Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

CIFOR

REPORT

State of the timber sector in Cameroon (2015)

Paolo Omar Cerutti

Martin Mbongo

Marc Vandenhaute

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Preface

One of the key factors of transparency in the FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) is the permanent sharing of information on the forest sector. Annex VII of the VPA, called “Public Information” is devoted to this goal. Information-sharing is essential to strengthening governance as part of the VPA requirements on applying forestry regulations, governance, and trade relations to timber and timber-derived products destined for the EU market. With this in mind, the Internet is a favoured communication tool for making operations covered by the FLEGT licensing scheme transparent in Cameroon and in the European Union.

Cameroon, with support from the European Union, has been able to make the information in Annex VII available to the public through its website www.apvcameroun.cm, thereby fulfilling a major commitment it made in the VPA.

This source of information, that is open to the world, will contribute to a better understanding of the Cameroonian forest regulations, the titles awarded for forest operations and the timber supply sources and will also unquestionably contribute to due diligence applied to Cameroonian timber and timber-derived products being imported into the EU market, in keeping with the EU Timber Regulations, better known as the EUTR.

In light of the many activities related to the forest sector and the nature of the parties involved in forestry management, (e.g. government administrations, forest operators, traders, forest operators’ associations and unions, indigenous peoples, populations bordering the exploitation area), information on the forest sector needs to be shared to ensure that the VPA and the FLEGT licensing scheme are well understood by all the stakeholders. Access to information on the goals, implementation, monitoring and controls that will allow for a thorough understanding of the processes, and the involvement of all parties to the agreement will contribute to the fulfilment of the VPA objectives.

The main benefits expected from greater transparency in the forest sector include a better image of Cameroonian forestry products on EU markets and a more propitious investment environment for companies exporting timber to the European Union. The VPA provides for the sharing of information on the forest sector that is useful for research, statistics and due diligence. Annex VII includes 75 types of information, divided into 10 categories of information on legal issues, production, allocations, management, processing, exports, legality assurance system, audits, financial transactions and the institutional set up.

To update its website the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife invites national and international public opinion on how to improve the quality and quantity of the information.

We greatly appreciate working with the EU-FAO-FLEGT programme to implement the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA-FLEGT) in Cameroon. All parties involved with the agreement, including the media, are invited to avail themselves of the information contained in the VPA Annex VII, by consulting the abovementioned website.

Signed:
the Minister of Forests and Wildlife,
Ngole Philip Ngwese

Timber ready for processing into veneer (Paolo Omar Cerutti).

Forest operations and primary processing (Marc Vandenhaute and Emmanuel Groutel).

Introduction

The timber sector in Cameroon operates at the national level both in the Permanent Forest Domain (PFD) and Non-Permanent Forest Domain (NPFD). The PFD is composed of forest management units (FMU), council forests, protected areas and forest reserves (Figure 1).

On the other hand, the DFNP is composed of community forests, sales of standing volume (SSV, *ventes de coupe*) and several other types of timber exploitation authorisations, e.g. timber recovery permits, timber removal authorisations and lumber permits (*PEBO*).

Since 2010 a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) has been in place between the European Union and the Republic of Cameroon on the application of forest regulations, governance and trade in timber and timber-derived products destined for the EU market (FLEGT).

According to the VPA, the EU and Cameroon shall undertake to ensure that all parties involved properly understand the Agreement and the FLEGT licensing scheme. Access to information on goals, implementation, monitoring, and controls, that will allow for a thorough understanding of the processes and the involvement of all parties to the agreement, will contribute to the fulfilment of the VPA objectives. Annex VII of the VPA entitled “Published Information” has been drawn up to meet the requirements of transparency.

For the implementation of Annex VII, Cameroon created a website (www.apvcameroun.cm)

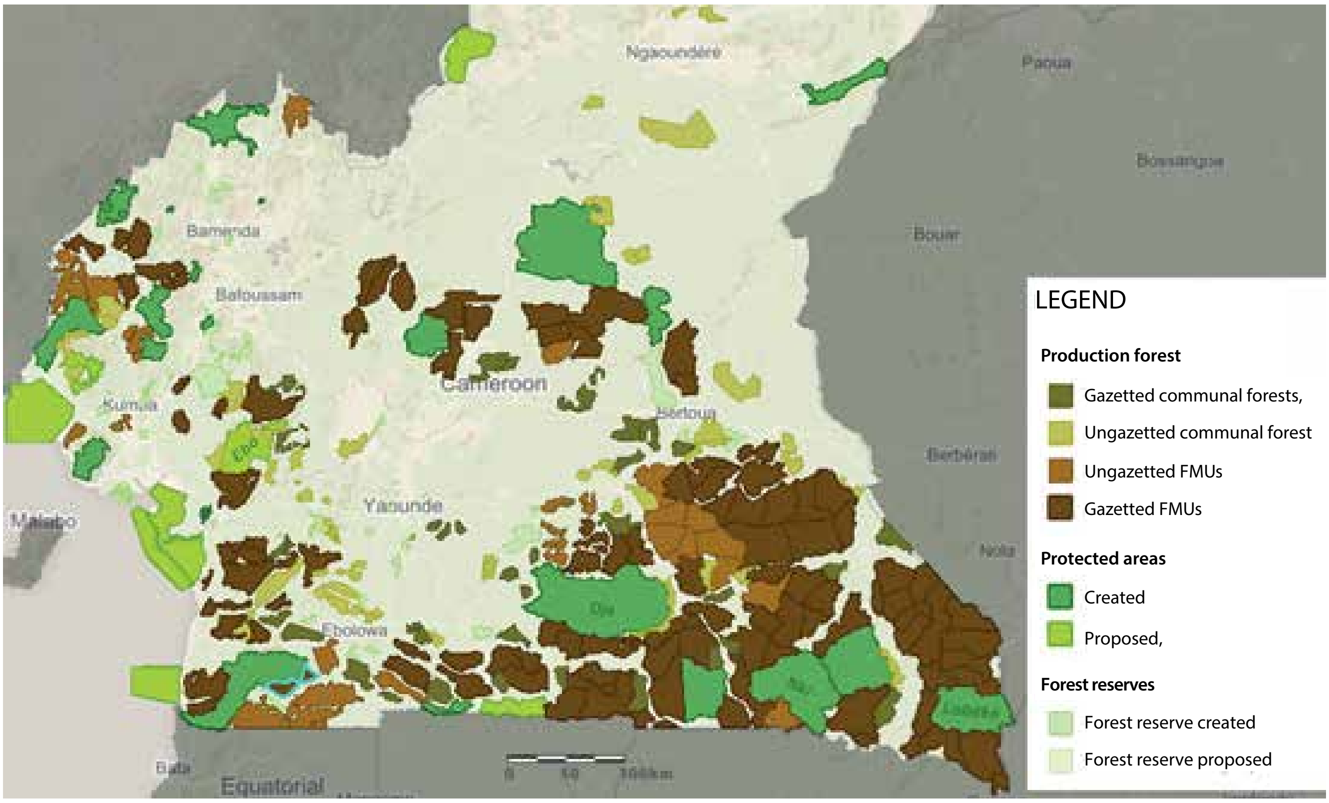

Figure 1. PFD in Cameroon (FMU, council forests and protected areas)
Source : http://cmr.forest-atlas.org/map/

The majority of timber processed products are exported worldwide (Emmanuel Groutel).

presenting information published by the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF).

The information is divided in 11 sections and several sub-sections, according to an outline presented in Annex I of this document. The main sections focus on the following subjects:

1. Legal information
2. Information on production
3. Information on allocation
4. Information on management
5. Information on processing
6. Information on exports
7. Information on the Legality Assurance System (LAS)
8. Information on the audits
9. Information on financial transactions
10. Information on institutional set-up
11. Information on the domestic timber market (DTM)

To assimilate the abundance and different formats of information available, the MINFOF, with assistance from the FAO-FLEGT Programme, prepared a summary document on the "State of the Timber Sector in Cameroon (2015)" as a compendium, a "graphic interface" that supports some of the raw data published on the website. This report includes a background analysis of certain data that should contribute to a better understanding of the origin and significance of these data. Further, again to provide a consolidated overview and to make a complete analysis, in this report some of the website sub-sections have been combined. For instance, the two sub-sections on "List of valid titles, with names of the companies to whom they have been allocated" and "Official areas of valid logging titles and allocation price (the annual forestry fee – RFA)" have been combined to allow for a better overview of their contents.

This document does not deal with sections on regulatory texts and documents, such as the sections entitled "Legal Information" and "Information on Institutional Set-up" that do not require quantified explanations. Similarly, there are some sections, e.g. "Information on the LAS" and the section on the audits, that will only be available after the first FLEGT licences have been issued, hence they are 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 have not yet compiled the information or because the information has not yet been completely analysed, e.g. the volume of wood sold on the domestic market in public auctions, or because they do not exist for the year presented, e.g. the 2016 timber recovery permits (TRP) because no such permits have been officially issued. In this situation we kept the wording used on the website, e.g. "work in progress".

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

1 Production

1.1 Total annual log production

The formal timber sector grew steadily between the 1960s and the second half of the 1990s when it exceeded 3.5 million cubic meters (Figure 2). Production fell to 2 million cubic meters with the entry into force of the 1994 Forest Law and its application decree in 1995. The law, *inter alia,* provides for the replacement of the logging licences (the last one expired in 2000) by a system of forest concessions, with concessions composed of one of more Forest Management Units (FMU) and operated according to a forest management plan (FMP). The FMP is generally based on a ~30-year rotation plan with the annual allowable cut (*assiette annuelle de coupe*) conditioning the concession-holder's annual activities (restricting timber extraction to about 1/30th of the total area if the rotation period is 30 years). Between 2006 and 2015 the average annual production was approximately 2.3 million cubic meters.

1.2 Annual authorised logging volumes, by species, title and company

The authorised annual logging volumes rose consistently from the end of the 1990s when the first forest management units (FMU) were allocated until 2015, especially during the last few years (Figure 3. Volumes authorised in 2010, 2011 and 2012 are not available).

The authorised logging volumes were more or less aligned with the number of attributed FMUs, i.e. they tended to increase regularly between 2000 and

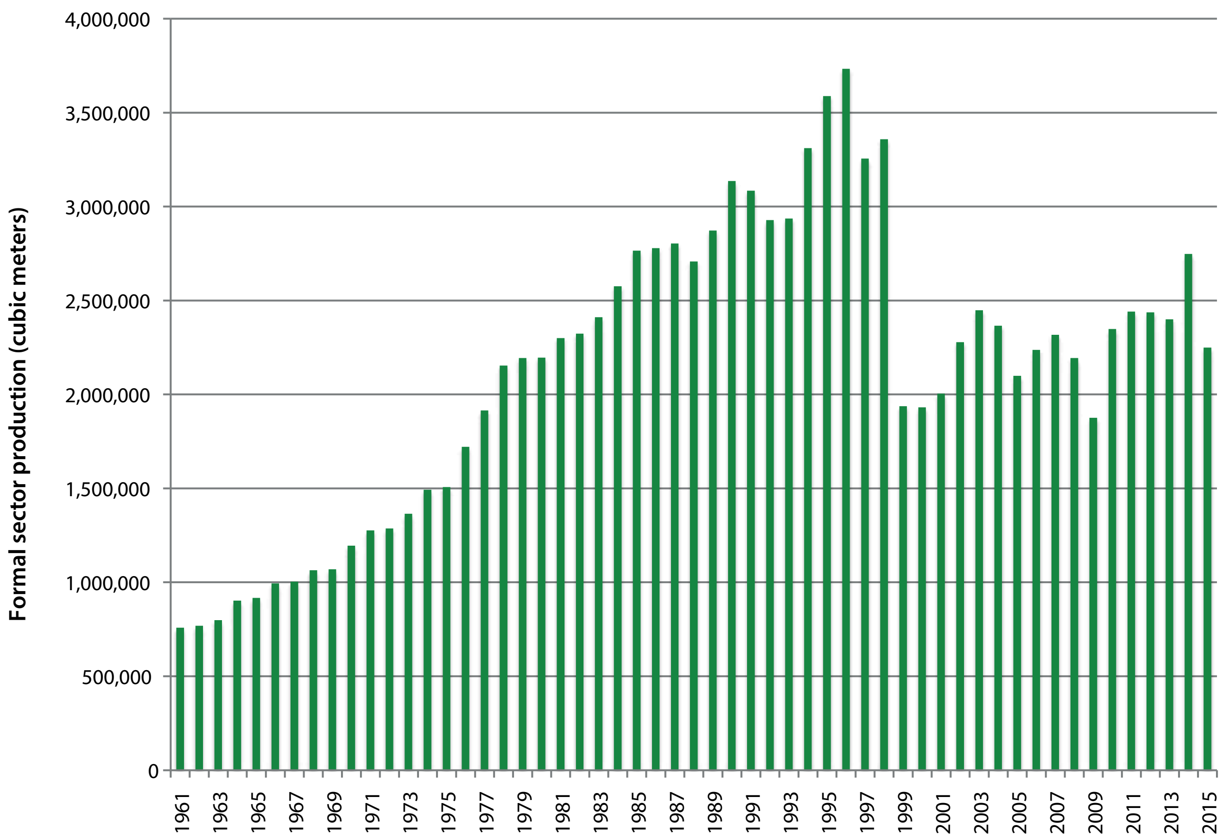

Figure 2. Registered formal sector production (1961-2015)

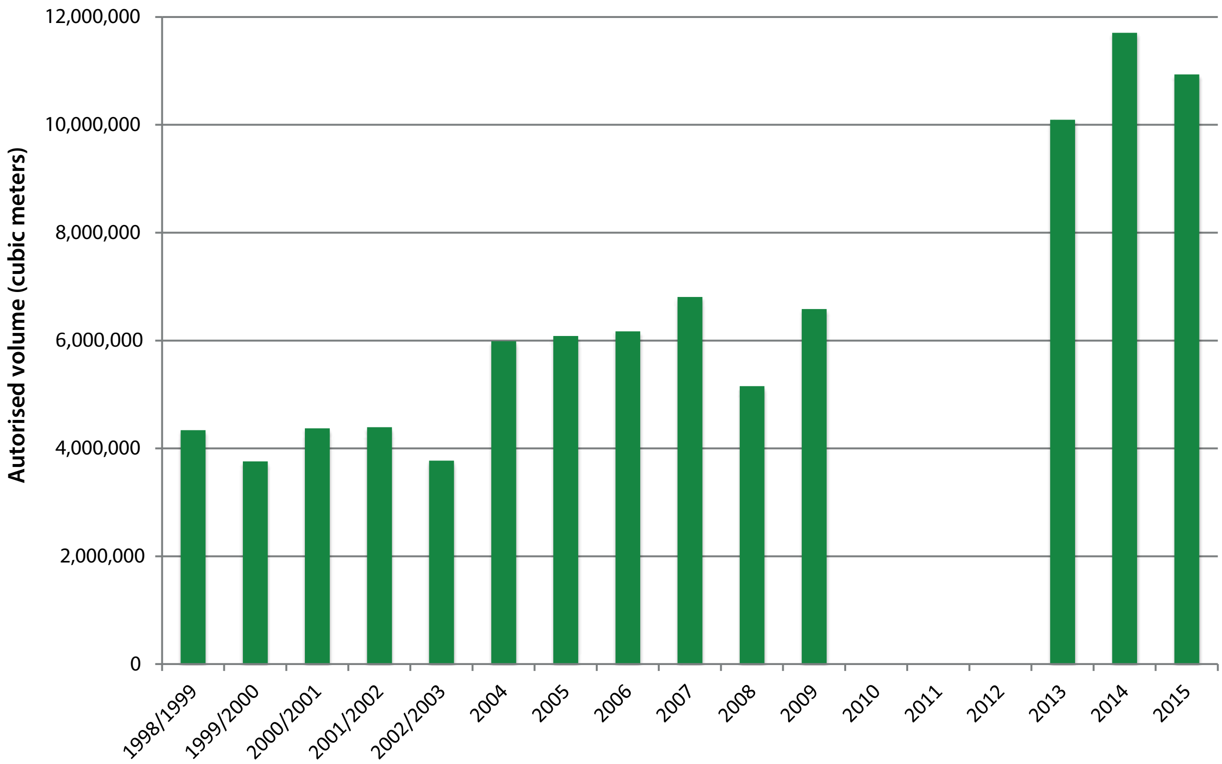

Figure 3. Authorised logging volumes

2006. After that time, only a limited number of new FMUs has been attributed, e.g. in 2012. The growth recorded over the last few years came partly from the allocation of other types of permits, especially for the sales of standing volumes (*ventes de coupe*).

A comparison of Figures 2 and 3 indicates that during the last 15 years an increasing amount of the volumes authorised for extraction (so, in theory, to be derived from the exploitation inventories conducted prior to the actual exploitation) does not appear in the exploitation data: in the 1998-2003 period the ratio between actual production and authorisations was ±52% (i.e. timber extraction was approximately half the amount of the authorised volume), after that time the figure dropped to ±36% between 2004 and 2009 and down to 23% during the last three years (2012-2015). In other words, although the exploitation inventories (concessions and sales of standing volume) showed growing exploitable volumes, a major part of these volumes was not eventually harvested.

1.3 Annual volumes processed, by type of product, species and company

Detailed statistics on processing by type of product, species or company are not yet available. Yet, MINFOF feels that most of the forest companies are targeting the external market, and hence this volume is probably similar to the export figures (logs and derived products, see below).

1.4 Annual volumes of logs exported, by species (total and to the EU)

The figure for annual volumes of logs exported suddenly plummeted in 1999 when the partial ban on exporting logs was applied, as scheduled in the 1994 Forest Law that gave logging companies five years to implement the new forest policy in their business model. There has been an upturn since the first half of the 2000s (Figure 4)

There are several explanations for this upturn, mainly: i) an increase in the number of permits unconnected to concessions (see indicator below on operating permits) awarded to companies that do not have the required

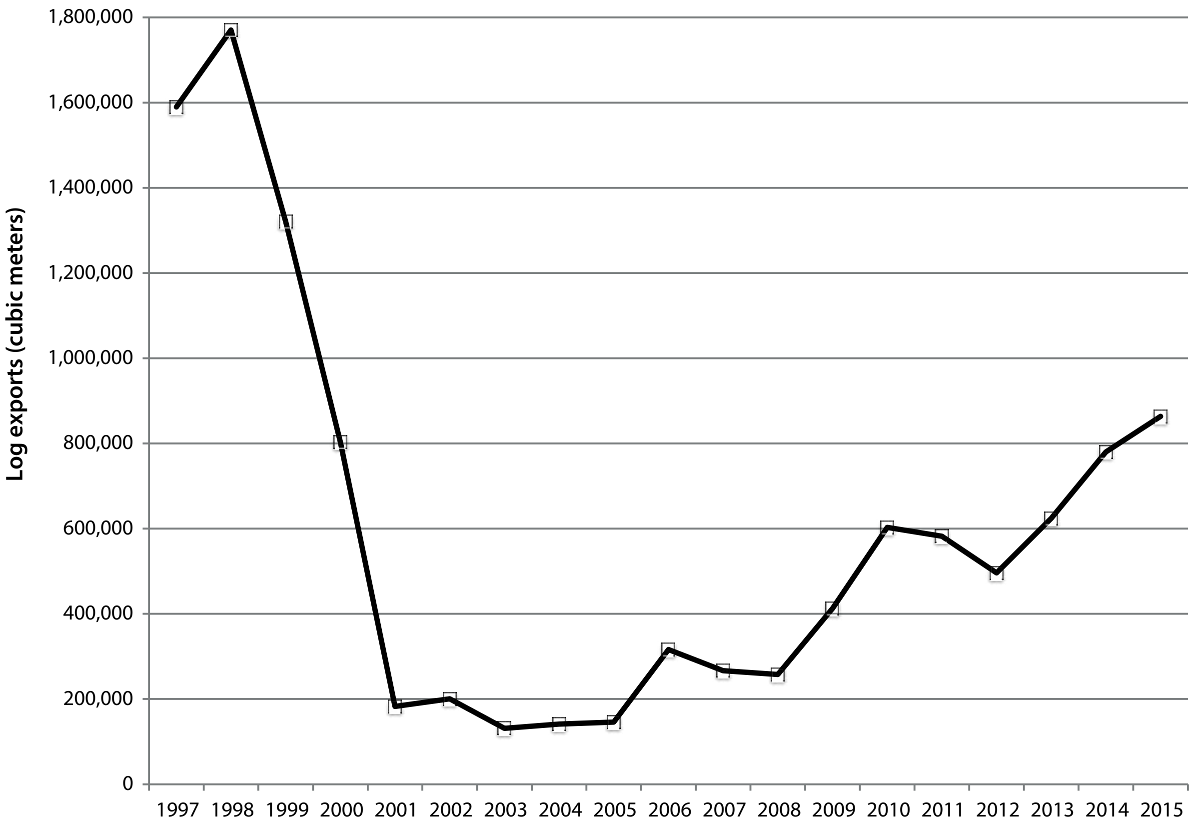

Figure 4. Annual volumes of logs exported (1997-2015)

processing capacity and therefore prefer exporting logs, and, ii) the exponential growth in the Asian market during the period under consideration with a preference for logs over sawn timber.

The historical species, i.e. the species exploited for many decades, have barely changed and a small number of species (5 or 6, depending on the year) accounts for ±70% of the total log exports (Figure 5). However, during the last few years, the relative extraction rate for some of the most popular species such as the "ayous" (*Triplochiton scleroxylon*) dropped from ~24% (about 147,000 cubic meters) of the total raw log exports in 2010 to about 7% in 2015 (about 62,000 cubic meters) while other species such as "tali" (*Erythropleum ivorense*) rose from about 20% (125,000 cubic meters) to 31% (270 000 cubic meters) (Figure 5).

Although the volume of logs exported is rising and the preferred species have hardly changed and still account for close to 70% of total exports, the number of species that account for the remaining 30% of the total log exports for the years 2010-2015 is decreasing. Such number of species fell from 52 in 2010 to 27 in 2015. These figures indicate the need for the government, in the coming years, to make a greater effort to carry out its diversification policy for the most exploited species and the "promotion" of the lesser-known species.

As mentioned above, log exports rose mainly to meet the demand of non-European countries that preferred importing raw logs and processing them into finished products within their countries. Close to 60% of the logs were exported to EU member states in 2004 but during the last decade, this figure has constantly declined i.e. from ~9% in 2010 to ~3% in 2015 (Figure 6).

1.5 Annual volumes of timber and derived products imported into Cameroon and by country

Work in progress.

1.6 Annual volumes of timber sold at public auctions

Work in progress.

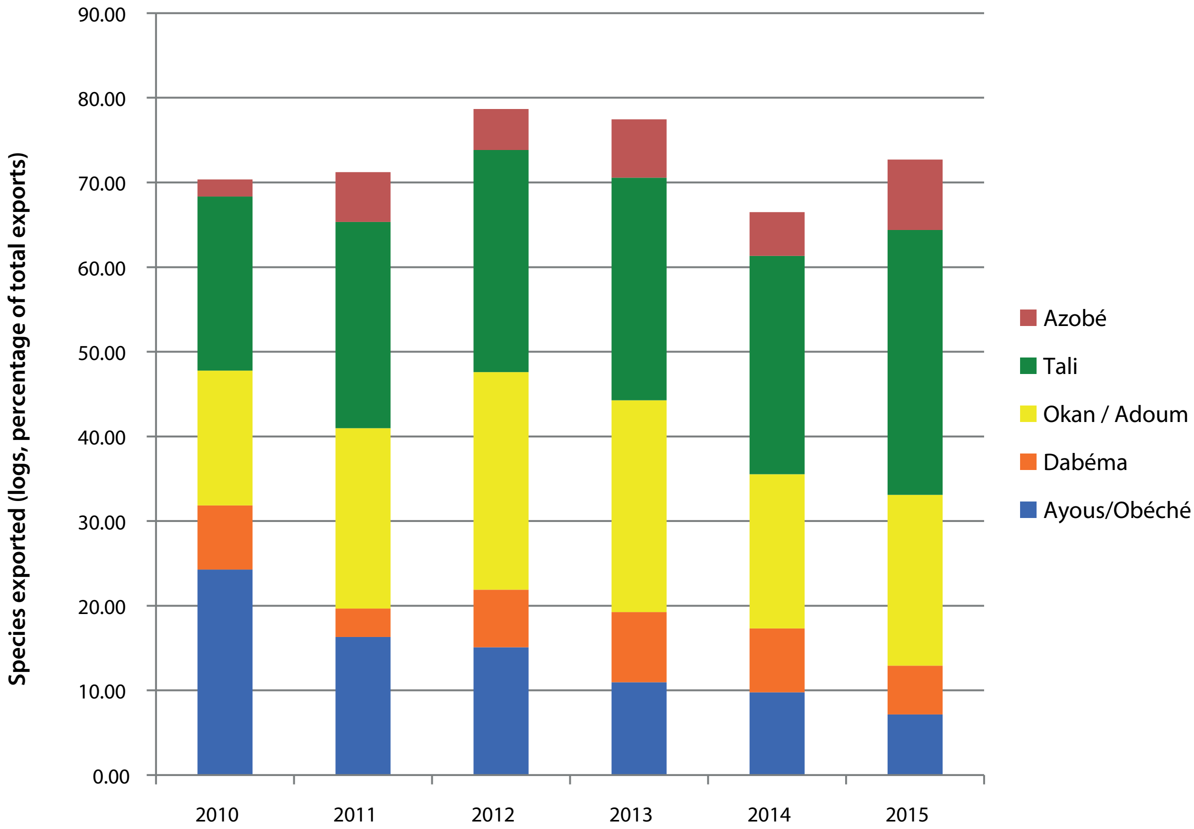

Figure 5. Species exported as logs (percentage of total exports 2012-2015)

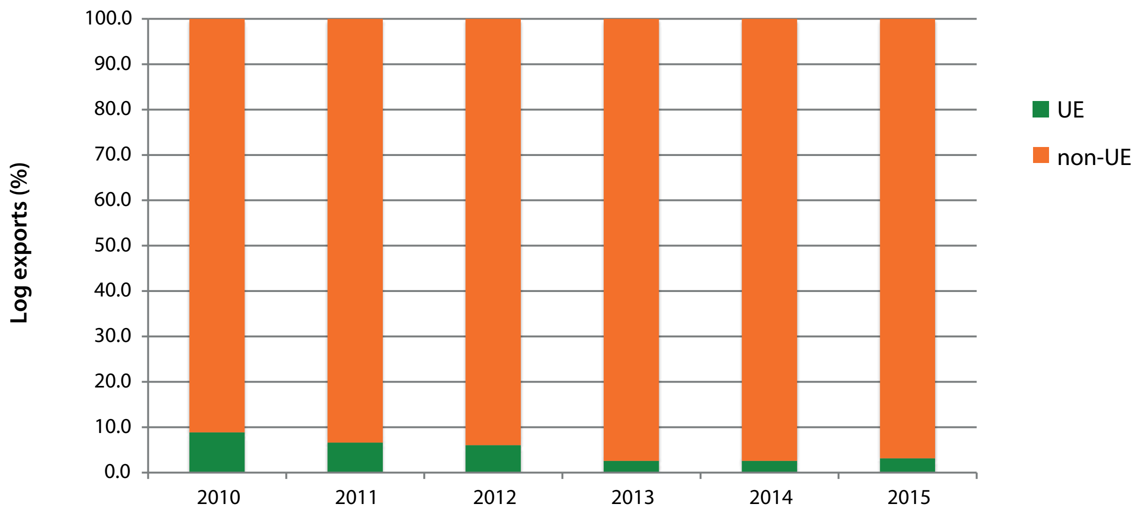

Figure 6. Log exports to EU/rest of the world (% in 2010 and 2015)

2 Allocation

2.1 List of valid titles, with names of the companies to whom they have been allocated AND Official areas of valid logging titles and allocation price (annual forestry fee – RFA)

The total number of valid titles (council forests, concessions, sales of standing volume, and community forests) has varied substantially during the last few years, from 226 titles in early 2012 to 386 titles at the end of 2015 to 295 titles in the beginning of 2016 (Figure 7).

The data in Figure 7 and on the www.apvcameroun.cm website need some explanation. For the 2012-2016 period the Ministry produced bi-annual lists of valid titles. There is little variation in the forest concessions and the council forests within any given year (Figure 7) since the titles are located in the PFD and are nearly always renewed regularly by the title-holders (companies or councils at the beginning of each year). The number of forest concessions and council forests that are valid at the beginning of the year are, thus, not very different from the number valid during the second half of the year. On the other hand, the number of community forests and sales of standing volume may change considerably from the beginning to the end of the year (Figure 7).

For the community forests, the variations are easy to explain. The Ministry publishes the list of community forests that are covered by an annual logging certificate (CAE) but many operators receive it during the second quarter of the year and therefore are not registered on the lists that are published in the beginning of the year. In other words, the validated list of community forests also covers forests for which formalities have been completed for permission to work in the area during the reference year. For the sales of standing volume, the reason for the variation

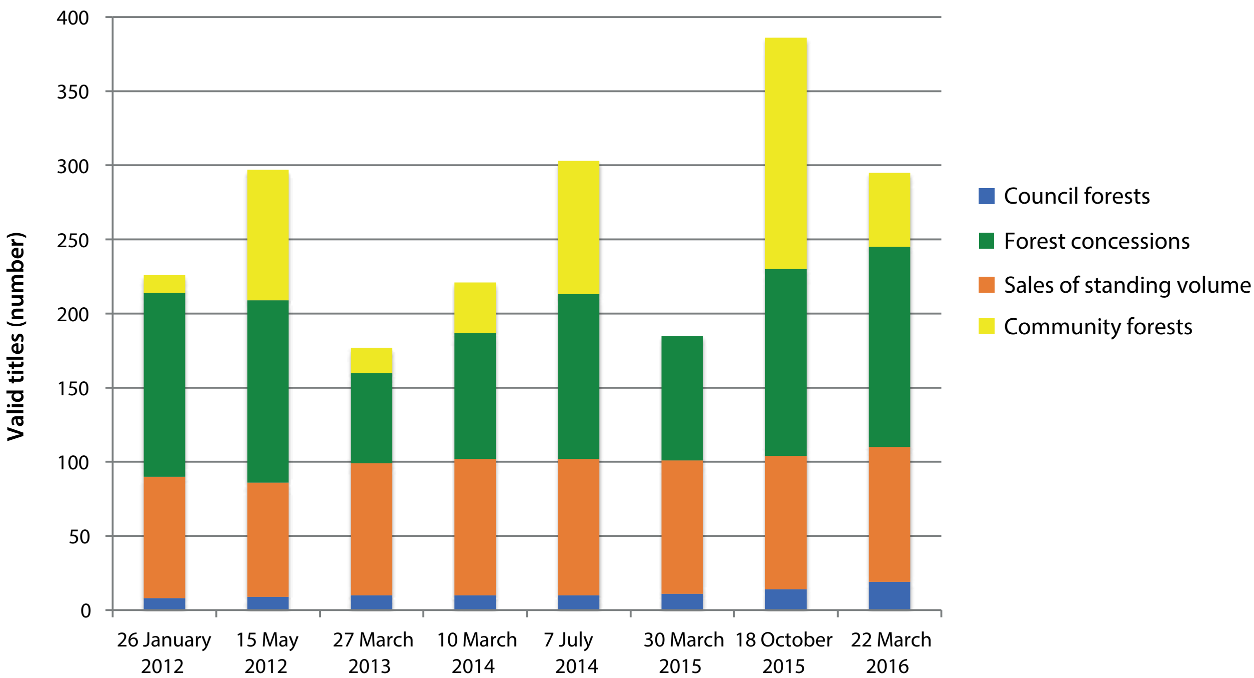

Figure 7. Number of valid titles (2012-2016)

Note. Community forests existed at the end of March 2015 but are not shown on this bar chart since data were not available.

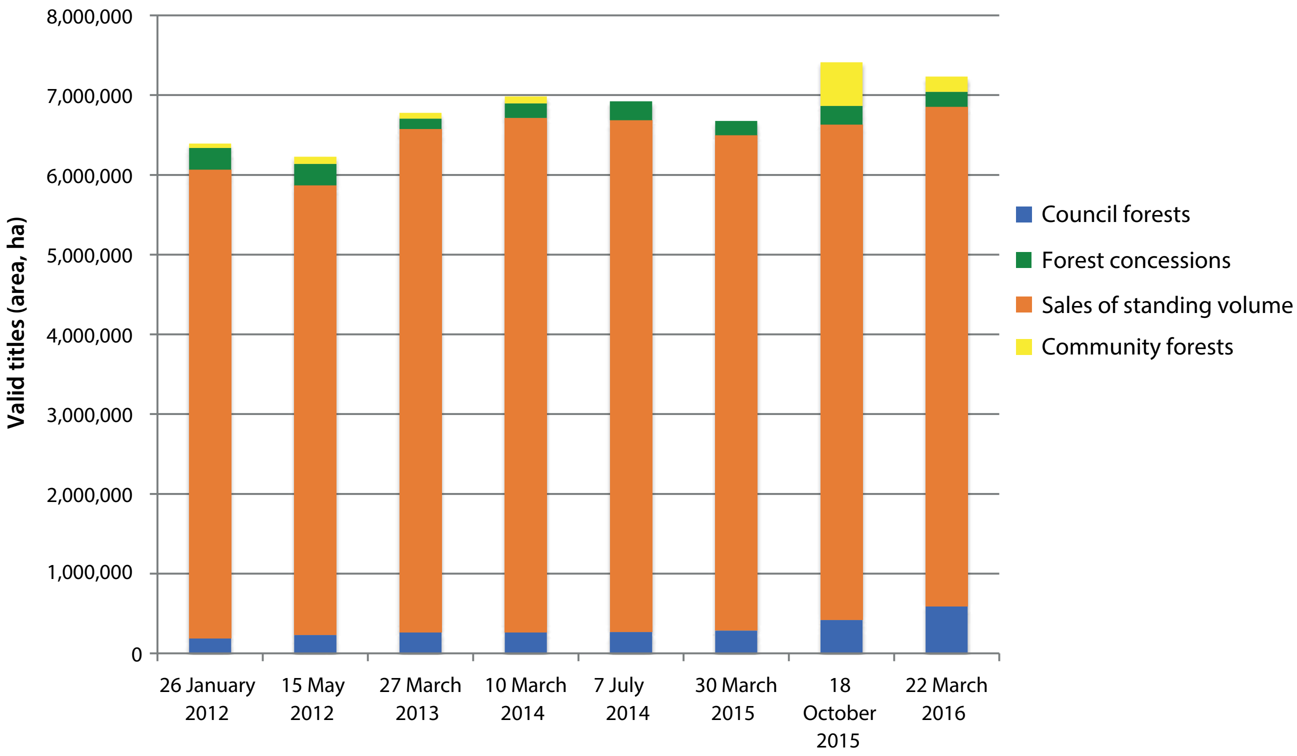

Figure 8. Land areas covered by valid titles (2012-2016)

is that some of these short-duration permits are awarded later in the year.

As regards surfaces, valid titles covered close to 6.4 million hectares in early 2012. The figure had risen to 7.2 million hectares by the beginning of 2016 (Figure 8).

The vast majority of Cameroonian forestlands with valid titles are covered by forest concessions. The surfaces of these concessions did not change significantly between 2012 and 2016 (Figure 8). On the other hand, although a lesser category, the surfaces of the valid council forests have increased regularly and those of the valid community forests vary greatly from year to year.

The sales of standing volume are an interesting case. The SSVs are the only title that does not require a management plan since the validated areas are the areas that are exploited. On the other hand, the forests exploited and covered by other titles in Figure 8 must have management plans, and only one part of the land area, generally around 1/30th, is exploited each year. The areas subject to annual exploitation are registered on the list of "operational" titles, in other words, titles that include annual logging titles or certificates, as described in the following section.

By 22 March 2016, 90 concessions had been officially awarded to logging companies, for average forest areas of about 70,000 hectares per concession and an average financial offer of about 2,600 CFA (about 4 euros) per hectare (Table 1)

The total amount expected from the annual forestry fee (RFA) for the forest concessions alone amounts to about 15.9 billion CFA per annum (see section on "Financial Transactions" below for more details).

2.2 List of annual operating permits/ annual logging certificates issued

For each list of valid titles MINFOF has a corresponding list of operating titles, in other words, a list of concessions, council forests and sales of standing volume that have obtained their annual operating permits (PAO) and the community forests that have obtained their annual logging certificates (CAE) .

In general, since the 2000s, the land areas available for exploitation and covered by titles that require a management plan (or the *assiettes annuelles de coupe*, AAC), plus land areas that can be covered by titles that do not require a management plan increased by

Table 1. Concessions awarded as of 22 March 2016

#	Concession	Year of award*	Area (ha)	Offer (CFA)	Company
1	1001	1997	74,432	2,000	SFF
2	1002	1997	51,450	1,500	SFB
3	1003	2005	81,397	1,500	STBK
4	1004	2001	130,110	1,500	CIBC
5	1005	2009	55,545	1,500	CUF
6	1006	2013	36,440	1,500	SCIEB
7	1007	1997	57,996	1,500	SFCS
8	1009	2013	54,915	2,000	Kakouande
9	1010	1997	122,294	2,000	SEBC
10	1011	1997	88,147	1,500	SCIEB
11	1012	1997	67,942	1,500	SFID
12	1013	1997	48,554	2,000	SAB
13	1014	1997	46,990	1,575	SFDB
14	1015	1997	86,096	1,800	Grumcam
15	1016	1997	59,064	1,500	SEFAC
16	1017	1997	86,049	1,500	Khoury J.
17	1018	1997	66,183	2,500	Green Valley Inc (SFIL)
18	1019	1997	64,961	1,400	Sodetrancam
19	1020	2014	45,210	1,500	SMK
20	1021	2001	28,360	3,100	Placam
21	1022	1997	91,809	1,500	SEBAC
22	1025	1996	193,663	1,500	CFC
23	1026	1996	125,509	1,500	SABM
24	1027	2009	100,000	N/A	Edeatech
25	1028	2000	125,568	2,000	MMG
26	1029	2013	94,917	2,650	SIENCAM
27	1031	2000	49,640	3,550	INC
28	1032	2000	138,653	1,100	Lorema
29	1033	2012	65,675	2,025	FIPCAM
30	1034	2014	44,698	1,105	SOCIB
31	1035	2015	40,559	1,500	SOBOCA
32	1036	2000	38 247	2,500	CUF
33	1037	2011	73,318	4,550	SCIEB
34	1038	2011	82,192	1,835	SIM
35	1039	2012	35,090	4,500	SIM
36	1040	2000	126,976	4,100	Alpicam
37	1041	2010	41,202	4,050	Pallisco
38	1042	2013	52,536	2,100	La Rosiere
39	1043	2000	145,585	4,100	Cambois
40	1044	2013	47,370	2,100	LFM
41	1045	2007	54,447	3,500	FIPCAM
42	1046	2001	163,498	3,100	SCTB
43	1047	2000	148,667	1,110	Panagiotis Marelis
44	1048	2015	68,933	1,750	SCTSC
45	1050	2001	73,597	4,150	FIPCAM

#	Concession	Year of award*	Area (ha)	Offer (CFA)	Company
46	1051	2001	89,322	7,155	STBK
47	1052	2001	72,727	1,150	SEFAC
48	1053	2001	66,688	1,150	SEFAC
49	1054	2001	76,850	8,050	Pallisco
50	1055	2001	44,249	4,000	Sodetrancam
51	1056	2001	66,861	4,770	Sodetrancam
52	1058	2001	70,912	5,150	SOTREF (SFIL)
53	1060	2001	115,940	1,150	Filière Bois
54	1062	2011	63,865	1,100	CAMTRANS
55	1063	2013	51,450	2,255	SOFOHNY
56	1064	2002	64,646	3,300	COFA
57	1065	2006	50,895	1,600	HABITAT 2000
58	1066	2002	73,661	2,530	SFID
59	1067	2011	33,559	1,050	Dino&Fils
60	1068	2012	54,807	4,500	SEFECCAM
61	1069	2005	44,866	2,000	CUF
62	1070	2005	49,595	1,620	SFIL
63	1071	2014	89,962	2,100	Ste Ets TONKAM Marcel et Cie
64	1072	2005	81,859	5,375	Grumcam
65	1073	2015	81,628	1,500	SOCIB
66	1074	2013	80,723	2,100	Dino&Fils
67	1075	2005	73,300	2,100	SEPFCO
68	1077	2015	36,340	3,275	ENEF
69	1078	2013	61,301	3,000	CFK
70	1079	2005	35,280	2,500	SIBM
71	1081	2005	47,786	5,100	CUF
72	1082	2015	28,961	1,500	TOPAZE
73	1083	2013	48,960	3,850	Pallisco
74	1084	2013	66,607	2,100	SOFOHNY
75	1085	2014	70,688	2,500	SBAC
76	1086	2014	55,295	1,500	SIENCAM
77	1087	2006	70,289	3,050	CAFECO
78	1089	2006	54,807	1,600	SEFFECAM
79	1090	2014	97,123	4,250	La Côtière forestière
80	1091	2012	38,195	1,375	ENJC
81	1092	2012	28,114	6,100	SEFECCAM
82	1094	2013	27,364	1,400	SEPFCO
83	1097	2012	31,803	4,100	SFEES
84	1098	2013	77,692	4,300	Multi-Services Plus
85	1099	2014	74,464	2,650	SCIFO
86	1100	2013	52,021	3,050	GRACOVIR
87	1102	2013	77,551	5,333	IBC
88	1103	2013	57,018	4,100	SIM
89	1104	2013	49,750	1,500	BOTAC
90	1105	2013	51,342	1,500	BOTAC

*Most recent year of award

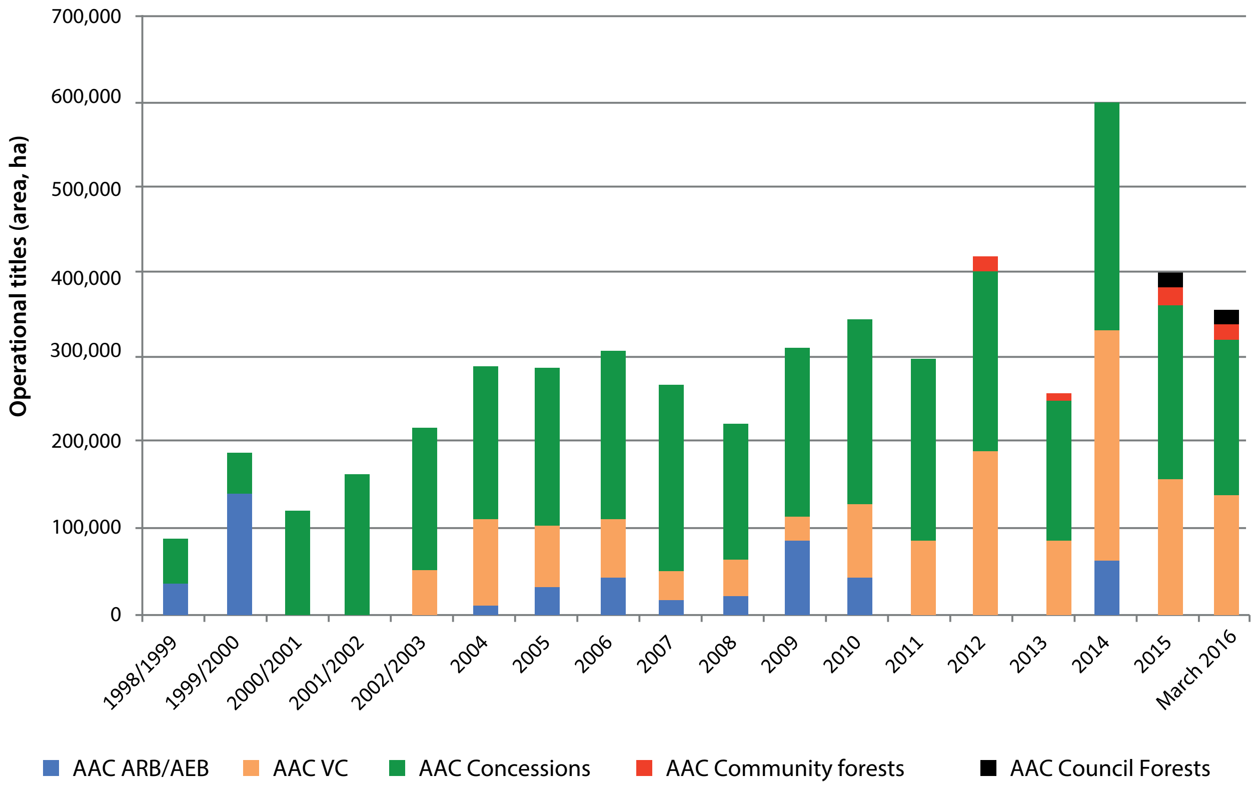

Figure 9. Land area covered by operational titles (1998-2016, in hectares)

Note. These figures are indicative, especially for the *sales of standing volume*, the TRP/TSP and the community forests since numbers and land areas are not always available in public records.

about 150,000 hectares in the early 2000s then grew to reach somewhere between 350,000 and 400,000 hectares in 2015 and 2016 (Figure 9).

Annual variations in surfaces available for exploitation are largely connected to the "non-sustainable titles, in other words, the sales of standing volume and the timber recovery and removal authorisation (TRP and TSP). The number of titles can vary greatly from year to year depending on the allocations awarded by the Ministry. On the other hand, for the last few years, the annual allowable cuts for the forest concessions has involved a more steady ~200,000 hectares per annum.

2.3 Location map of valid logging titles

See Forest Atlas of Cameroon.

2.4 Location map for annual areas available for logging

See Forest Atlas of Cameroon.

2.5 List of annual withdrawals of secure documents (DF10 worksite books and waybills)

Each year, companies wishing to exploit or transport logs or sawn timber must apply to the MINFOF for secure documents. Secure documents that have not been used by the end of their validity period must be returned to the MINFOF to enable the companies to apply for their renewal. Secure documents can have different names, depending on their utilisation (Table 2)

Between 2013 and 2015, the total number of secure documents declined little from 13,923 to 12,460 booklets, each composed of 20-25 secure sheets, depending on the designation (Figure 10)

The number of companies registered in the MINFOF database that requested secure documents rose from 270 in 2013 to 466 in 2015 with an average of ~37% CIGs (common interest groups). During this same period, the number of titles for which the documents were requested rose from 238 to 564 (Figure 11).

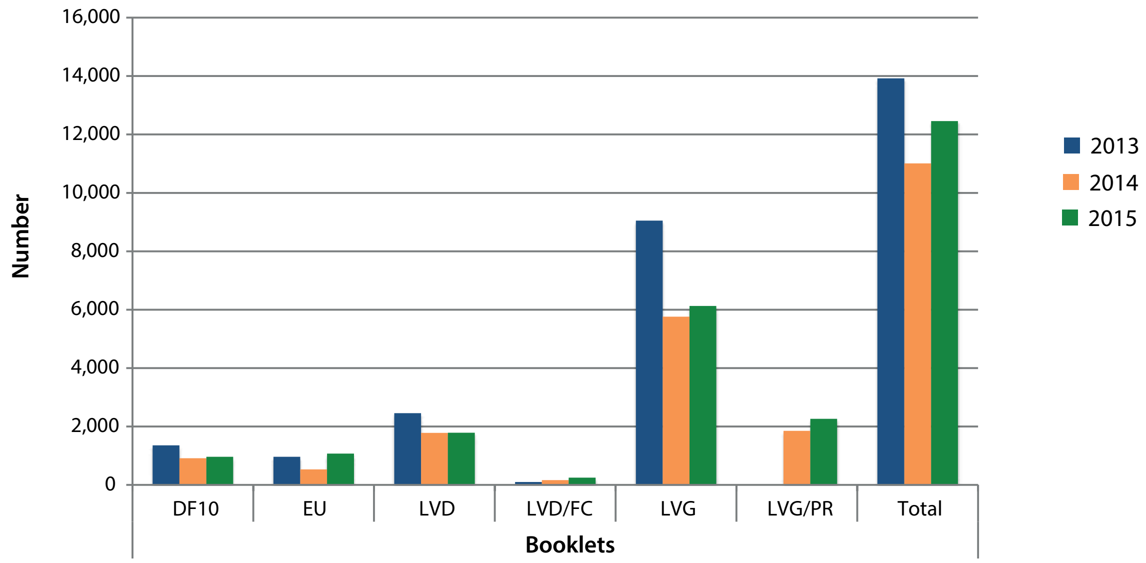

Figure 10. Worksite book requested, per designation

Table 2. Name and use of secure documents

Name	Use
DF10	Worksite book, used for timber production
EU (Entrée usine)	Plant entry, documents accompanying timber transported to the production plant
LVD (Lettre de voiture debites)	Waybill for sawn timber: documents accompanying the transportation of processed products
LVD/FC (Forêt communautaire)	LVD/Community forests
LVG (Lettre de voiture grumes)	Waybill for logs: documents accompanying the transportation of logs
LVG/PR (Parc de rupture)	Waybill for logs: documents used to transport logs in forest intermediate depots

Harvesting operation in the forest (Marc Vandenhaute).

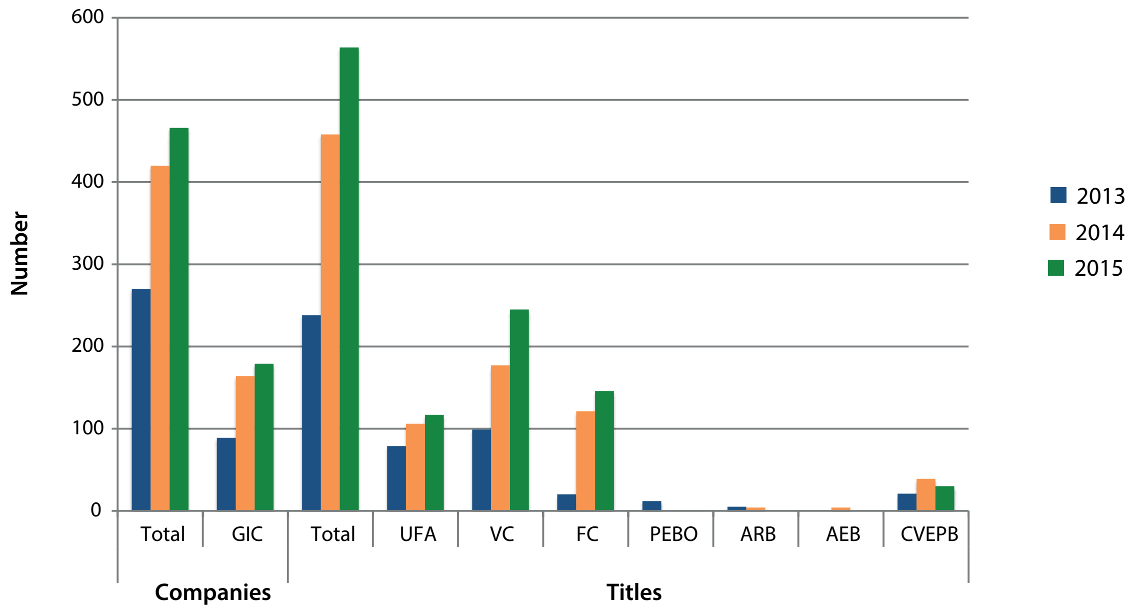

Figure 11. Requests for secure documents, by companies and titles (2013-2015)

Note: FMU (forest management unit), SSV (*sales of standing volume*), CF (community forest), PEBO (timber exploitation permit, TRP (timber recovery permit), TRP (timber removal permit), CVEPB (public timber auction commission)

2.6 List of approved forestry companies (logging, processing, inventories, management)

By end March 2016, there were 123 approved and operational forestry companies.

2.7 Notification of start of activities for timber recovery permits (TRP)

The website states “not applicable – no current TRP” since there was no TRP officially valid in March 2016.

3 Management

3.1 Area of forestry concessions allocated

Data show that the allocated area in forestry concessions rose from ~5.8 million hectares in 2012 to ~6.3 million hectares in 2016 (Figure 12).

During this same period of time, the number of forest concessions rose from 82 to 91. In 2016 the 91 concessions were composed of 106 FMUs since each concession can include more than one FMU.

3.2 List of concessions under management

By end 2015, 79 forestry concessions had approved management plans. The total area under management was close to 5.6 million hectares (Table 3)

3.3 Area of forest concessions involved in management (including annual operating plans and five year plans) AND Area of forest concession with approved management plan

The land area in the managed concessions rose from ~2.7 million hectares in 2003/2004, when the first 37 management plans were approved, to close to 79 approved management plans covering 5.6 million hectares in 2015 (Figure 13).

3.4 Area of certified forestry concessions

In 2015, there were two types of certification in Cameroon: forest management certification (issued by the Forest Stewardship Council or FSC) and legality certification (through Timber Origin and Legality or OLB certification and Verification of Legal Compliance or VLC).

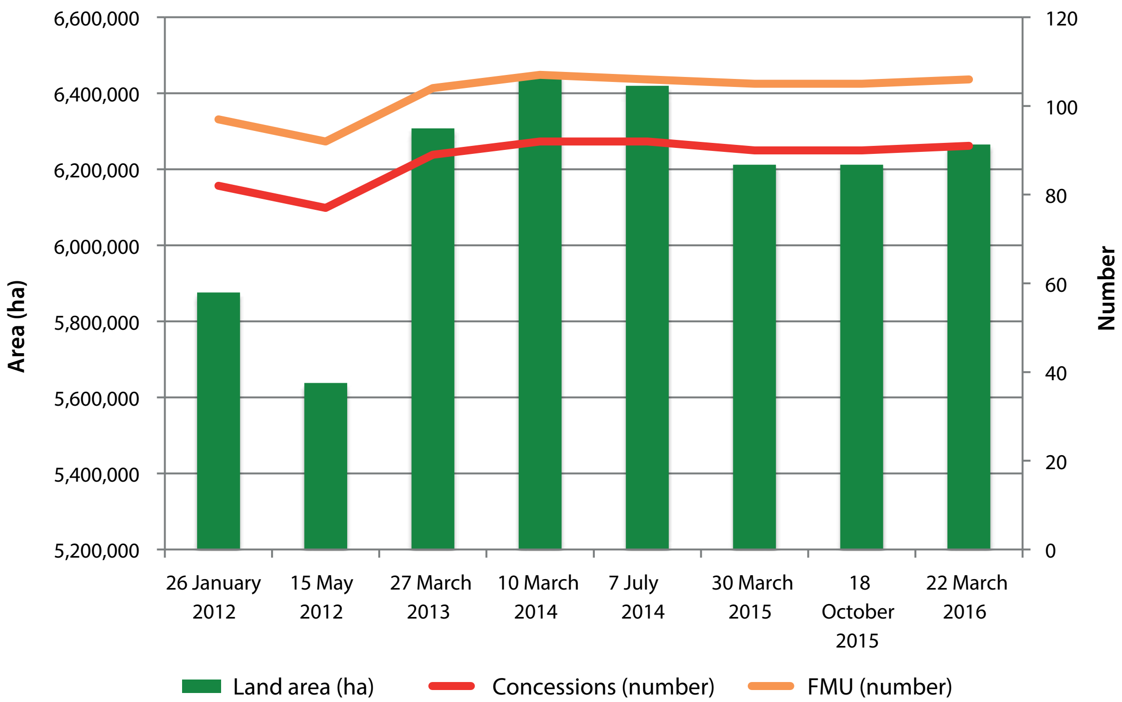

Figure 12. Allocated concessions and FMUs (2012-2016)

Table 3. Concessions under management (2016)

#	Concession	Approved management plan (yr)	Area in management plan (ha)
1	1001	2004	74,432
2	1002	2004	51,450
3	1003	2004	81,397
4	1004	2005	130,110
5	1005	2004	55,545
6	1006	2004	36,440
7	1007	2004	57,996
8	1009	2004	54,915
9	1010	2004	122,294
10	1011	2004	88,147
11	1012	2005	67,942
12	1013	2004	48,554
13	1014	2004	46,990
14	1015	2004	86,096
15	1016	2004	59,064
16	1017	2004	86,049
17	1018	2004	66,183
18	1019	2004	64,961
19	1021	2004	28,360
20	1022	2004	91,809
21	1025	2004	193,663
22	1026	2005	125,509
23	1028	2004	125,568
24	1029	2005	94,917
25	1031	2004	49,640
26	1032	2008	138,653
27	1033	2004	65,675
28	1034	2008	44,698
29	1035	2015	40,559
30	1036	2004	38,247
31	1037	2006	73,318
32	1038	2004	82,192
33	1039	2004	35,090
34	1040	2004	126,976
35	1041	2010	41,202
36	1042	2004	52,536
37	1043	2005	145,585
38	1044	2004	47,370
39	1045	2008	54,447
40	1046	2004	163,498
41	1047	2005	148,667
42	1048	2004	68,933
43	1049	2005	33,863
44	1050	2004	73,597
45	1051	2004	89,322
46	1052	2005	72,727
47	1053	2006	66,688
48	1054	2004	76,850
49	1055	2004	44,249
50	1056	2004	66,861
51	1058	2004	70,912
52	1060	2004	115,940
53	1062	2012	63,865
54	1063	2008	51,450
55	1064	2007	64,646
56	1065	2010	50,895
57	1066	2008	73,661
58	1067	2014	33,559
59	1068	2006	54,807
60	1069	2008	44,866
61	1070	2009	49,595
62	1072	2008	81,859
63	1073	2015	81,628
64	1074	2010	80,723
65	1075	2008	73,300
66	1077	2008	36,340
67	1078	2008	61,301
68	1079	2010	35,280
69	1081	2008	47,786
70	1082	2014	28,961
71	1083	2013	48,960
72	1086	2008	55,295
73	1087	2009	70,289
74	1089	2009	54,807
75	1090	2014	97,123
76	1092	2014	28,114
77	1097	2014	31,803
78	1102	2014	77,551
79	1103	2014	57,018

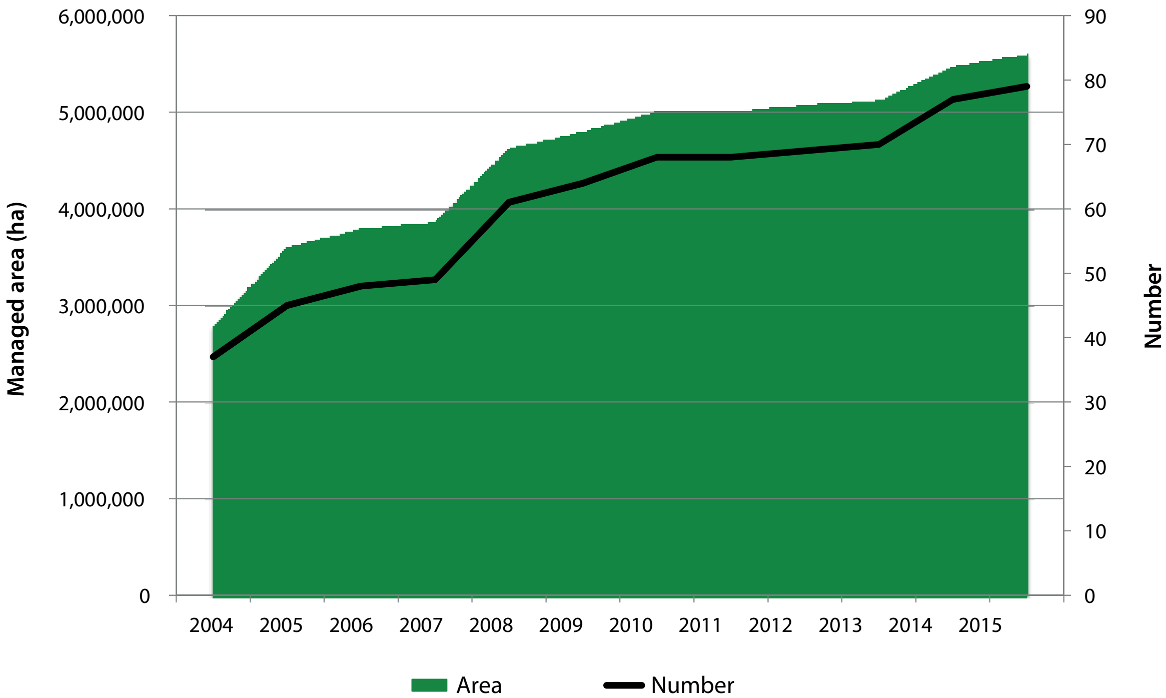

Figure 13. Managed concessions (2004-2015)

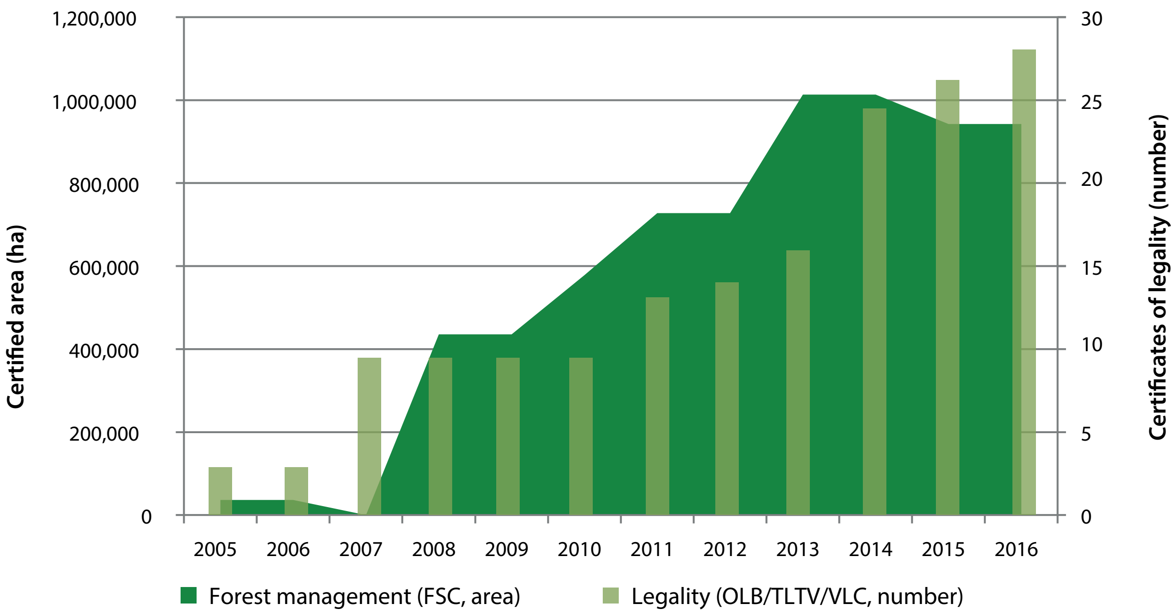

Figure 14. Certified forest concessions (2005-2015)

Data indicate that the FSC certified areas rose from ~36,000 hectares in 2005 to ~942,000 hectares in 2015 (Figure 14).

Furthermore, in 2015 there were about 28 (OLB and VLC) valid legality certificates in the country (Figure 14).

3.5 Documents related to approved management plans

Work in progress.

Table 4. Concessions and FMUs, and the related contractual obligations documents available on the website

#	Concession	FMU	#	Concession	FMU
1	1001	09-006	47	1053	10-010
2	1002	08-006	48	1054	10-030
3	1003	10-018	49	1055	10-042
4	1004	10-015	50	1056	10-044
5	1005	09-023	51	1058	10-052
6	1006	09-021	52	1058	10-052
7	1009	10-058	53	1060	10-064
8	1010	10-007	54	1062	09-012
9	1011	09-025	55	1063	09-013
10	1012	10-054	56	1065	10-013
11	1014	10-029	57	1066	10-056
12	1015	10-051	58	1067	10-057
13	1018	10-021	59	1068	11-002
14	1018	10-021	60	1069	09-020
15	1019	10-041	61	1070	10-025
16	1021	10-061	62	1070	10-025
17	1022	10-009	63	1072	10-053
18	1025	10-001	64	1078	09-022
19	1025	10-002	65	1079	09-011
20	1025	10-003	66	1080	09-014
21	1025	10-004	67	1081	09-026
22	1028	00-003	68	1081	09-027
23	1029	00-004	69	1082	09-028
24	1032	09-003	70	1083	10-047b
25	1032	09-004a	71	1084	10-048
26	1032	09-005a	72	1085	10-049
27	1033	09-004b	73	1085	10-050
28	1034	09-005b	74	1086	11-001
29	1036	09-019	75	1087	11-005
30	1037	09-024	76	1089	11-003
31	1038	10-020	77	1089	11-004
32	1039	10-022	78	1090	10-065
33	1040	10-026	79	1091	07-003
34	1041	10-031	80	1092	11-006
35	1042	10-037	81	1094	11-008
36	1043	10-038	82	1097	10-027
37	1044	10-039	83	1098	10-028
38	1045	10-045	84	1099	10-032
39	1046	10-059	85	1100	10-033
40	1046	10-060	87	1103	10-036
41	1047	10-062	88	1105	10-067
42	1048	10-063	89		provisional 00-004
43	1050	09-017	90		provisional 10-008
44	1050	09-018	91		provisional 10-009
45	1051	10-005a-b	92		provisional 10-021
46	1052	10-008	93		provisional 10-041

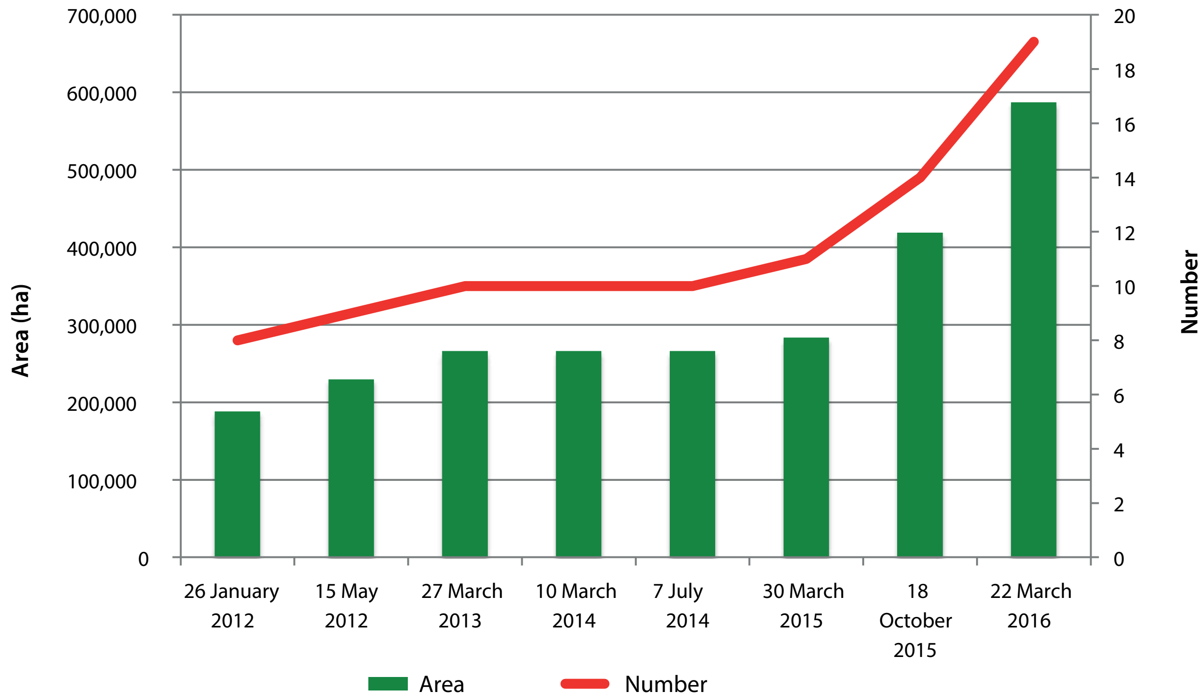

Figure 15. Council forests (2012-2016)

Table 5. Environmental impact studies available on the website

#	FMU
1	09-004b
2	09-017 and 09-018
3	10-008
4	10-013
5	10-064
6	09-024
7	09-006
8	09-024
9	10-010
10	00-001
11	00-002
12	00-004
13	09-022
14	10-009
15	10-011
16	10-022
17	10-026
18	10-051

3.6 Contractual obligations (Cahier des charges)

With regard to the 1994 Forest Law and several implementing decrees, after the forest concession was awarded, the owner of the resources, i.e. the State of Cameroon, and the concession-holder signed a document that included the contractual obligations applied to the latter. A specific document with the contractual obligations applied to the logging company is signed at the same time of the provisional contract for the concession and, thereafter, it is confirmed during the signing of the final exploitation agreement, which sets out the general and specific logging conditions for the concession. The general conditions concern the technical specifications for forestry operations and the management requirements that the concession-holder must respect. The specific clauses relate to financial responsibilities and spell out the concession-holders timber processing obligations and other obligations related to technical specifications for FMUs located near protected areas.

Timber yard in a sawmill (Marc Vandenhaute).

There are 93 contractual obligations documents on the website of which 5 were signed alongside the provisional agreement (Table 4)

3.7 Environmental impact studies

According to the law on environmental management (no. 96/12 of 5 August 1996) and other decrees and orders, companies that are awarded an FMU are compelled to carry out an environmental and social impact study (EIA) to assess the effects of forest operations in and near a given FMU on the environment and disturbances to the livelihoods of the local populations. The law also provides measures to reduce harm to the environment and support measures to protect the health and safety of the workers and the local population.

The website has 18 EIEs available (Table 5).

3.8 List of council forests and their areas

Between 2012 and 2016, the number of council forests with valid licences rose from 8 to 19, while the total land area during that same period rose from ~188,000 hectares to ~587,000 hectares (Figure 15 is composed of data from Figures 7 and 8).

Despite the major increase in the land areas allocated during the last few years, the number of active council forests only rose from 4 to 9 between 2014 and 2016 with a total land area for their annual allowable cut of approximately 15,000 hectares (Figure 9).

4 Processing

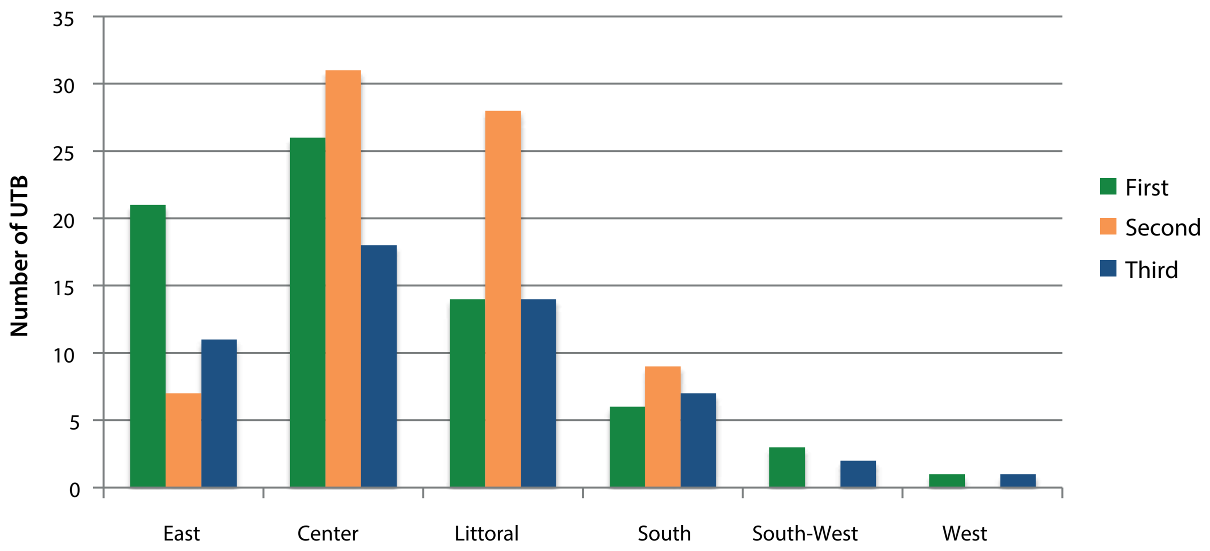

Figure 16. Timber processing units (TPU) per region and category (2012)

4.1 List of approved processing companies

By 28 March 2016, there were 123 authorised and active forest enterprises. They had received their authorisation between 1974 and 2012.

4.2 Location of processing units (actual addresses and/or geographical coordinates of the processing units)

An official communication from MINFOF[1] mentions 199 timber processing units (TPU) on Cameroonian territory, divided among the first (71), second (75) and third (53) degree of processing capacity (Figure 16).

1 N.0309/C/MINFOF/SG/DPT/SDTB/STPL/NKR dated 9 July 2012.

4.3 Processing capacities per processing unit (% of capacity actually used)

Work in progress.

4.4 Volume of sawmill entry per company

Data available for the year 2014 establish the declared sawmill entry of ~1,700,000 m^3 for 79 timber-processing units (TPU).

4.5 Volume of sawmill exit per company

Data available for the year 2014 establish the declared sawmill exit of ~655,000 m^3 for 79 timber-processing units (TPU).

4.6 Stock at year end

Work in progress.

5 Exports

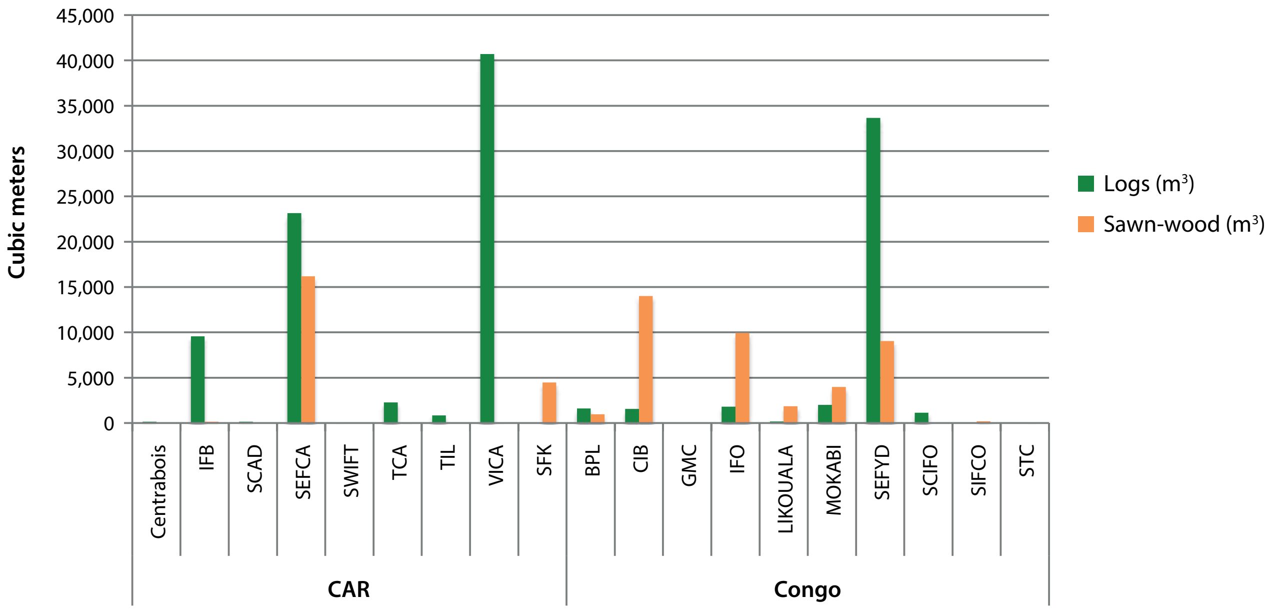

Figure 17. Exports from CAR and Congo (2015)

5.1 Data on timber in transit

For the year 2015, data from CAMRAIL indicate that about 78,500 m^3 of logs and 18,500 m^3 of sawn timber were marked "CEMAC", and thus were transiting through Cameroon.

5.2 Data on exports, by species, country and company

Data on exports from CAR and the Republic of Congo via Cameroon indicate that in 2015, 19 export companies exported from CAR about 77,000 m^3 of logs and about 21,000 m^3 of sawn timber and from Congo about 42,000 m^3 of logs and 40,000 m^3 of sawn timber (Figure 17).

5.3 COMCAM report

The COMCAM reports for the years 2009 to 2015 are available on the VPA website. During this period exports of logs rose from about 412,000 m^3 to 863,000 m^3 and those of sawn timber from 365,000 m^3 to 585,000 m^3. Only small volumes of veneers and plywood are exported (Figure 18).

For all products combined, (after processing, in cubic meters roundwood equivalents or RWE[2]), there has been a considerable change in the countries of destination for Cameroonian timber exports. Between 2009 and 2012, the EU was the main destination but recently exports to Asia (especially logs) have increased. In 2009 Europe imported about 950,000 m^3 of timber, a figure that rose to 1.2 million m^3 by 2015, while Asia in 2009 imported about 520,000 m^3 and by 2015, imported almost as much as Europe (Figure 19).

Cubic meters (RWE) Africa Asia Europe North America Latin America Oceania

2 A coefficient of 3 has been applied to sawn timber and 2.2 for the veneers and plywood.

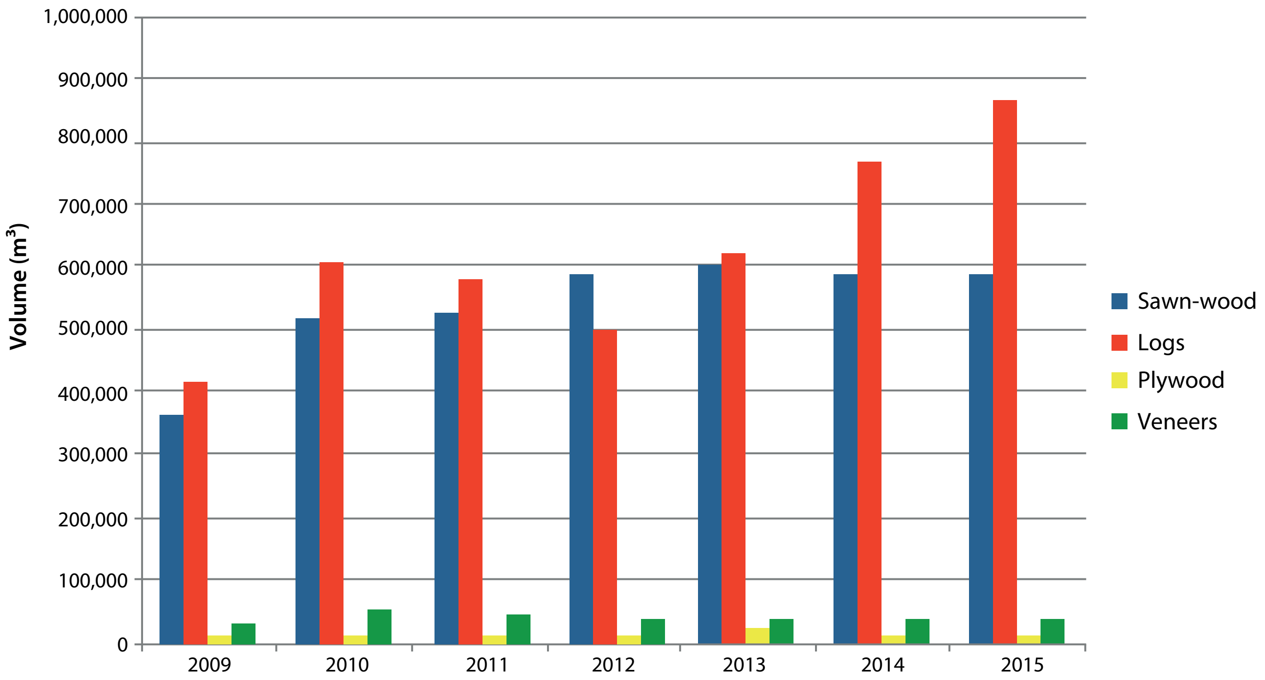

Figure 18. Exports (products, 2009-2015)

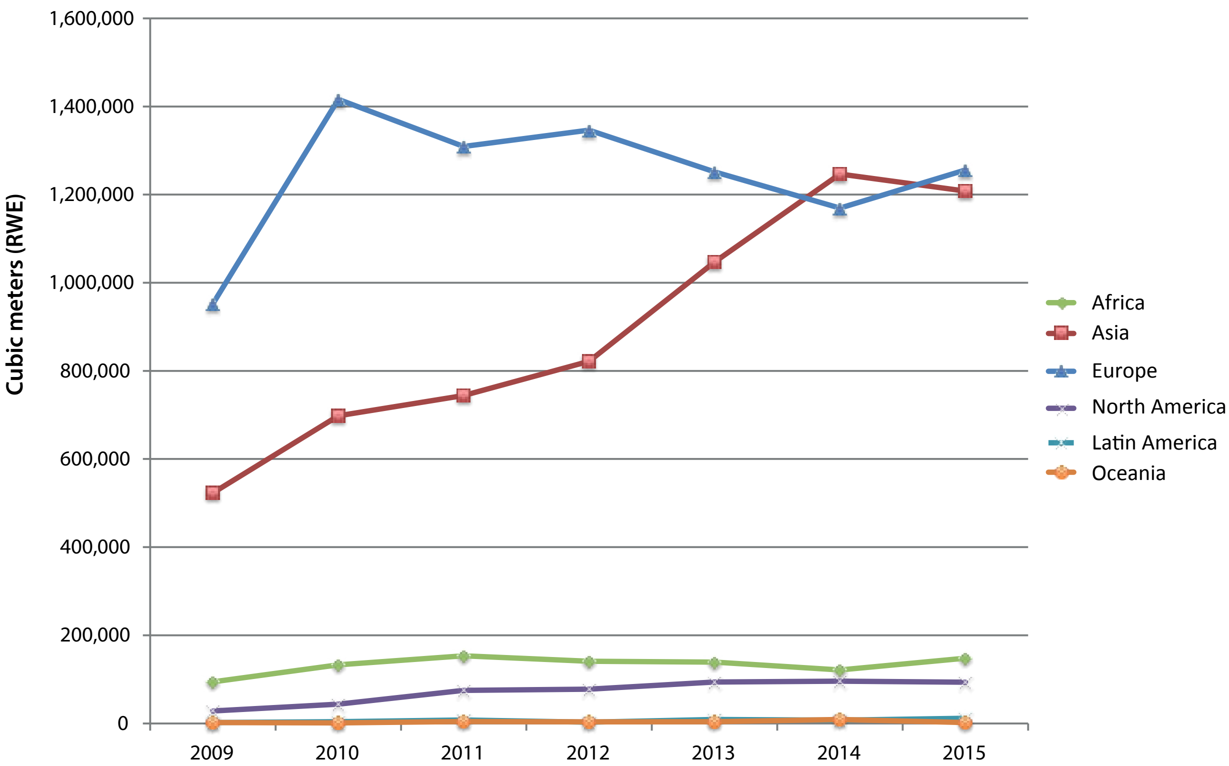

Figure 19. Exports (destinations, 2009-2015)

6 LAS Legality Assurance System

Work in progress.

Operations in the timber yard of a sawmill (Marc Vandenhaute).

7 Financial transactions

7.1 List of forest infractions (record of offences) AND List of fines for offences

Two records of offences (September 2013 and September 2015) are available on the website. In general terms, combining all the offences (forests, wildlife, charcoal, and non-timber forest products), the first list shows 156 offences for a total amount to be recovered of close to 16.9 billion CFA while the second list shows 276 offences for a total amount to be recovered of close to 17.3 billion CFA (Table 6).

7.2 Annual report on forestry revenue

In Cameroon, forest sector taxes and fees have been divided into "forest" taxes *per se* and general taxes that are applied to this sector and to all the other sectors. There are three forest taxes: the annual forestry fee (AFF - redevance forestière annuelle), the stumpage fee (SF - *taxe d'abattage*) and the sawmill entry tax (SET – *taxe entrée usine*). The SET was replaced in 2013 by the export tax for processed products. The general taxes (often shown in national statistics under "Other taxes") include e.g. export taxes and duties, taxes on public auction sales, fines, damage and interest, VAT, corporate taxes, forest regeneration taxes, transfer taxes, etc.

A detailed assessment of the forest sector taxation system starting in the 1990s, adjusted to factor in inflation, shows that the sums collected by the State rose considerably throughout the 1990s when the new regulations set out in the 1994 Forest Law were first applied (Figure 20).

As of the early 2000s when the 1999 partial ban on log exports became applicable, the export taxes (especially the export taxes *(droits de sortie)* and the surcharge on log exports) were lowered while the AFF paid by recently awarded forest concessions rose. The export taxes have become more important over the last few years (Figure 20, Tot. export) mainly for two reasons: the elimination of the SET in the beginning of 2013 and the increase in log exports.

Revenue from the stumpage fee (SF) has remained steady during the last decade (about 5.2 billion CFA per year) while revenue from the AFF dropped during the worldwide financial crisis (2008-2010) when MINFOF adopted some exceptional measures, especially the 50% reduction in the AFF and a reduction in the FOB price for certain species.

7.3 Annual payments of the annual forestry fee (AFF), by title

Using the list of concessions in Table 1 and their financial offer , we were able to calculate the total, theoretical amount to be expected from the AFF from forest concessions in 2016, i.e. approximately 15.9 billion CFA per annum. The AFF due on *sales*

Table 6. Record of offences (2013 and 2015)

	2013		2015	
	#	Amount (billions of CFA)	#	Amount (billions of CFA)
Court cases (forest)	67	16.4	87	16.3
Court cases (wildlife, charcoal, non-wood products)	40		85	
Companies suspended	0		1	
Cases with first notice of fine	17	0.1	38	0.2
Cases with notification of definitive fines, formal notice, subpoena (forests)	32	0.5	65	0.8
Total	156	16.9	276	17.3

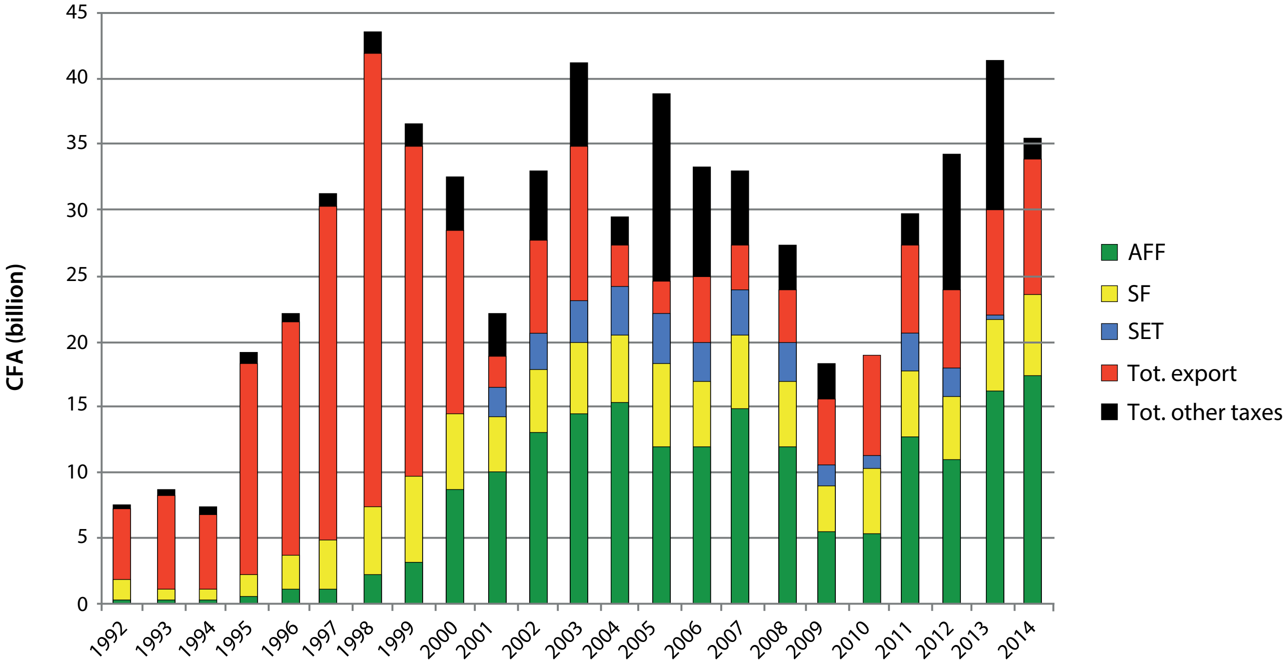

Figure 20. Forest royalties(1992-2014)

Note: AFF (annual forest fee), SF (stumpage fee), SET (sawmill entry tax); Tot. export (all taxes on timber exports)

of standing volume (90 SSV as at 22 March 2016) should be added, i.e. an additional ~2.6billion CFA (Table 7). The total amount expected from the AFF for 2016 (concessions and VC), thus, is 18.6 billion CFA. This figure is similar to the total amounts collected in 2014, i.e. 18 billion CFA.

7.4 List of payments of local and national taxes

"Not applicable".

7.5 List of disputes settled

"Non-existent".

Table 7. Operational ventes de coupe as at 22 March 2016

#	No.VC	Bidding price (CFA)	Operator	Area (ha)	Expected AFF (CFA)
1	070276	40,200	AFC	2,494	100,258,800
2	070284	50,010	SOFOCAM	2,500	125,025,000
3	070376	26,500	ELOUNGOU TOUA	2,251	59,651,500
4	0703302	3,700	ELOUNGOU TOUA	2,500	9,250,000
5	110211	7,450	UNIPROVINCE	1,236	9,208,200
6	110216	7,450	UNIPROVINCE	1,220	9,089,000
7	0801213	17,200	SFEES	1,654	28,448,800
8	0801220	2,550	ETS HARMONY CAMEROON	2,240	5,712,000
9	0801222	27,500	MEKOGECAM ENTREPRISE	2,326	63,965,000
10	0801223	2,775	ETS HARMONY CAMEROON	2,376	6,593,400
11	0801225	34,500	SCIFO	2,154	74,313,000
12	0801235	31,000	SOFICOM	2,485	77,035,000
13	0801236	30,618	EXAF	2,144	65,644,992
14	0803195	12,500	TTC	1,776	22,200,000
15	0803197	17,000	TTC	2,149	36,533,000
16	0803218	2,600	BMC	2,500	6,500,000
17	0804225	47,750	LE ZENITH	2,225	106,243,750
18	0804231	30,500	Ets MGBATOU	2,318	70,699,000
19	0804236	52,000	LEZENITH	2,500	130,000,000
20	0804400	2,500	SMK	1,536	3,840,000
21	0808222	20,000	KIEFFER ET Cie	2,200	44,000,000
22	0808226	56,300	ESA	2,300	129,490,000
23	0809230	2,618	EXAF	2,015	5,275,270
24	0809232	36,850	WFC	2,251	82,949,350
25	0809237	4,000	NAMBOIS	1,990	7,960,000
26	0809245	N/A	WFC	2,407	
27	0901219	76,700	ESA	1,777	136,295,900
28	0901319	2,700	SIBM	2,031	5,483,700
29	0901323	5500	AMOUGOU ABOUI	1,019	5,604,500
30	0901324	6,000	AMOUGOU ABOUI	1,018	6,108,000
31	0901325	5,000	AMOUGOU ABOUI	1,172	5,860,000
32	0901327	2,825	SCNB	952	2,689,400
33	0901329	3,550	SEXTRANSBOIS	1,062	3,770,100
34	0901330	3,700	SEXTRANSBOIS	1,163	4,303,100
35	0901331	3,750	SALI NDJIDA	1,105	4,143,750
36	0901332	3,750	BOISCAM	1,103	4,136,250
37	0901334	3,500	SCIFO	1,028	3,598,000
38	0901337	2,735	SAFE	1,050	2,871,750
39	0901338	3,000	SAFE	779	2,337,000
40	0901339	4,000	TCHA TCHOUANG	966	3,864,000
41	0901340	3,000	STE HUGUETTE FORESTIERE	1,015	3,045,000
42	0901341	3,000	STE HUGUETTE FORESTIERE	831	2,493,000
43	0901342	2,700	SBAC	1,025	2,767,500
44	0901343	2,725	SBAC	1,028	2,801,300
45	0901344	2,700	SOBOCA	897	2,421,900

#	No.VC	Bidding price (CFA)	Operator	Area (ha)	Expected AFF (CFA)
46	0901345	2,700	SOBOCA	842	2,273,400
47	0901346	3,100	STE,HUGUETTE	831	2,576,100
48	0901347	3,000	ETS NZAMA et Fils	967	2,901,000
49	0901360	2998	ECAPRESSE	890	2,668,220
50	0901361	4103	Ste Ets TONKAM Marcel et Cie	1,074	4,406,622
51	0901362	3,500	DINO&FILS	1,146	4,011,000
52	0901363	2,550	COFA	935	2,384,250
53	0901364	2,550	COFA	1,015	2,588,250
54	0901365	2,525	COFA	1,078	2,721,950
55	0901366	5,000	JEAB	1,012	5,060,000
56	0901367	5,000	EXAF	1,042	5,210,000
57	0901368	3400	SOFOMAC	891	3,029,400
58	0901369	3,350	SOFOMAC	957	3,205,950
59	0901370	3,300	SOFOMAC	1,005	3,316,500
60	0902206	57,755	EQUATOBOIS	2,500	144,387,500
61	0903224	25,000	NTOUTOUM Jacques	1,932	48,300,000
62	0903306	2,750	SBAC	1,920	5,280,000
63	0903316	2,625	SBAC	1,085	2,848,125
64	0903318	2,600	NAMBOIS	1,015	609,000
65	0903324	3,202	AFC	612	1,959,624
66	0903343	9,000	SALI NDJIDA	921	8,289,000
67	0903344	2,625	SBAC	1,062	2,787,750
68	0903345	2,650	SBAC	1,065	2,822,250
69	0903347	3,500	MMG	1,652	5,782,000
70	0903348	3,500	MMG	1,751	6,128,500
71	0903349	3,000	STE HUGUETTE FORESTIERE	807	2,421,000
72	0903352	5,000	AMOUGOU ABOUI	883	4,415,000
73	0903355	17,500	AMOUGOU AMOUGOU Jules	706	12,355,000
74	0903356	17,500	AMOUGOU AMOUGOU Jules	819	14,332,500
75	0903358	5,000	CTSC	641	3,205,000
76	0904405	2,600	SOBOCA	295	767,000
77	0904406	2,600	SOBOCA	361	938,600
78	1001227	9,800	KIEFFER ET CIE	2,500	24,500,000
79	1001228	59,000	LEZENITH	2,340	138,060,000
80	1001234	8,000	SOFICOM	2,500	20,000,000
81	1001235	40,000	KIEFFER ET CIE	2,500	100,000,000
82	1002206	34,250	SIM	2,500	85,625,000
83	1002226	57,550	OYE COMPAGNIE	2,200	126,610,000
84	1002228	62,250	BU'MO Sarl	2,000	124,500,000
85	1002400	2,650	ELOUNGOU TOUA	1,707	4,523,550
86	1003208	32,650	SFEES	2,474	80,776,100
87	1004304	3,000	SFID	824	2,472,000
88	1004305	3,000	SFID	855	2,565,000
89	1004307	3,000	SFID	801	2,403,000
90	1106025	28,000	FEEMAM	2,500	70,000,000
			Total CFA	**136,181**	**2,580,494,353**

8 Domestic timber market (DTM)

On 5 May 2016, there were three documents available on the website:

- Order no 0378_MINFOF_MICOMMERCE on the organisation and functioning of the Domestic Timber Market (DTM)
- Operationalisation process for the Domestic Timber Market (DTM) in Cameroon: present situation and future prospects
- Decision on optimisation of sawmills scraps.

Timber yard in a sawmill (Marc Vandenhaute).

9 Conclusion

Annex VII of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between the Republic of Cameroon and the European Union represents a strong commitment to greater transparency in the forest sector. Important information on the sector (production, allocations, management, processing, taxation, etc.) is presented in this annex and will henceforth be available to everyone. This is a big step forward towards improved governance and provides a unique opportunity for the government of Cameroon, which can now better satisfy the pressing demands of national and international public opinion for greater transparency in the management of its forests. It is also a decision-support tool that gives forest managers and politicians constant access to verified, up-to-date information. Lastly, in today's world with international regulations requiring importers to be increasingly careful about the legal origin of their supplies, Annex VII can play an important role by providing information that facilitates access to these rule-bound markets for Cameroonian timber products. This report is meant to be complementary to the database on the VPA Internet site (www.apvcameroun.cm) by providing the reader with a more thorough analysis of the information presented on the website. This is the first edition of the "State of the Timber Sector in Cameroon". It will be expanded and developed in future editions.

Processed wood ready to be exported (Marc Vandenhaute).

Annex I : Organisation of information published on the website www.apvcameroun.cm

1. Legal information
   a. International texts
   b. National texts
   c. Legality grid
2. Information on production
   a. Total annual log production
   b. Annual authorised logging volumes, by species, title and company
   c. Annual volumes processed, by type of product, species and company
   d. Annual volumes of logs exported, by species (total and to the European Union)
   e. Annual volumes of timber and derived products imported into Cameroon, and by country
   f. Annual volumes of timber sold at public auctions
3. Information on allocation
   a. List of valid titles, with names of the companies to whom they have been allocated
   b. List of annual operating permits/annual logging certificates issued
   c. Location map of valid logging titles
   d. Location map for annual areas available for logging
   e. Official areas of valid logging titles and allocation price (annual forestry fee - AFF)
   f. Notice of various invitations to tender (sawn timber sale, timber salvage licence, lumber permit, etc.)
   g. Information on pre-emptive rights
   h. List of annual withdrawals of secure documents (DF10 worksite books and waybills)
   i. Results of the interministerial title allocation committee
   j. List of approved forestry companies (logging, processing inventories, management)
   k. Notification of start of activities for timber recovery permits (TRP)
4. Information on management
   a. Mandate, roles and responsibilities of the ministerial departments responsible for management
   b. List of concessions under management
   c. List of council forests and their areas
   d. Area of forestry concessions allocated
   e. Area of forestry concessions involved in management (including annual operating plans and five-year plans)
   f. Area of forestry concession with approved management plan
   g. Area of certified forestry concessions
   h. Documents relating to approved management plans
   i. Terms and conditions
   j. Environmental impact studies
5. Information on processing
   a. List of approved processing companies
   b. Location of processing units (actual addresses and/or geographical coordinates of the processing units)
   c. Processing capacities per processing unit (% of capacity actually used)
   d. Volume of plant entry per company
   e. Volume of plant departure per company
   f. Stock at year end
6. Information on exports
   a. Data on timber in transit
   b. Data on exports, by species, country and company
   c. COMCAM report
7. Information on the Legality Assurance System (LAS)
   a. Final description of the Legality Assurance System
   b. Procedures for granting certificates of legality and FLEGT licences
   c. National strategy and control rules
   d. Reports from the independent title allocation observer
   e. Report from the independent forestry control observer
   f. Reports from the control teams
   g. List of certificates of legality issued
   h. List of FLEGT licenses issued
   i. Rejected certification applications
   j. Rejected FLEGT licence applications

8. Information on the audits
   a. Terms of reference for the audits
   b. Auditor recruitment procedures
   c. Results of the audit
   d. Complaints about the audits and their handling
   e. Introduction of corrective measures
9. Information on financial transactions
   a. List of fines for offences (record of offences)
   b. Annual report on forestry revenue
   c. Annual payments of the annual forestry fee (RFA) by title
   d. List of payments of local and national taxes
   e. List of fines for offences
   f. List of disputes settled
10. Information on institutional set-up
    a. Joint Implementation Council
    b. Joint Monitoring Committee
    c. National Monitoring Committee
11. Information on the Domestic Timber Market (DTM)

FAO FLEGT PROGRAMME

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

SWEDEN

UKaid from the British people

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