

CAMEROON TIMBER TRACKING SYSTEM AND SYSTEM OF VERIFICATION OF LEGALITY

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1.VPA/FLEGT BETWEEN CAMEROON AND EUROPEAN UNION

The contribution of the European Union to the fight of illegal exploitation of forests is part of the **FLEGT Action Plan** which proposes to timber exporting countries, the negotiation of Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA).

Negotiation Process

- ✗ 2003 (october), Yaounde Declaration: African ministerial declaration on forest law enforcement and governance;
- ✗ 2005: Adoption of european regulation on timber;
- ✗ 2005-06 : Designation of Germany as facilitator of FLEGT negotiation in Cameroon = preliminary work on grid of legality and timber tracking
- ✗ 2007 : Opening of FLEGT negotiations;
- ✗ 2010 : Signature of Agreement (06 Octobre);
- ✗ 2011 Ratification of the agreement by the two parties (february for EU and august for Cameroon;
- ✗ December 2011: Enforcement of VPA;

1.VPA/FLEGT BETWEEN CAMEROON AND EUROPEAN UNION

VPA Implications

- ✕ VPA/FLEGT settle down between Cameroon and European Union a FLEGT Authorisation Regime.
- ✕ It lays down a set of requirements and procedures in order to verify that wood and its derivatives to the European Union are legally produced and attested fit for FLEGT authorisations
- ✕ FLEGT authorisation Regime is based on the system of verification of legality (SVL)
- SVL is an efficient means of distinguishing timber and derivatives of legal origin from those of illicit origin.
- It permits to be sure every time and anywhere that only legal wood and derivatives circulate in Cameroon.

2.SYSTEM OF VERIFICATION OF THE LEGALITY (SVL)

- ✗ System of Verification of the Legality (SVL) uses legality assessment grid which contains criteria and indicators and Timber tracking system

Its functioning is based on six(06) elements :

1. Verification of legality of forest enterprises;
2. National follow up of forest activity;
3. National control of forest activity;
4. Verification of conformity of chain of custody (CoC);
5. FLEGT autorisations issuance;
6. Independant audit;

SVL leads to the issuance of certificates of legality and FLEGT autorisations .

3. TIMBER TRACKING SYSTEM

3.1 Developer of the software (application)

Wood tracking system in Cameroon is being developed by SGS-Helveta consortium with financial support of European Union

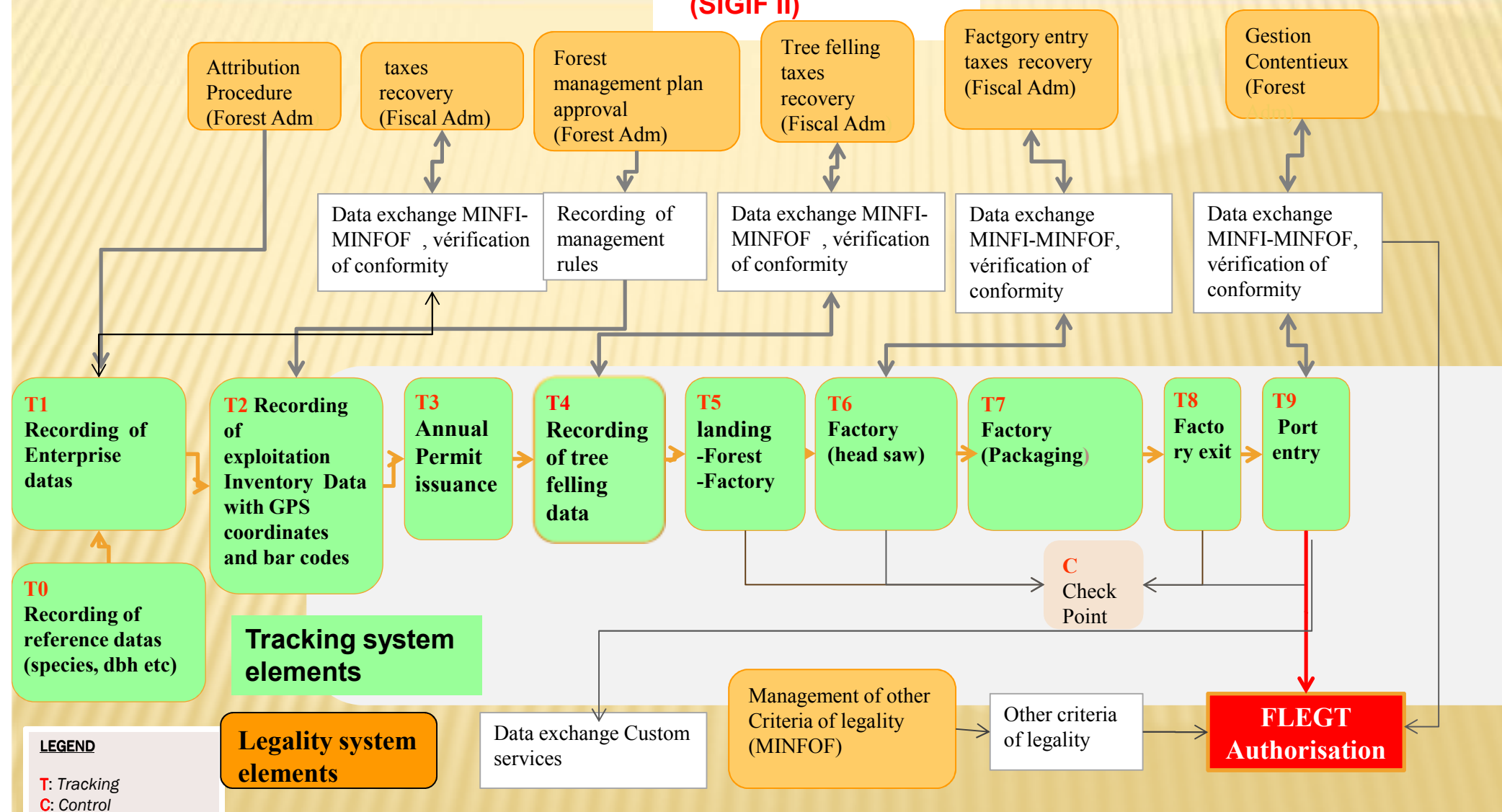
3.2 Functioning of the system

- ✕ Its functioning is based on some principles:
 - Central database is SIGIF II located in MINFOP (computerized forest information management system of the second generation) accessible to all forest actors
 - It has interconnection to the databases of other administrations so as to consolidate informations:
 - **SIGICOF** which is the forest administration system for monitoring forest offenses;
 - **MESURE** which is the fiscal administration system for recovering fiscal taxes
 - **SYDONIA** which is the customs software for following up the payment of custom duties
 - It takes to account other aspects of legality of other administrations dealing with conformity of aspects as social, environmental

3. TIMBER TRACKING SYSTEM

- It functions on customer/centralised database method with limited access
- It responsabilise forest operators in data entry and declaration
- It enhances transparency by providing reliable information to forest actors
- It concerns all titles (FMU, short-terms titles or ventes de coupe, Council forests, communities forests, salvation of timber before layout of development projects, timber of auction, private plantations, domestic wood etc.)
- It integrates timber on transit from the neighbouring countries (CEMAC)
- It begins with exploitation inventory done within standards where every tree has a reference digitised code (bar code) through processing to exit ports
- It is electronic (fast and reliable) and documentary (waybill and field register)
- It uses the computerized application (CI Word) with blocking systems
- There are three main blocking aspects in the application:
 - if there is no permit issued by the administration on the basis of approved exploitation inventory results recorded in the application
 - if a company is in a breach of the forest rules
 - when there is no fiscal taxes payment
- The system will function with fewer checkpoints (at some principal points in the itinerary, landing parc, entry of factory, port) to be less embarrassing
- It can be audited independently in a periodic time according to VPA

OVERALLVIEW OF THE COMPUTERIZED FOREST INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SIGIF II)



3. TIMBER TRACKING SYSTEM

3.3 Progress report on layout of the system

- The Application has been developed and tested satisfactory in one Forest Management Unit with support of European funding
- The field test started from exploitation inventory, cross-cutting, transport and processing of logs, loading and transporting of processed lumber to the exit port;
- Final result was the emission of specification bulletin
- Sensitisation is going on towards all forest actors (public administration, NGO, populations etc.) with financial support of ACP-FLEGT FAO Program and German cooperation (GIZ) and needs to be pursued to reach to lowest level of actors
- Training of forest administration team in central level on tracking system has been done and needs to be reinforced and extended to all external services and companies
- The legal framework and administrative structural organisation of the ministry are being reviewed to adapt to the VPA requirements

3. TIMBER TRACKING SYSTEM

- The labellisation procedures of Cameroon FLEGT timber and derivatives is putting in place by ACP-FLEGT FAO Project

3.3 Needs and Perspectives

- The test of the application (software) is needed to be extended to all types of titles to appreciate its efficiency and flexibility
- At this moment the SIGIF II is not complete. It's only based on tracking system because of the misunderstanding between the selected developer of the system(SGS-Helveta consortium) and EU on the forestry administration needs
- It needs other modules of legality to be developed (social, fiscal, environmental and litigation aspects)
- Now the ToRs of the those modules development are written and the developer will be selected very soon with the financial support of basket fund put in place by our development partners
- But it needs additional funds

3. TIMBER TRACKING SYSTEM

- There is a big need of training of administration teams (field and central), operators, NGOs
- It needs to solve the problem of domestic wood market supply
- There is a need of equipments for the small enterprises, councils and communities (due to the costs)
- It needs a good satellite cover to permit operators to transfer datas to database from anywhere
- The prospective date of implementation is 2014 after 2013 transitory year during which all actors must trained on using the system
- We hope that at that time all the actors will be able to use the system

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION