



CAMEROON COUNTRY PROFILE



Overview Forestry Sector



- ◆ Area: 475,650 km²
- ◆ Forest area: 22 millions of ha
- ◆ Population in 2020: 22 million (growth rate: 2.0%/year)
- ◆ Main cities: Yaoundé (administrative capital), Douala (economic capital), Deforestation rate (2010-2020: -0.056 mil. ha/year (source: IMM)
- ◆ Planted area (2020): 0.061 mil. Ha (source: IMM)
- ◆ Tree cover loss: 1.53 mil. ha (-4.9 %) (source: IMM)
- ◆ Tree cover gain: 65,100 ha (source: IMM)

Source: <https://www.globalforestwatch.org/map/country/CMR/>



Developments in the forestry sector in the last 20 years:

The major developments in the forestry sector in Cameroon over the last 20 years are:

➤ **The adoption of the forestry policy in 1993.** It formally introduced the concept of sustainable forest management in its economic, ecological and social functions.

➤ **The adoption of the 1994 forestry law.** its innovations are :

- ◆ Forest zoning: classification of the forest estate into permanent production forests, protected areas and rural area
- ◆ Community forest: establishment of rights for local communities to manage community forest through a contractual relationship with the administration
- ◆ Title allocation system: allocation of short and long term forest rights through a public auction in which technical and financial criteria are considered
- ◆ Sustainable forest management: introduction of forest management plans implemented by private firms in permanent production forests and monitored by the forest administration
- ◆ Forest taxation: redistribution of a portion of the area tax to local councils and communities

The reforms resulting from the 2002 institutional review of the forest and environment sector which led to the redefinition of the roles of the different stakeholders. The Ministry in charge of forests is concentrating on its regalian functions (steering, planning and allocation of resources, monitoring and control) while the private sector is recognized as having a role in realization of inventories and elaboration of management plans.

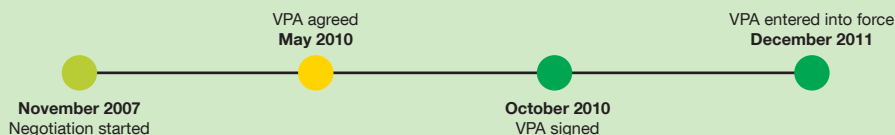
➤ **From 2003 to 2020, the focus is on improving governance in the forestry sector**, particularly forest law enforcement. This is reflected by the introduction of the Independent Observer; the adoption of the National Forest Law Enforcement Strategy; and the engagement in the FLEGT process, which started in 2005 and was officially signed on 6 May 2010.

In February 2017, Cameroon committed to the African Forest Landscape Restoration initiative to rehabilitate 12,000,000 hectares of degraded land by 2030.

- **In 2021: commitment to ban logs exportation from 2023** in order to promote further processing of timber

- ◆ VPA FLEGT

VPA Status: FLEGT Implementing





Situation of the Cameroonian forest estate in 2020

Permanent forest estate		
Type of allocation	Number	Superficie (ha)
Forest management unit	120	7.079079
Forest reserve	53	411.816
Protected area	37	4.820.666
Hunting area	67	5.340.858
Communal forest	72	2.300.325
Total permanent forest estate		19.952.744
Non Permanent forest estate		
Community forest	686	2.356.807
Cutting sales	144	212.616
Agro-industrial plots		522.886
Total non permanent forest estate		3.092.309

Source : 2020 Statistics Yearbook of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife



Cameroonian Timber Industry Competitiveness Timber Industry Competitiveness

For its timber and wildlife sectors alone, the forestry sector is an important lever for the country's development (MINFoF 2011); the third largest source of revenue for the state, after agriculture and oil, it contributes nearly 4% of GDP,

Cameroon has the second largest forest in the Congo Basin.

Country or area	Value (million US\$)
World	12308.7
New Zealand	1994.1
USA	1619.3
Russian Federation	1018.4
Germany	988.3
Czechia	894.8
Uruguay	678.4
Australia	394.7
Papua New Guinea	371.8
Canada	349.8
France	305.0
Belgium	268.6
Solomon Isds	262.8
Cameroon	226.4

Source : Comtrade, 2020

Although Cameroon probably has the largest timber industry capacity in tropical Africa, the country suffers from low competitiveness across a range of indices which has restricted opportunities to develop exports of processed wood products. ATIBT reports that there are circa 60 operational large companies in 2021.



Key Operators in Cameroon's Private Sector exporting Timber to Vietnam

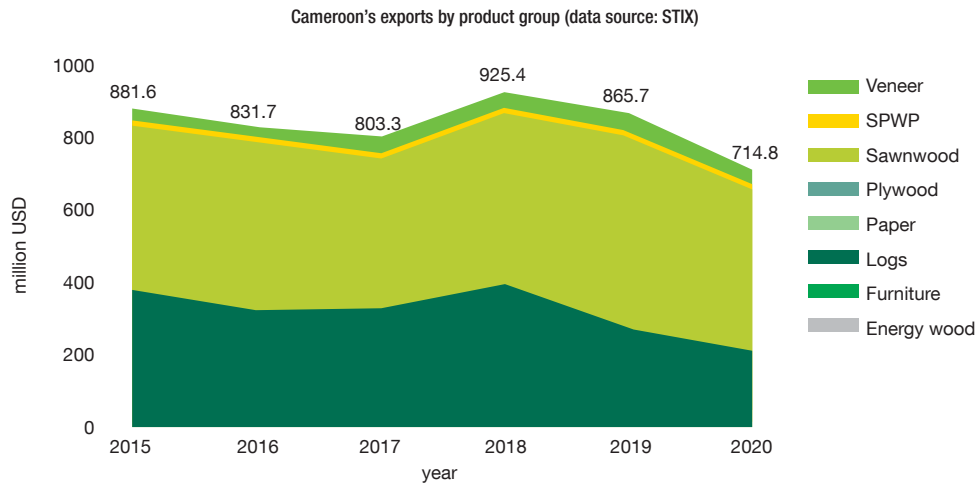
Drawing on Cameroon government sources, CIFOR notes that Cameroon is host to around 120 authorised and active forest enterprises and 199 timber processing units, the latter divided among the first (71), second (75) and third (53) degree of processing capacity. They are composed of: large multinational companies, Midsize companies with at least one Processing Unit, Midsize equity joint venture enterprises with a tangible Cameroonian partner, Small national operating companies, small-scale loggers, council forests, community forests, Individual processors or secondary-and-tertiary-processing agent, and traders

Source of legal timber, Ownership and type of forests

Category	Permanent forest estates		Non-permanent forest estates			
Forest title	Forest management unit (FMU)	Communal forest	Classic cut sales (VCC)	Development project cut sales (VCPD)	Community forest	Private forest
Modality of transfer of land rights	Consultation conducted by the forestry administration	Consultation conducted by the forestry administration	Consultation conducted by the forestry administration	Consultation conducted by the forestry administration	Consultation conducted by the forestry administration	The forest is purchased and sold between owners – but the land remains of the State
Land tenure	Private state forest	Private state forest	Public state forest with trees managed by the harvester	Public state forest with trees managed by the harvester	Public state forest with trees managed by the community	The forest is private, but the land remains a property of the State
Assignment period	15 years renewable	15 years renewable	3 years	Until the conversion is completed as specified in a convention	25 years with the renewal of the convention every 5 years	Defined in the simple management plan
Management	Management by the private operator under the controlled of the forest administration. Revision of management plan is possible every 5 years and compulsory every 30 years	Management by the commune under the control of forest administration. Revision of management plan is possible every 5 years and compulsory every 30 years	management by the forest operator under the control of the forest administration	Beneficiary of the development project	Management by the community under the control of the administration	Defined by the individual (silviculture, agroforestry)

Volume evolution for traded timber (per major destinations and product type)

Over the past decade (2009-2018), Cameroon exported 13.34 million m3 of timber to 96 destinations (countries) around the globe (Nepcon Study, 2018).



Timber market features between Cameroon and Vietnam

According to the Nepcon study in 2018, Cameroon is the most significant African country in terms of volume and value for both logs and sawn timber. Species known as Tali (Cameroon) and Lim in Vietnam (*Erythrophleum* spp.) dominate Cameroonian exports to Vietnam: 84% of all log and sawn timber exports to Vietnam are declared in customs data as Tali. Overall, Vietnam imports more logs of this species from around the world than any other species, equivalent to 21% of Vietnam's total log import volume (per cubic meter) and 29% of the value of log imports. Cameroon, the source country of the Tali species, is Vietnam's largest supplier (70% of all Vietnamese Tali/lim logs imports were supplied by Cameroon in 2015).

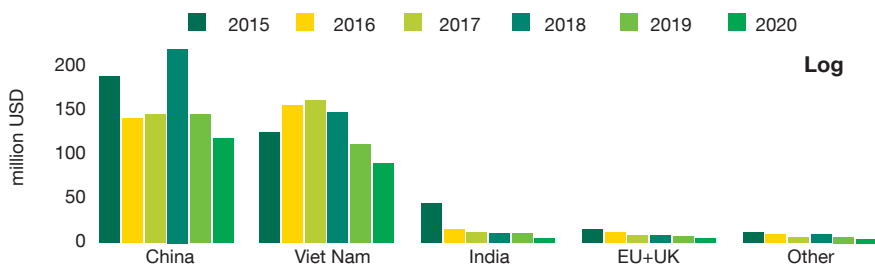
Although Vietnam is Cameroon's second-largest timber importer, it stands out by the poor diversity of traded species. The table below shows the volumes of the main species exported to Vietnam.

Species sold to Vietnam

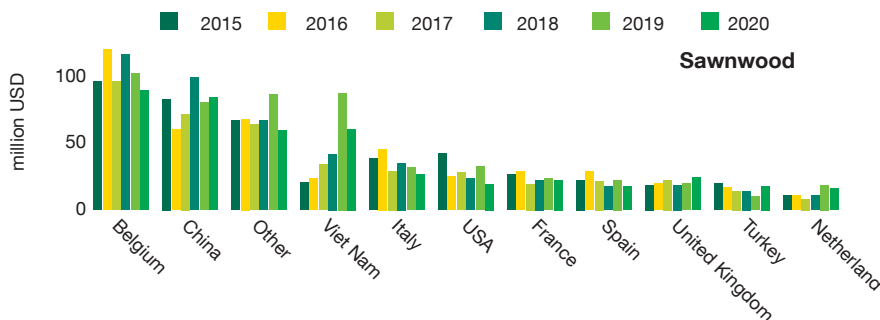
Tali, Awoura, Okan and – to a lesser extent, Doussie and other species – rank in importance order as the foremost species exported to Vietnam.

The importance of the economic relation between Cameroon

According to the General Department of Vietnam Customs import statistics as compiled by VIFOREST, (HAWA, BIFA and Forest Trends,2021), in 2020, Cameroon is the Vietnam top source country for logs in terms of volume with 541,559 m3 before United States, Papua Guinea and Belgium and in term of value (146,963,927 USD). Concerning the sawn timber, he is the fifth in volume with 146,963,927 m3 behind the USA, Chile, Brazil and New Zealand. But he is the end top source country of sawn timber in term of value with 153,634 USD behind the USA



Source: <https://flegtim.eu/country-profiles/cameroon/>



Source: <https://flegtim.eu/country-profiles/cameroon/>



Further information

<https://opentimberportal.org/operators?latitude=0.00&longitude=20.00&zoom=4.00>

<https://www.timbertradeportal.com/en/cameroon/24/legal-framework>

<https://preferredbynature.org/sourcinghub/timber/timber-cameroon>

<https://www.forest-trends.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Cameroon-Timber-Legality-Risk-Dashboard-IDAT-Risk.pdf>

<https://flegtim.eu/country-profiles/cameroon/>