromise the integrity of forest ecosystems. It compromises future productivity of the forest and impacts negatively on the economic potential of the forest.

In FMU and council forests, despite considerable advances in the respect of the law illustrated in the considerable reduction of the occurrence of offences from 40% in 2010 to 7% in 2013 (MINFOF, 2013), the non-respect of NIFM still represent 51% of offence in FMU and 17% in council forests visited.

IMPACT ON FOREST GOVERNANCE

Responsibility and state of law

The quarterly publication of the catalogue of offences permits each economic operator to be accountable to his/her actions. Similarly, the exploitation of the report and recommendations of IO AGRECO-CEW have permitted MINFOF to take important decisions on sanctions and redeployment of personnel. Various training courses and equipment provided to MINFOF have enabled controllers

to improve their skills in forest control, reporting, elaboration of offence statements, their presentation and follow up of the prosecutions in court. It was noted that the provision of appropriate materials as for mission and allowances rendered controllers more available and motivated to undertake control missions.

Transparency

The support from the IO-AGRECO-CEW and the involvement of the civil society in forest control and monitoring has significantly increased transparency in forest governance. They have helped MINFOF to take informed decision, improve collaboration and coordination with other stakeholders and development partners in forest management. Examples of increased collaboration and improved governance and transparency are; the involvement of other administration in the steering committee of IO, the publication of control procedures, regular publication of forestry and wildlife offences, the publication of the guide for the criminal procedure code and training in its utilisation (IO, 2014).

FINDINGS

In spite of its complexity, the on-going reforms in the forestry sector have led to amelioration of monitoring and control of forest activities thereby impacting positively on sustainable management of forests in Cameroon. The obligations inherent in sustainable management approach have reduced overexploitation and unorthodox exploitation which were the order of the day before. The surface area and annual exploited volumes had considerably reduced from 400 000 ha to 200 000 ha/year and 3.5 million m³ to approximately 2.5 million m³ for the period 1998/1999 to 2004/2006. On the contrary the management plans have not increased the number of exploited species thus maintaining pressure on those traditionally exported.

Several companies are engaged in forest certification in Cameroon. It is estimated that more than 1 000 000 ha of forest are under Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification alone. Legal exploitation is significantly higher in the forest concessions found in the permanent forest estate because the companies have become more prudent under the surveillance of the NCB and the IO.

In the non-permanent forest estate, illegal activity is more pronounced because regulations are less comprehensive and prescriptive and hence forest exploitation is more detrimental to the forest. This is more so in the rural areas where the forest is fast giving way to other vocations.

Illegal exploitation that was estimated at 25% to 30% of total national production (3 million m³/yr) in 2010 has considerably reduced to less than 20% of national production due to improvements in monitoring and control.

It is estimated that approximately 75 communities are actively engaged in the management of their forest out of 400 applications granted since 1998. This means about 1.3 million ha of forest are under effective community management.

Generally, the forests in the permanent forest estate are better monitored and controlled than those of the non-permanent forest estate. However, there are some licensed petroleum and mining activities which overlap with some forest concessions (MINFOF, 2012). As a result of the economic importance on petroleum and mining, the State places a preference on these activities to the detriment of the sustainable management of forest resources. Similarly, demographic explosion has resulted in some reserves been heavily encroached by rural populations mainly for agriculture but occasional for settlement. In other cases, local administrative authorities have violated the law and authorised the construction of social infrastructures (schools, dispensaries, etc.) within forest reserves.

An analysis of the final report of the IO AGRECO_CEW (January 2010-December 2013) revealed

that:

- 66 FMUs were visited of the 70 active ones giving a general average cover of 94% and annual average of 57% ;
- Average percentage of Sales of Standing Volume (SSV) covered during 4 years of activity of the IO AGRECO-CEW is 44% ;
- 3 of 5 council forests in activity were visited which is a coverage of 60%;
- During the mission to monitor community forests in 2011, all the 22 community forests with Annual Exploitation Certificate (AEC) were visited which is a 100% coverage;
- 31 missions were undertaken to verify complaints in the non-permanent forest estate in four regions, Centre, Littoral, South and South-West.

In addition to these IO related missions, other control missions are regularly organised by NCB with the Department of Forestry and sometimes with the General Inspectorate.

At the level of timber processing, positive progress has also been achieved. The policy and commitment to sustainable management of forests has obliged logging companies to process more timber in situ and thereby adding-value to products and hence increasing income and creating more employment in the country. The commercial landscape of processed timber is virtually divided into two. Processed timber from forest concessions is generally destined for international markets since they generally respect exportation norms while that from small processing units (local saw mills capable of processing about 18 000 m³/year) feed the domestic market with timber from illegal sources. Most of the timber processed by the saw mills feeding the local market are from illegal sources-mainly from the non-permanent forest estate.

The design of more secure documents and increase control and verification of their authenticity has greatly reduced the number of falsified documents in the system. However, there are still observed cases of falsified documents and inconsistencies in specifications of goods being transported. The increase number of check points meant to dissuade offenders result in delays during transportation which sometimes encourages corruption, in a quest to safe time.

The current functioning of DIT at the Douala port causes bottle-necks which is a great hindrance to companies especially logging companies. Forestry staff at Douala Port 2 are not involved in the verification of containers scanned by DIT. It was also noted that SEPBC did not allow forestry staff to monitor and control the final loading of goods onto ships.

CONCLUSION

The changing socio-economic context of Cameroon and the constant desired innovation to sustain management of the forests has yielded positive results over the years. Policies, legislative and institutional reforms have enabled the development of tools which have led progressively to better forest control, monitoring and management. These policies and initiatives have resulted in, good governance, increased collaboration between law enforcement agencies, improvement in revenue collection and general wellbeing of local communities as well as biodiversity conservation.

The considerable reduction of cases of encroachment by permits holders into surrounding forest areas and legal proceedings are positive impacts of transparent and improved monitoring and control. The support of the independent observer has resulted in considerable improvement in capacity and ethics of MINFOF staff assigned to forest control and monitoring activities.

It is hoped the completion and effective implementation of SIGIF2 would go a long way to enhance traceability of exploited timber and thereby result in the better and sustainable management of forest resulting in benefits both to biodiversity and people.

However, there are still a number of challenges that need urgent attention in the forestry sector. Notable among them is the small permit holders. In spite of the measures put in place, the issuance and management of small logging permits in the non-permanent forest estate continue to be a “headache” for MINFOF. Additional measures and stringent penalties are required to stem the illegality in this sector. Further streamlining of the legislation and procedures and systems for the small logging permits may be needed to ensure greater adherence and more effective and efficient implementation of the law. One recommendation would be to involve civil society organisations and even local communities in the monitoring and control of these permits. Capacity building was also identified as an area of concern with forest controllers and monitors. Enhancing their capacity both quantitative, qualitative and material wise would go a long way to improving some of the current lapses identified in the sector. It could even serve as a motivating factor for increased performance by staff.

This study shows that monitoring of forest law enforcement along the timber trade chain is done generally in compliance with the legal and regulatory instruments in force despite some inconsistencies. That notwithstanding, the implementation of the recommendations in this report will contribute significantly to improve the monitoring of forest law enforcement which will evidently improve the management of forest resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Forest monitoring and control is essentially aimed at constantly improving governance in the forest sector to minimize illegal logging and ensure the sustainable management of forest resources. Sustainable forest management and forest governance are global processes that require constant and continuous review of legislative, regulatory, institutional and normative frameworks to adapt to the demands of current issues of society. The implementation of the FLEGT VPA would be a milestone in forest management since it involves bringing on board all actors involved along the chain of custody, from the award of logging permits to export of lumber after, transportation and/or processing.

In spite of the laudable efforts and improvements recorded in forest control and monitoring a lot more remains to be done to attain the objectives of zero illegal activities in the forestry sector and maximise benefits to both biodiversity and people from the sustainable management of forests and its resources. This can only be possible if there is strong synergy in the actions of different stakeholders, along the timber trade chain, good governance, increased involvement of civil society and especially the effective participation of local communities at all levels. Based on the above the following recommendation have been formulated for the various stakeholders in forest law enforcement especially forest monitoring and control.

For Decision makers

The ongoing revision of the 1994 forest policy and law launched since 2012 will permit MINFOF to correct lapses and strengthen forest management in general and monitoring and control in particular.

Key point to consider include:

- Increasing the penalties of some of the offences to deter offenders.
- Restricting the option of negotiation to minor offences only. Offences such as falsification of documentation and/or outright fraud should not be opened for negotiations.
- Granting sworn officers of the administrations in charge of forests and wildlife benefits and judicial privileges prescribed under Article 634 (2 & 3) of the Criminal Procedure Code;
- Increasing to 48 hours, the time required for payment to the Treasury of the proceeds from auctioned products (Article 148).

For Institutions

Administration in charge of forest (MINFOF)

- MINFOF should assume full responsibility for carrying out of forest inventory as enshrined in the forestry law of 1994. The results of all inventories should be uploaded into the SIGIF as well as made available to the respective permit holders;
- MINFOF has to embark on a nationwide sensitization campaigns to ensure the appropriation of various forest management and conservation tools that have been developed to improve monitoring and the management of forest resources, notably NIFM. Strengthen institutional and structural capacities, especially of NCB and RCB (office, documentation, archiving system, logistical and financial resources, staff training, etc.);
- Revamp the IO and formalize MINFOF-CSO partnership in independent observation of forest management, monitoring and control of forest activities;
- Render SIGICOF functional to improve the monitoring of litigations and partnership between MINFOF and other administrative departments involved in litigation management (MINFI (Customs), competent courts and forces of law and order (gendarmerie, police) ;
- Improve the collection of statistical data and archiving of documents, particularly at checkpoints and Forestry and Wildlife Post of Douala Port I and II.
- There is need for technical capacity building for communities with community forests. In

order to ensure the respect of exploitation norms in community forest, it is necessary to train technicians within the management committee responsible for forest operations in identification and tree marking for felling.

- The administration also has to sensitise the communities on the risk of changing the status of community forest, particularly problems of ownership which could arise and the sustainability of the forest which could no longer satisfy population needs.
- Improve the organization of the NTFP sector to facilitate monitoring and control and especially the payment of taxes;
- Strengthen the control and monitoring of small permits which are prone to corruption. Formalize the national timber market to render it easy to monitor and control;
- Reduce the number of check points along the various transportation roads to save time and deter corruption;
- Advocate for forestry staff to be included in the inspection team of final loading for shipment at the SEPBC and scanning operation at the DIT terminals.

For Partner Administrations

MINFI (PSRF)

- Strengthen the fight against the various forms of fraud by improving cooperation with other administrations (such as Customs, Justice, Security Forces, social organizations or inspectorate of Labour ...);
- link the forest revenue control system to the legality control system;
- Improve the collaboration with MINFOF by harmonizing tax recovery procedures and other forest fees and facilitate traceability for logs and processed timber. Promote increase collaboration at checkpoints, control of processing companies and especially at the Douala Port 1 and SEPBC loading terminal.

Gendarmerie and Police

- Forces of law and Order (Gendarmerie) and police, for good collaboration, must give their support in the strict respect of texts regulating their competences as judicial police officers (special and general).

Customs

- To facilitate access of MINFOF control teams into SEPBC Park and DIT terminal during loading of timber to ensure that appropriate species are loaded.

Justice

- Improve collaboration with MINFOF when taking decisions on cases of the forest-wildlife sector.

For development partners

- Partners should continue their support to MINFOF in executing projects for capacity building in monitoring and control such as SIGIF 2, traceability, CD2-MINFOF-PSFE and fight against corruption;
- support actions in favour of transparency and strengthening the capacity of actors in the management of forestry litigations;
- Support the civil society in activities of independent observation of monitoring and forest control.
- Continue their support for continuation of independent observation in monitoring and control of forest management activities.

For forest companies (economic operators)

- Specify systematically export volumes to harmonize export data;
- Specify systematically the origin of exported timber for reliable traceability.

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Annexes

Annex 1: List of resources persons

	Names and surnames	Functions	Institutions
01	Amougou Georges	Sub-Director of Transformation	MINFOF
02	Njounjoure Manjeli Aichetou	Chief of Service for Forest Management	MINFOF
03	Belinga Salomon Janvier	Sub-Director of Approvals and Forest Taxation	MINFOF
04	Boyomo Pie Guentang	Controller at the national Control Brigade	MINFOF
05	Bruno Ewusi Njombe	Deputy General Manager	ANAFOR
06	Daou Zacharie	Jurist	ANAFOR
07	Denis Koulagna	Secretary General	MINFOF
08	Dongmo René	Littoral Regional Chief of Control Brigade	MINFOF
09	Ebot Yvonne	Chief of Forestry and Wildlife Post Douala Port 1	MINFOF
10	Foahom Bernard	Forest Researcher	IRAD
11	Kongape Jean Avit	Inspector N°1	MINFOF
12	Moise Niassan	Former Sub-Director of Community Forests	MINFOF
13	Mboutou Fidel	MINFOF staff at the MINFI/MINFOF Forestry checkpoint	MINFOF
14	Mendomo Mbiang Jean Daniel	Chief of Service for mapping	MINFOF
15	Ndabekai Thérèse Danielle	MINFI staff at the MINFI/MINFOF Forestry checkpoint	MINFI
16	Ngansop Jean Paul	Chief of Service for Documentation	ANAFOR
17	Ngibaot Flavien	Chief of National Control Brigade	MINFOF
18	Ndangang Vincent	Inspector N°2	MINFOF
19	Nkie Cyrille Martin	Sub Director of Inventory and Forest Management	MINFOF
20	Ottou Ange	Chief of Service for Reservation and Simple Management Plans for Community Forests	MINFOF
21	Pandong Eitel	Regional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife for Littoral Region	MINFOF
22	Tekwe Charles	Regional Chief of Service for Transformation and Promotion, Littoral	MINFOF
23	Tende Augustine Ashu	Chief of Forestry and Wildlife Post Douala Port 2	MINFOF
24	Yadji Bello	Former Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas	MINFOF
25	Yaya Moumini	Chief of Forestry and Wildlife Post Douala Port 2	MINFOF

Annex 2: Code of conduct and professional ethics for personnel of the ministry of forestry and wildlife on control mission.

This document is presented as a separate document link to this report

TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, is the leading non-governmental organization working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

TRAFFIC is a strategic alliance of WWF and IUCN

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