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REPORT



State of the timber sector in Central African Republic (2016)

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Foreword

The forests of the Central African Republic, home to exceptional biodiversity, play a very important economic, social and ecological role. From an economic standpoint, forestry operations generate 11% of the GDP and 13% of the export earnings, thus contributing to the country's economic development. From a socio-cultural angle, much of the population lives in the forests, where the people find most of their food and medicine, and can earn their livelihood. And from an ecological perspective, forests provide a certain number of environmental services, including the fight against global warming.

The traditional man-nature equilibrium that emanates from the forests seems to have unravelled. One of the main causes is the illegal and disorderly exploitation of forest resources. The stakes are high, and the challenge we must face is to maintain the capacity to guarantee decent living conditions for the more than five million people of the Central African Republic, especially to maintain the natural living conditions of the indigenous people without jeopardising the well being of future generations by over exploiting our natural resources.

The Central African Republic (CAR) is firmly engaged in a new development-oriented forest policy aimed at establishing a forest resources protection, conservation, and optimisation system truly accommodates the interests of the people. The logging companies are closely involved in these land development efforts.

In 2012 CAR signed a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the European Union on the application of forest law, governance and trade in timber and derived products. This decision reflects our commitment to sound and sustainable forest management.

The Government's commitment has led to increased transparency that has *inter alia* led to the production and publication of this report entitled: "The State of the timber sector in Central African Republic (2016)". Many actors from the government services, the civil society and the private sector contributed data to this report.

The purpose of this report is to provide decision-makers, partners in development and all other persons interested in the forest sector with a complete, and high quality information base.

Alerte Sombo-Dibele

Minister of Environment, Sustainable
Development, Forests, Hunting and Fishing

Introduction

The Central African Republic (CAR) has a total land area of 623,000 km² of which close to 23 million hectares, i.e. 37%, is composed of forested lands. In the southwestern part of the country all forest operations are industrial. At present there are 11 logging companies, with an average annual production of close to 400,000 m³. Exports of logs and sawn timber are, respectively, close to 160,000 m³ and 40,000 m³. The timber sector accounts for 11% of the GDP and 13% of the country's export earnings. The main destinations of CAR timber are Europe (47%) and Asia (49%).

In 2012, the Central African Republic concluded a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the European Union (EU) on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) in timber and derived products exported to the EU.

According to the VPA the Central African Republic shall ensure that all the stakeholders understand the terms of the VPA and the FLEGT licencing scheme correctly. Access to information on the objectives, implementation, monitoring and controls that will allow for more thorough understanding of the processes, and the participation of all parties to the Agreement will contribute to the fulfilment of the VPA goals. The purpose of Annex XI of the VPA, entitled "Publishing Information" is to meet the transparency requirement.

The information is divided into 9 sections and several sub-sections. The main sections focus on the following subjects:

1. Legal information
2. Information on procedures for allocating permits
3. Information on forest management
4. Information on production
5. Information on processing

6. Information on Legality Assurance System (LAS)
7. Information on the independent audit
8. Information on the payment of forest taxes and fees
9. Information on the institutional set-up

To summarise the abundant, different formats of information available, the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Waters, Forests, Hunting and Fishing (MEDDEFCP), with assistance from the FAO-FLEGT programme, prepared this document entitled "The State of the Timber Sector in the Central African Republic (2016)", as a compendium and a graphical interface to support the raw data published on the website. This document includes a background analysis of certain data that should contribute to a better understanding of their origin and significance.

This document does not deal with section on regulatory texts and documents such as the section entitled "Legal information" that does not require quantified explanations. Similarly, there are some sections, such as "information on the Legality Assurance System" and the section on the independent audits that will only be available after the first FLEGT licences have been issued, hence they will not be included in this first edition of the report on the state of the timber sector.

Some information is not available on the website because the forest services are still compiling it or because it is still being analysed, e.g. data on timber processing. These subjects are marked "Data not yet available".

The structure of this document is based on the remaining sections and sub-sections which are presented in the same order as they are on the website

1 Information on the procedures for allocating permits

1.1 PEAs

1.1.1 List of valid permits with the names of the beneficiary persons and/or companies

The forest management permits called PEAs (management and harvesting permits) authorise industrial logging within the bounds of national laws and regulations. The PEAs contain special clauses from a forest management agreement that the company signs with the State. In 2016, out of 14 PEAs awarded, 9 were operational, 3 were dormant and 2 were very recent (Table 1).

Besides the PEAs, 16 artisanal permits were allocated between 2010 and 2016

1.2 Planted forests

1.2.1 Plantation operating permits

Between 2013 and 2016, four permits were allocated to teak plantations. Two operators signed the terms of reference and farmed the plantations. Other applications are being studied. Information on the plantations and the movement of timber obtained subsequent to permit allocation is not yet available.

Table 1. PEAs awarded, by company

#	PEA	Company	Total land area (ha)	Useable land area (ha)	Year awarded	Status 2016*
1	164	THANRY Centrafrique	228,000	202,228	1990	o
2	165	IFB	207,580	89,284	1994	o
3	169	IFB	195,500	137,585	1996	d
4	171	SCAD	473,088	333,692	1996	d
5	174	SEFCA	396,303	335,031	1998	o
6	175	SOFOKAD	190,943	79,352	1999	d
7	183	SEFCA	326,048	241,860	2007	o
8	184	VICA	387,811	201,932	2004	o
9	186	IFB	216,970	62,122	2007	o
10	188	Timberland Ind.	228,339	204,695	2014	o
11	189	STBCA	211,131	192,033	2014	n
12	190	SINFOCAM	234,646	192,986	2014	o
13	191	RSM	269,417	203,657	2015	n
14	192	SCB	156,531	88,547	2015	o
Total			3,722,307	2,565,004		

Note: * o=Operational, d= Dormant, n=recently allocated to a company not yet in the production phase

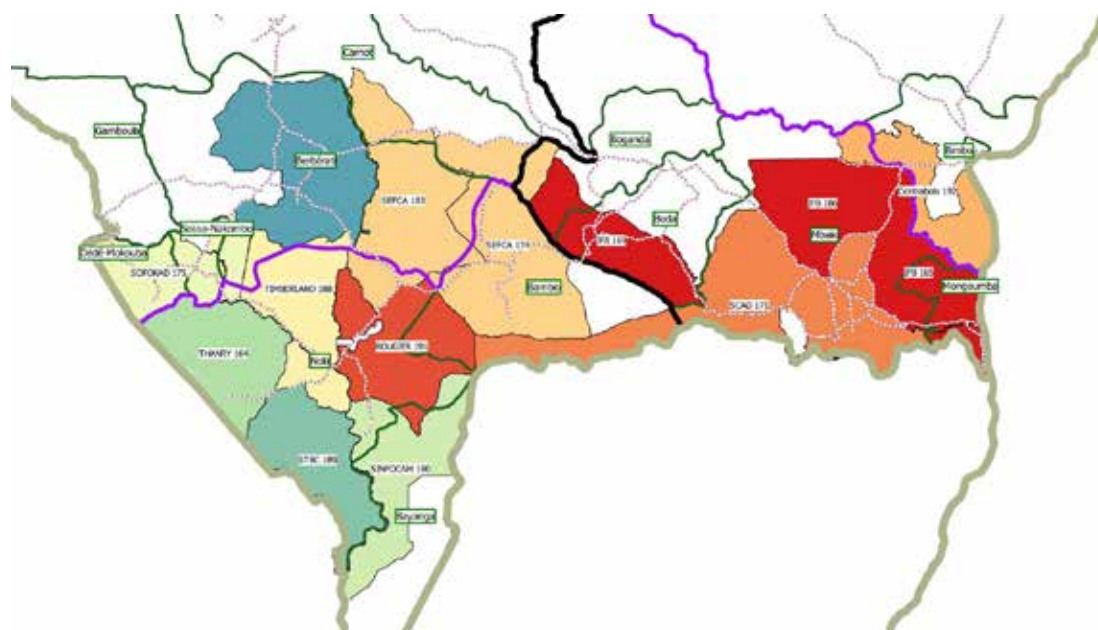


Figure 1. Location of PEAs

Source: Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Forests, Hunting and Fishing, 2016

1.2.2 List of State plantations

Table 2. Forest plantation sites (2016)

No.	Site	Area (ha)	Species
1	Sakpa (Bimbo)	201	Gmélina
	Kabo(Boali)	326	Teak, Sapin, Eucalyptus
	Gbango(Damara)	135	Teak, Gmélina, Eucalyptus
	Boali Centre	32	Teak
	Imohoro	27	Teak, Gmélina, Acacia, Mangium
	Yaloké	14	Teak, Acacia
	Sion (Damara)	24	Mangium
2	M'baïki	67	Teak, Eucalyptus
	Ndala	48	Gmélina, Teak
	Boda	59	Teak
3	Nola	7	Teak
4	Ouagbéré (Berbérati)	8	Teak
	M'béssa (Berbérati)	76	Teak, Gmélina
5	Bolé	80	Gmélina, Teak
	Paya	30	Gmélina, Teak
	Garouasougbedé	40	Gmélina, Teak
	Axe yolé	10	Teak
6	Bozoum, axe Bossangoa	10	Shea tree
	Bozoum, axe Bangui	100	Gmélina, Eucalyptus
	Bosséptélé	10	Teak

Continued on next page

Table 2. Continued

No.	Site	Area (ha)	Species
7	Mitou	70	Teak
	Voûh	40	Teak, Eucalyptus
	Bureau	40	Kayas
	Axe Bozoum	240	Teak, Karité, Kayas
	Youri	60	Shea tree, Kayas, Teak
	Nana Bakassa	15	Teak, Gméline
8	Kporpo	250	Shea tree, Acacia, Teak
	Nambéa	22	Shea tree
	Ndowara	47.5	Gméline, Teak, Acacia
	M'brés I	10	Teak
	M'brés II	10	Teak
9	Ouhi	80	Eucalyptus, Shea tree
	Ndéle	25	Gméline, Eucalyptus
10	Birao I	36	Acacia gum arabica
	Birao II	30	Eucalyptus, Gméline, Teak
	Amdafock	10	
11	Galafondo	15	Teak
	Sibut	10	Teak, Eucalyptus
	Sibut PK 4	52	Eucalyptus, Teak
	Axe Bambari	15	Teak
12	Gbomengué	380	Shea tree, Acacia, Mangium
	Gounoumara	220	Eucalyptus
	PladamaOuaka	120	Gméline, Acacia
	Bangala	75	Eucalyptus
	Bengué	120	Eucalyptus
	Grimari	120	Tareara
	Ippy	60	
13	Bria	12	Teak, Gméline, Acacia
14	Gbamangui (Mobaye)	45	Teak
	Gbarandou (Alindao)	48	Teak, Acacia, Gméline
	Mbia	36	Gméline
	Kéré	35	Teak, Limba
15	Bangassou (Ngalara)	21.5	Teak, Acacia
	Bangassou (Kongoraison)	26.5	Teak, Acacia
16	Zémio	1	Teak
17	Gendarmérie	5	Teak
	Ngaragba	6	Teak
	Landja	11	Teak, Gméline
	Ndrès	1.75	
Total		3,725	

2 Information on forest management

2.1 Management and harvesting permits (PEA)

ROUGIER Sangha-Mbaéré and STBCA) have not yet produced their forest management plans.

2.1.1 Environmental assessment reports (Environmental Impact Assessment, EIA)

The environmental evaluation reports are being validated.

2.1.2 Forest management plans, and list and total land areas of concessions under management

Nine forest management plans can be accessed on the website. The other companies (Centra-Bois, SINFOCAM, TIMBERLANDS Industries,

2.2 Plantations

2.2.1 Environmental assessment reports (Environmental Impact Assessment, EIA)

The environmental assessment reports are currently being validated.

2.2.2 Simplified forest management plan

The country does not yet have simplified forest management plans for eligible reforestation areas.

Table 3. List of PEA with forest management plans posted on the website.

#	PEA	Company	Total land area	Useable land area	Development plan available on website Y = Yes
1	174	SEFCA*	396,303	335,031	Y
2	183	SEFCA	326,048	241,860	Y
3	165	IFB	207,580	89,284	Y
4	169	IFB*	195,500	137,585	Y
5	186	IFB	216,970	62,122	Y
6	171	SCAD	473,088	333,692	Y
7	184	VICA*	387,811	201,932	Y
8	175	SOFOKAD	190,943	79,352	Y
9	164	THANRY RCA*	228,000	202,228	Y

* = Companies that also have a forest development plan

3 Information on production

3.1 Total annual production of timber and derived products in all the operational PEA areas

The annual production dropped from about 670,000 m³ in the beginning of the century to about 420,000 m³ in 2016. It sunk to an all-time low in 2014 (about 235,000 m³), but has been picking up again since (Figure 2).

As seen in the other Congo Basin countries, a small number of species account for 70-80% of the total production. During the last six years, the production of Ayous (*Triplochyton scleroxylon*) declined while the production of Mukulungu (*Austranella congolensis*), Tali (*Erythropleum ivorense*) and Iroko (*Milicia excelsa*) rose (Figure 3).

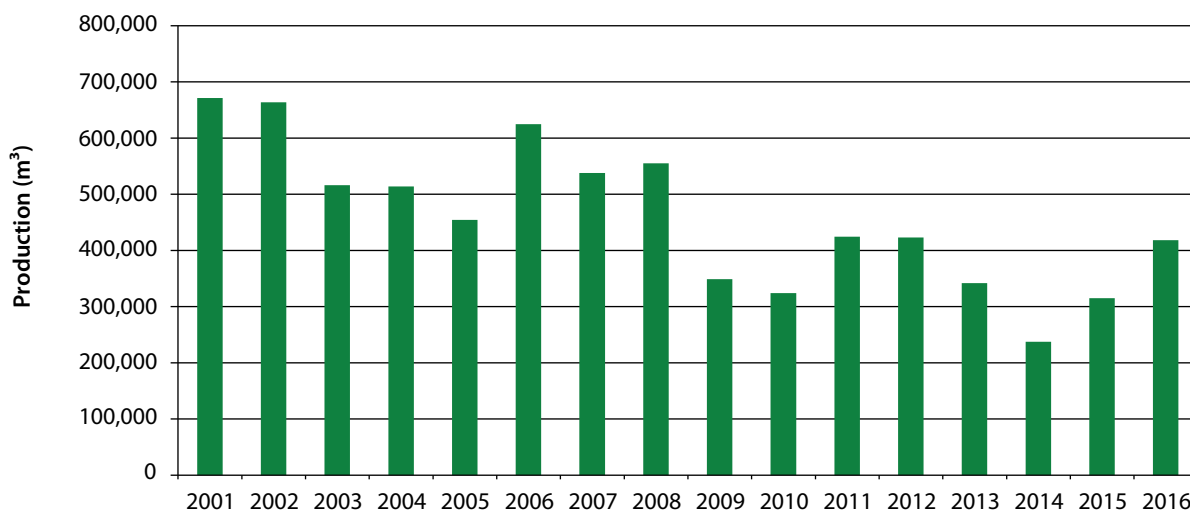


Figure 2. Total production, PEA areas (2001-2016, cubic metres)

Source: Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Forests, Hunting and Fishing, 2016

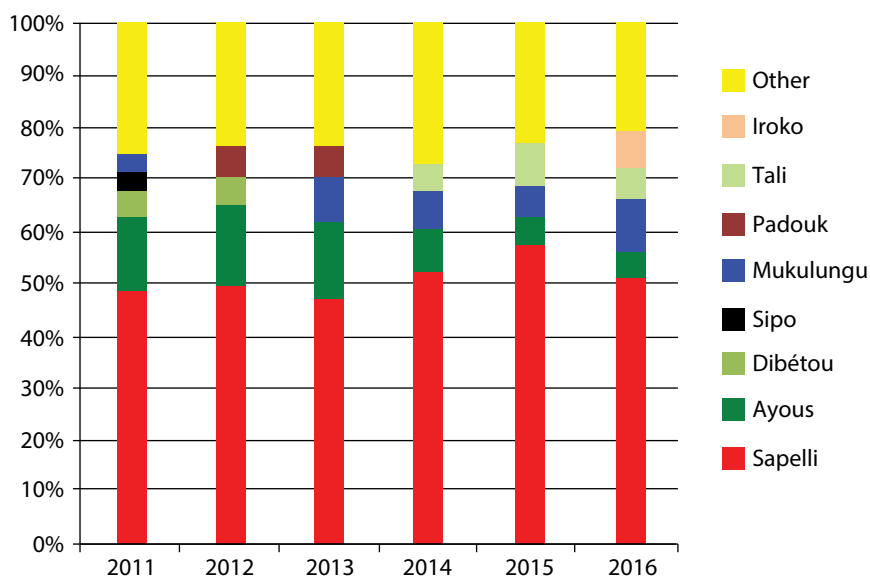


Figure 3. Production per species in the PEA areas (%)

Source: Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Forests, Hunting and Fishing, 2016

3.2 Total annual production of timber and derived products in all the operating plantations.

Work in progress.

3.3 Annual volume of timber and derived products for processing at the national level, per species, per permit, and per company

Alongside the downturn in total production, came a decline in the sawn timber production of about 110,000 m³ in the beginning of the century, falling

to 33,000 m³ in 2016 (the all-time low was in 2014) (Figure 4).

According to the law, 70% of the production must be processed in the country. The volume processed as a percentage of the total volume produced has fallen significantly, from approximately 49% in 2001 to 23% in 2016.

Close to 30 species are processed, but Sapelli (*Entandrophragma cylindricum*), Ayous, Dibétou (*Lovoa trichilioides*) and Kossipo (*Entandrophragma candollei*), account for more than half of the total volume, and one company alone, SEFCA does more than half the processing (Figure 5 and Figure 6)

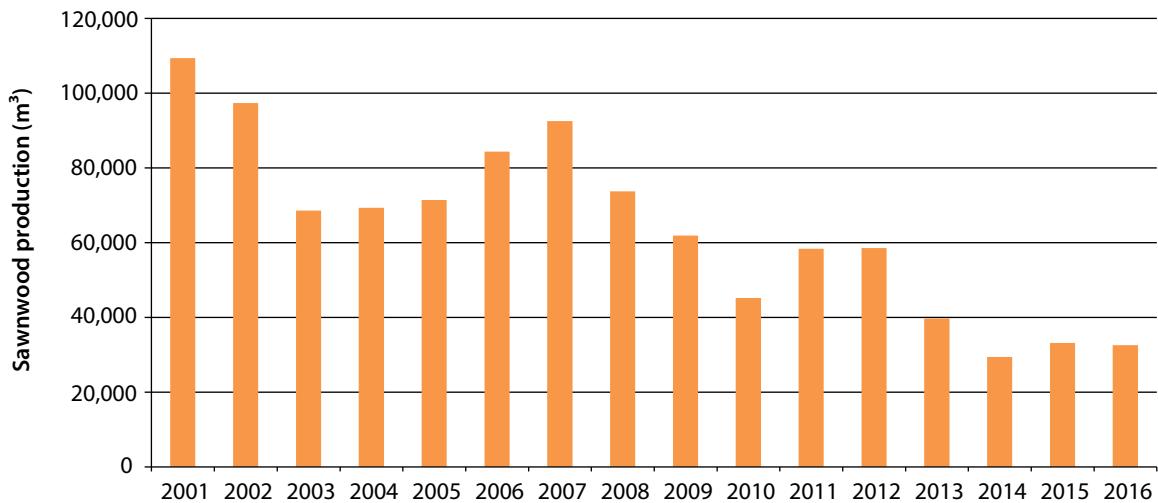


Figure 4. Total sawnwood production (2005-2016)

Source: Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Forests, Hunting and Fishing, 2016

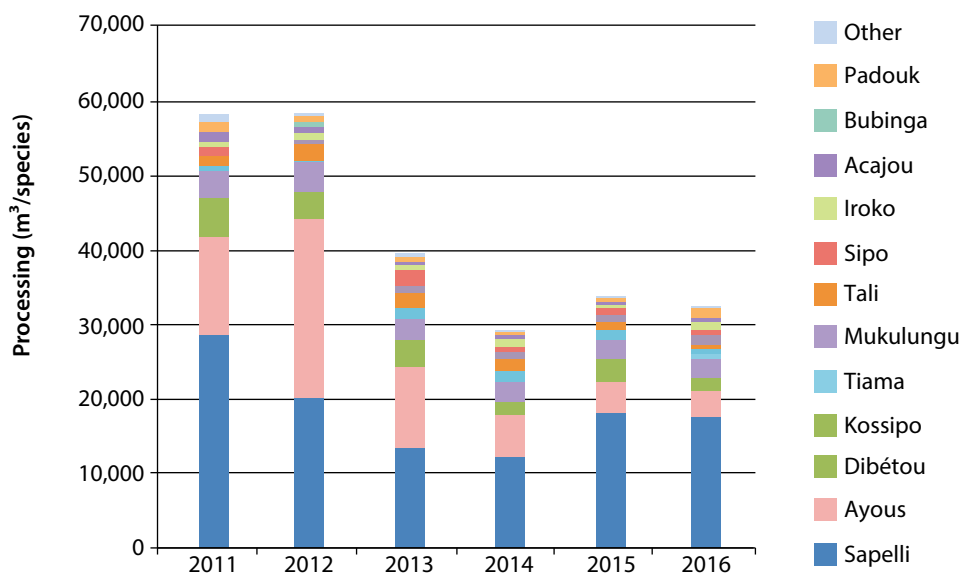


Figure 5. Processing per species (2011-2016)

Source: Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Forests, Hunting and Fishing, 2016

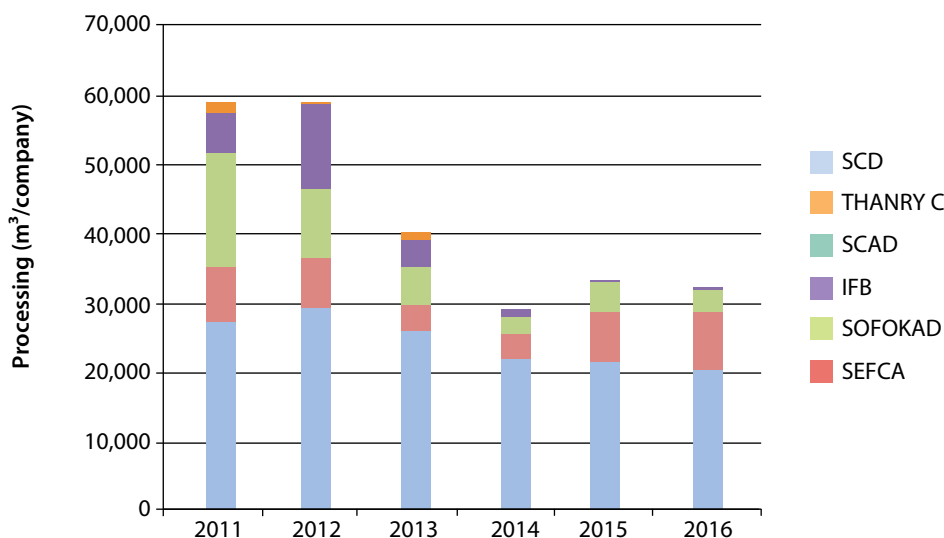


Figure 6. Processing per company (2011-2016)

Source: Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Forests, Hunting and Fishing, 2016

These data indicate that there are only four processing companies in CAR and that two of them are deemed dormant. SOFOKAD stopped its logging operations several years ago and now processes part of the trees felled under the VICA (184) permit in its industrial plant at Dédé Moukouboua.

3.4 List of destination countries and volumes exported, per species, per permit and per company

Log exports fell from about 300,000 m³ at the beginning of the century to about 184,000 m³ in

2016, hence up to levels reached prior to the 2008-2010 crisis, while the export of sawn timber dropped from about 73,000 m³ to about 30,000 m³ during that same period (Figure 7).

As in the production component, a small number of companies and species account for the major part of the log exports (Figure 8 and Figure 9).

The same observation can be made for sawn timber exports (Figure 10 and Figure 11) with Sapelli, Ayous and Kossipo accounting for most of the exports.

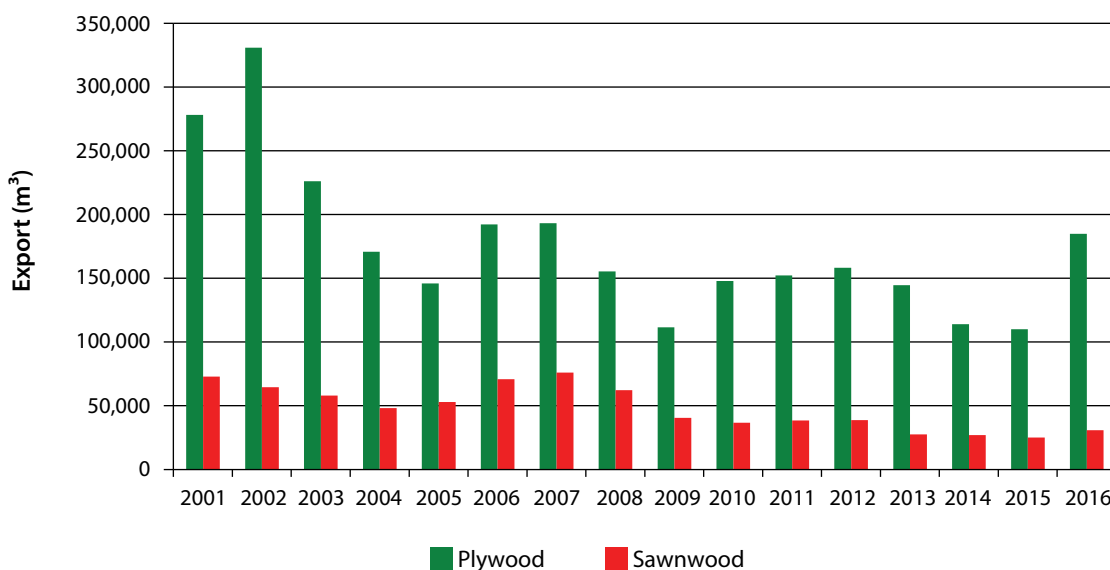


Figure 7. Log and sawn timber exports (2001-2016)

Source: Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Forests, Hunting and Fishing, 2016

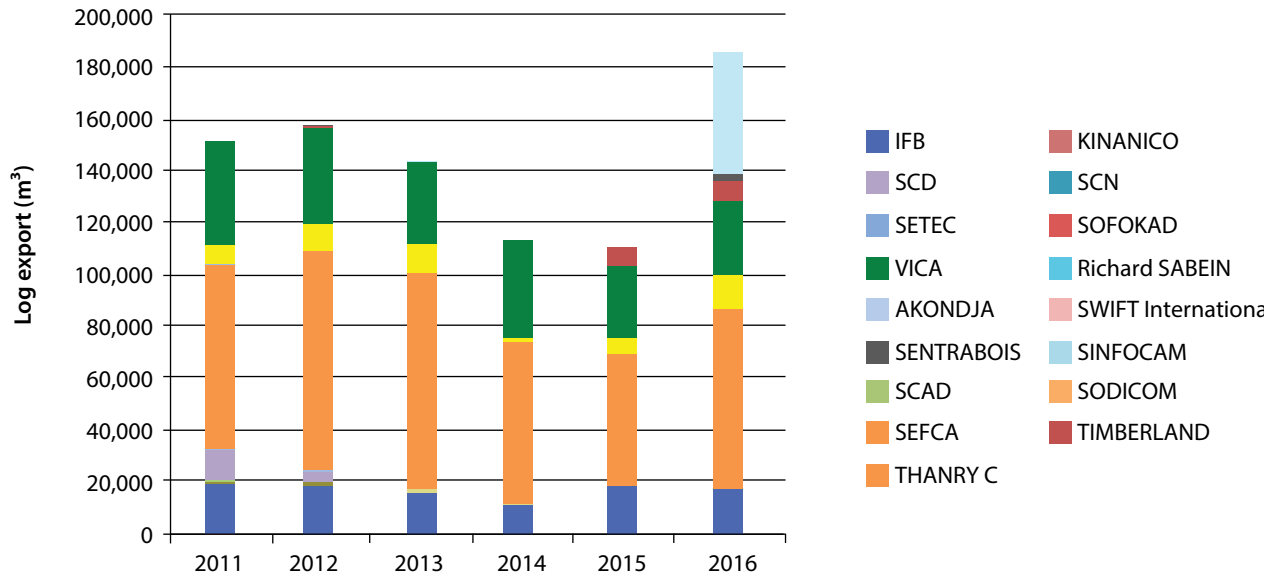


Figure 8. Log exports per company (2011-2016)

Source: Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Forests, Hunting and Fishing, 2016

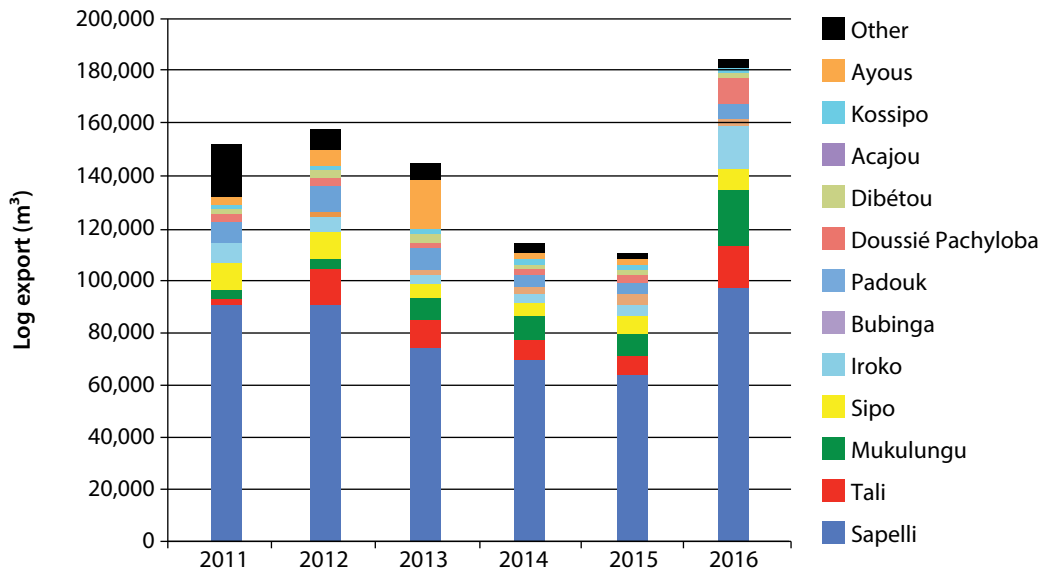


Figure 9. Log exports per species (2011-2016)

Source: Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Forests, Hunting and Fishing, 2016

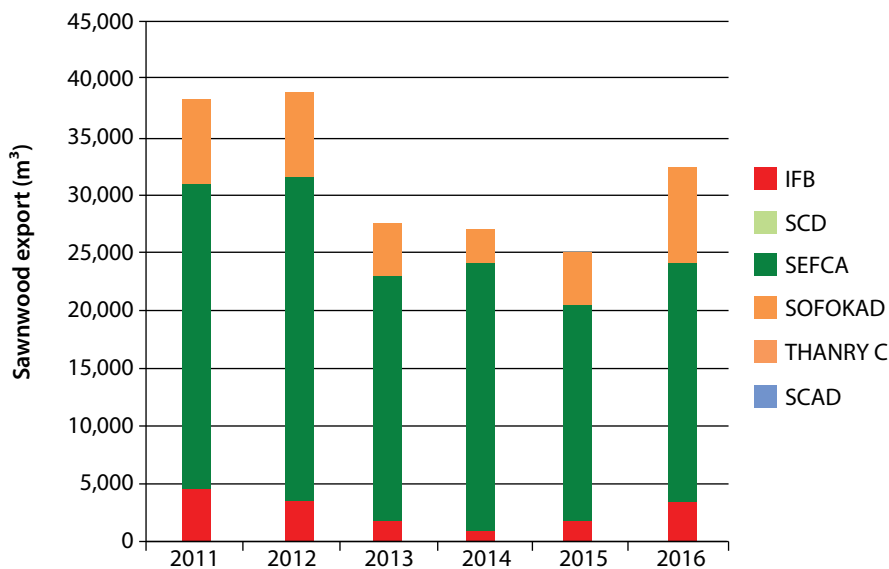


Figure 10. Sawntimber exports per company (2011-2016)

Source: Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Forests, Hunting and Fishing, 2016

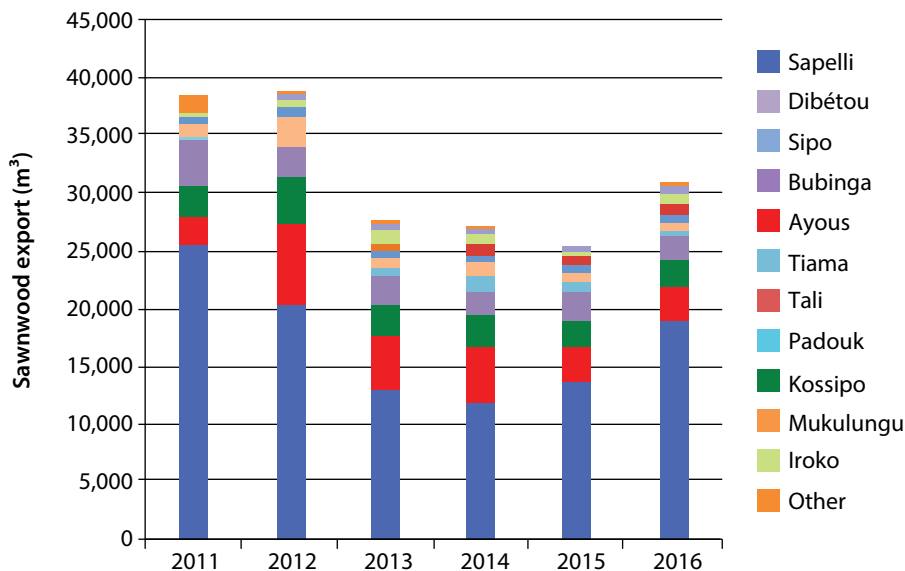


Figure 11. Sawntimber exports, per species (2011-2016)

Source: Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Forests, Hunting and Fishing, 2016

3.5 Annual volume of timber confiscated

Work in progress.

3.6 Annual volume of timber that transited through CAR and country of origin

In 2016, a total of 3,207 m³ of roundwood and 5,810 m³ of sawn timber were hauled from Republic

of Congo and transited through CAR. Information on timber transiting through CAR before 2016 is not available.

3.7 Volumes on the CAR market

Figures on local sales declared by the formal sector indicate a very severe downturn over the last few years, except for sawnwood sales that reached about 11,000 m³ in 2012 (Figure 12).

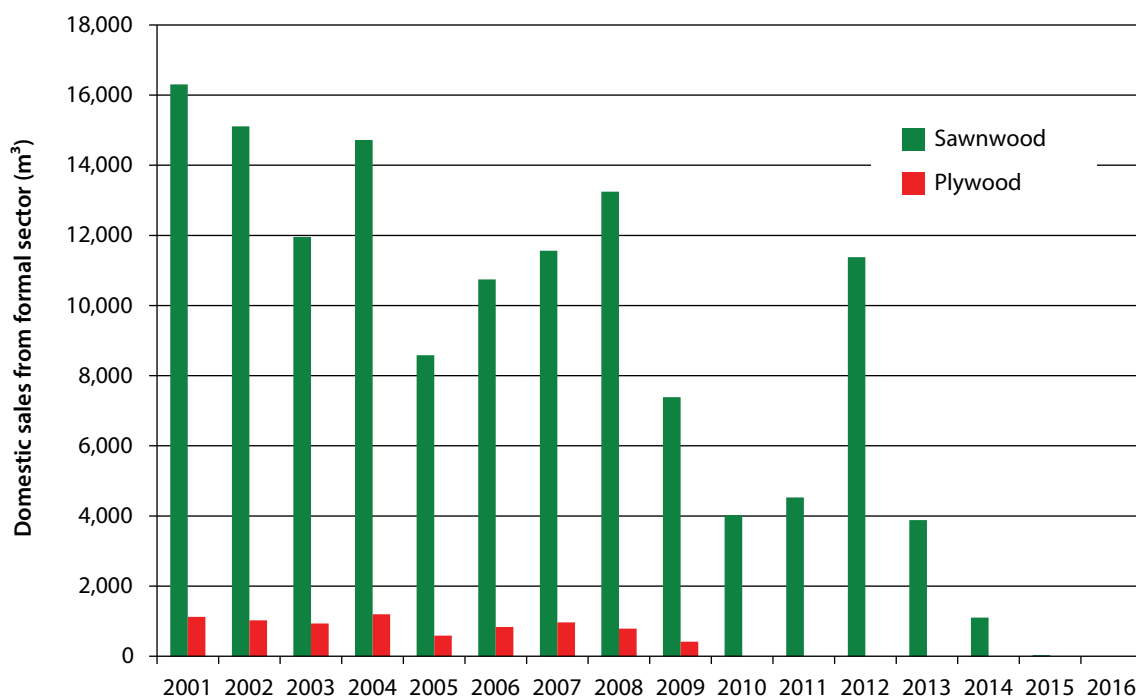


Figure 12. Local sales by the formal sector (2001-2016)

Source: Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Forests, Hunting and Fishing, 2016

4 Information on processing

4.1 List of approved processing companies

Company	Pea no.	Action zone	Date of award
I.F.B.	165	Batalimo (Lobaye) Scierie	24-Aug-94
Industrie Forestière de Batalimo	169	Ngotto (Lobaye)	7-Mar-96
	186	Lessé (Lobaye)	4-Apr-07
SCAD	171	Loko (Lobaye)	1- Mar -96
Société Centrafricaine de Déroulage	+ extension	Dolobo (Sawmill) Lobaye	12-Dec-04
SEFCA	174	Mbaéré	17-Jul-98
Société d'Exploitation Forestière Centrafricaine	et	Mambélé (Sangha-Mbaéré)	12-Dec-04
THANRY	183	Sawmill	
CENTRAFRIQUE	164	Bamba (Sangha-Mbaéré)	29-May-96
VICA		Sawmill (closed since 2010)	
Vicwood en Centrafrique*	184	Mambéré-Kadéï	12-Dec-04
SOFOKAD	175	SossoNakombo	15-Jan-99
Société Forestière de la Kadéï		Sawmill	
TIMBERLAND	188	Mambéré-Kadéï (Berbérati)	19-Apr-14
INDUSTRIE SA		Sangha Mbaéré (Nola)	
Société de Transformation de Bois Centrafricain (STBC)	189	Sangha Mbaéré (Nola)	19- Apr-14
SINFOCAM	190	Sangha Mbaéré (Bayanga)	11-Jun-14
ROUGIER	191	Sangha Mbaéré	24-Aug-15
CENTRABOIS	192	Ombella Mpoko	24-Aug-15
Sté SWIFT		Société d'exploitation de Teak	

* Company does not have a processing plant

4.2 Location of processing plants

A location map of the processing plants is not yet available.

5 Information on the Legality Assurance System (LAS)

Data for this section are not available for 2016.

6 Information on the independent audit

Data for this section are not available for 2016.



Log truck in a forest concession in CAR © Didier Hubert

7 Information on the payment of forest taxes and fees

7.1 Annual rent // Felling tax // Reforestation tax

Regarding redistribution, the annual rent for the land area covered by the permits was divided as follows: 70% for the Treasury Dept. and 30% for the *Compte d'Affectation Spéciale - Développement Forestier* (special account for forest development, CAS-DF). As of 2014, 20% the aforementioned 30% was remitted

to AGDRF (agency for sustainable management of forest resources) and 80% to CAS-DF.

Regarding the collection of forest taxes, collection figures are only available for the year 2016. The accounts of amounts due and amounts paid to AGDRF and the Treasury Dept. (felling and reforestation taxes and rent) show arrears of close to 1.3 billion CFA francs. Proportionately more is due to the Treasury Dept. than to AGDRF (Figure 14).

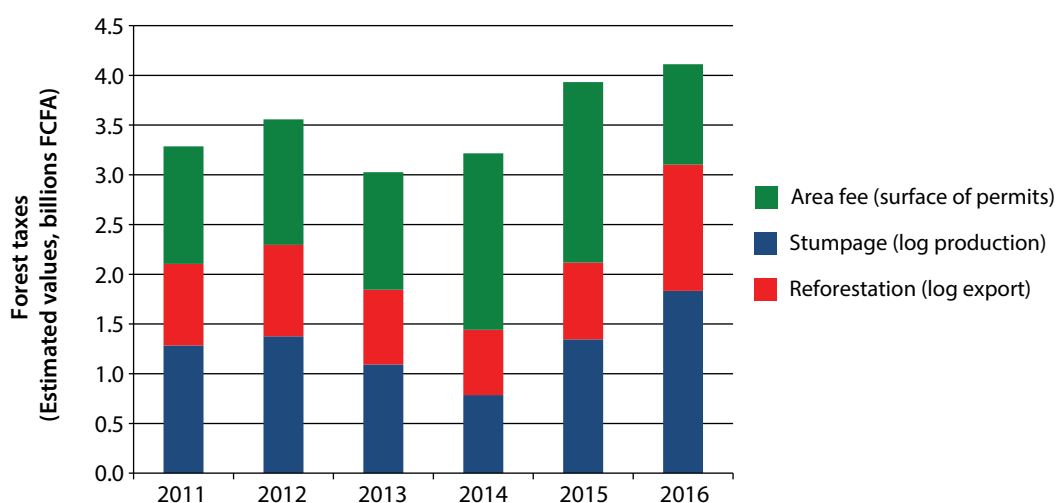


Figure 13. Forest taxes (aggregate revenue figures, 2011-2016)

Source: Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Forests, Hunting and Fishing, 2016

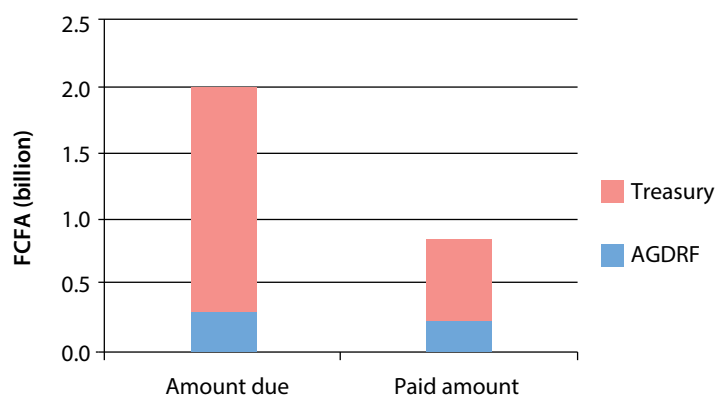


Figure 14. Amounts due, paid and booked by ADGRF and the Treasury Dept. (2016, felling and reforestation taxes, and rent)

Source: Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Forests, Hunting and Fishing, 2016

7.2 Export taxes

Since 2014, as production and exports increased, export taxes almost doubled (2014-2016).

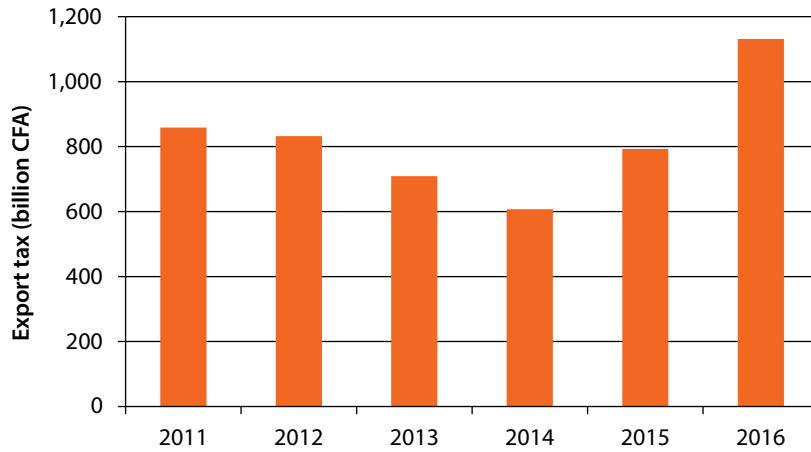


Figure 15. Export taxes

Source: Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Forests, Hunting and Fishing, 2016

8 Information on institutional set-up

Data for this section are not available for 2016.



Inventory preparation in a forest concession in CAR
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Conclusion

Annex XI of the VPA concluded between the Central African Republic and the European Union represents a strong commitment to transparency in the forest sector and contains all the important information on this sector (production, allocations, management, processing, taxation, etc.). It is accessible to the public on the APV website, which at present is only in French (www.apvrca.org).

This report is meant to be complementary to the database (accessible on the internet), by offering the reader a more thorough analysis of the information presented on the website. However, it is only the very first step. It can certainly be improved and gain in value if followed by future versions produced regularly and keyed to implementing CAR's

intentions through more comprehensive data collection and analysis.

These intentions are strongly encouraged and advanced by the urgent needs of European authorities and importers who, to abide by the EU Timber Regulations (EUTR), are looking for official, well-compiled information on wood and timber products that they control and/or commercialise. This type of publication is exactly what is needed and it is hoped that it will equip CAR to sustain, and even grow its market share in the EU and in other regions that are becoming increasingly strict with their suppliers about the legality of their imported wood and timber products.



The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

FAO is the specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Its goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. With over 194 member states, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide. FAO's headquarters are in Rome, Italy.

Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

CIFOR advances human well-being, equity and environmental integrity by conducting innovative research, developing partners' capacity, and actively engaging in dialogue with all stakeholders to inform policies and practices that affect forests and people. CIFOR is a CGIAR Research Center, and leads the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA). Our headquarters are in Bogor, Indonesia, with offices in Nairobi, Kenya, Yaounde, Cameroon, and Lima, Peru.

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