

Timber Legality Risk Dashboard: Cameroon

Drafted as of: October 2021

SUMMARY OF LEGALITY RISKS

Risk Score: 81.7 (Higher-Risk^a)¹

Conflict State: YES (Medium Intensity Conflict)²

Log Export Ban in Effect: YES³

Import Regulation in Effect: NO

- Illegal logging and forest conversion have been widely reported in Cameroon.
- Wide-ranging illegalities in specific supply chains have recently been exposed, in particular related to the Cameroon-China and Cameroon-Vietnam timber trade flows but concerns remain about illegal timber entering other international markets.
- Significant efforts have gone into increasing transparency but corruption remains a concern.
- Reports continue to document cases of illegal logging particularly around high value species.
- Enforcement remains weak and there is a risk of illegal timber harvested from Cameroon being smuggled across the border and exported from Nigeria.

TRADE PROFILE OF FOREST PRODUCTS^{B, C, 4, 5}

Total Imports (2019): \$134.65 million

Total Exports (2019): \$903.94 million.
\$372.67 million (38.1%) exported to "regulated markets"^d

SUMMARY OF HIGHEST PRODUCT-LEVEL RISKS

Exports - Top Products Exported to the US by 2019 Value⁶

- Sawnwood (HS4407)
- Logs (HS4403)
- Veneer (HS4408)

Cameroon has banned the export of logs of certain protected species since 1999.^{7,8,9} Furthermore, additional restrictions have reportedly existed for sawnwood exports since 2000, with sawnwood of 15cm thickness or more being prohibited for export.¹⁰

Cameroon, as one of the six Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) members committed to jointly ban exports of logs from January 1, 2022 although implementation has been delayed until 2023.¹¹

SUMMARY OF HIGHEST SPECIES-LEVEL RISKS

Illegal logging and trade affect many timber species, but highly valuable - often rare and endangered - species that are protected under harvest and/or trade regulations are a key target and at an elevated risk for illegality. The following species are either currently, or have recently, been protected in Cameroon.

CITES-Listed Species:

Appendix II:

- **Afrormosia** (*Pericopsis elata*)
- **African cherry** (*Prunus africana*)
- **Bubinga** (*Guibourtia desmeusei*, *Guibourtia pellegriniana*, *Guibourtia tessmannii*)
- **Kosso** (*Pterocarpus erinaceus*)
- **Rosewood** (*Dalbergia* spp.)

The following species are prohibited for export in log form:^{12,13}

- **Acajou de Bassam, or Ngollon** (*Khaya anthotheca*)
- **Afrormosia, or Assamela** (*Pericopsis elata*)
- **Akaba, or Ekbama** (*Tetraberlinia tubmaniana*)
- **Aningré, or Aniéggré** (*Aningeria altissima*)
- **Bété, or Mansonia** (*Mansonia altissima*)
- **Biblolo, or Dibétou** (*Lovoa trichilioides*)
- **Bossé** (*Guarea cedrata*)
- **Bubinga** (*Guibourtia tessmannii*; *Guibourtia demeusei*)
- **Dambala, or Akoret** (*Discoglyprena caloneura*)
- **Diana, Celtis, or Odou** (*Celtis* spp.)
- **Ebiara, or Abem** (*Berlinia bracteosa*)
- **Emen, or Ebouk** (*Terminalia ivorensis*)
- **Essak, or Etimoé** (*Copaifera* spp.)
- **Essessang** (*Ricinodendron heudelotii*)
- **Esson, or Kivala** (*Stemonocoleus micranthus*)
- **Evene, Bomanga, or Ekop Evene** (*Brachystegia laurentii*)
- **Eveuss** (*Klainedoxa gabonensis*)
- **Evoula, or Vitex** (*Vitex grandifolia*)
- **Eyeck** (*Pachyasma tessmannii*)
- **Faro** (*Daniellia thurifera*)
- **Gombé, or Ekop Gombé** (*Didelotia idae*)
- **latandza, or Evousvous** (*Albizia ferruginea*)
- **Kanda** (*Beilschmiedia congolana*)
- **Kapokier, Bombax, or Essodum** (*Bombax buonopozense*)
- **Kondroti, or Ovounga** (*Rhodognaphalon brevicuspe*)
- **Kumbi, or Ekoa** (*Lannea welwitschii*)
- **Landa** (*Erythroxylum mannii*)
- **Lati** (*Amphimas pterocarpoides*)
- **Limbali** (*Gilbertiodendron preussii*)
- **Lotofa, or Nkanang** (*Sterculia rhinopetala*)
- **Mambodé, or Amouk** (*Detarium macrocarpum*)
- **Miama** (*Calpocalyx heitzii*)
- **Moambe** (*Annickia chlorantha* (syn. *Enantia chlorantha*))
- **Mutondo** (*Funtumia elastica*, *Funtumia africana*)
- **Naga, or Ekop Naga** (*Brachystegia* spp.)
- **Niove** (*Staudtia kamerunensis*)
- **Oboto, or Abotzok** (*Mammea africana*)
- **Olon, or Bongo** (*Zanthoxylum heitzii* (syn. *Fagara heitzii*))
- **Onzabili, Andongui, Osanga, or Sikon** (*Antrocaryon klaineanum*)
- **Ouochi, Albizia, or Angoyeme** (*Albizia zygia*)
- **Ovoga, or Angalé** (*Poga oleosa*)
- **Ozigo** (*Pachylobus buettneri* (syn. *Dacryodes buettneri*))
- **Tchitola (Prioria spp.** (syn. *Oxystigma* spp.))
- **Tsanya, or Akela** (*Corynanthe macroceras* (syn. *Pausinystalia macroceras*))

All tropical hardwood log exports should be considered high-risk based on overall legality risk in Cameroon. Robust third-party certification can be considered as a tool to help mitigate this high risk, but should not constitute sufficient due diligence for legality in and of itself.

FORESTRY SECTOR

Forested Area: 18.8 million ha (56% protected)¹⁴

Deforestation Rate: 0.27% annually¹⁵

Forest Ownership (as of 2015):¹⁶

- 20.62 million ha publicly-owned (100%)

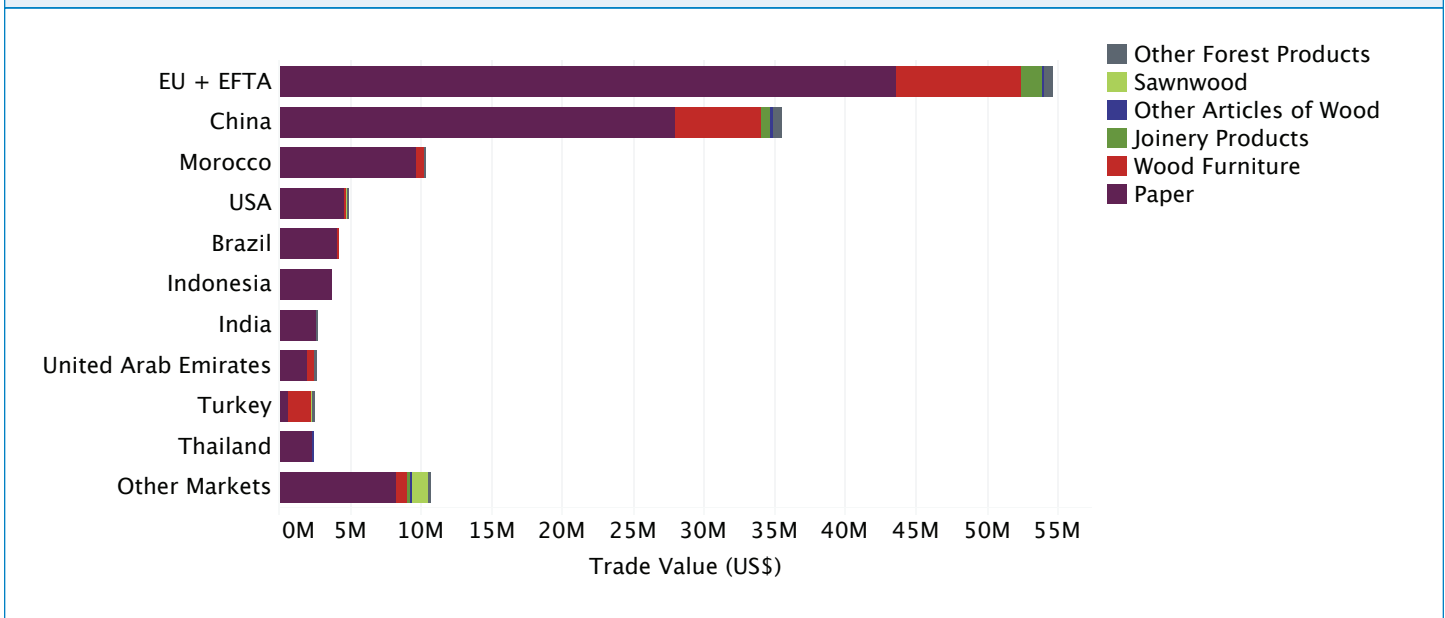
Certified Forests:

- FSC Certification: 341 thousand ha (2019)¹⁷
- OLB (Bureau Vertias) Certification: 2.6 million ha (2019)^{18,e}
- LegalSource Certification: 400 thousand ha (2019)^{19,f}

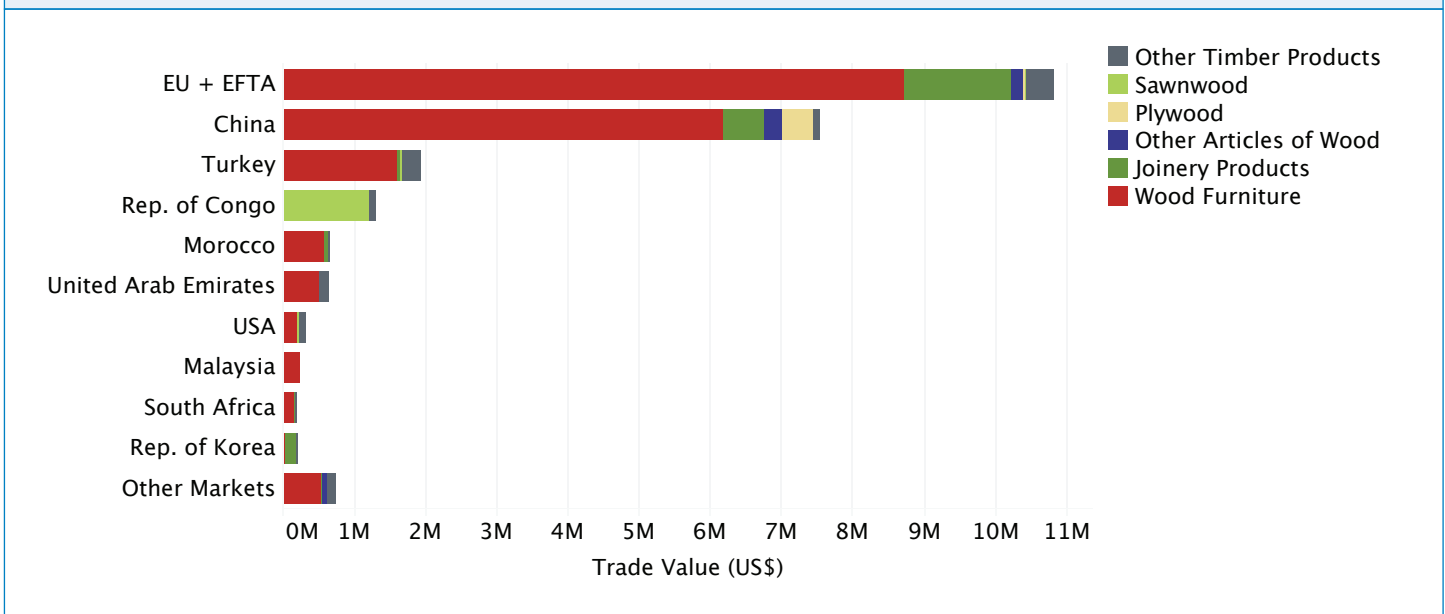
Domestic Production:²⁰

- Wood Fuel: 10.57 million m³ (2019)
- Logs: 3.83 million m³ (2019)
- Sawnwood: 1.32 million m³ (2019)
- Veneer: 96 thousand m³ (2019)
- Plywood: 18 thousand m³ (2019)
- Wood Chips: 16 thousand m³ (2019)
- Charcoal: 503 thousand metric tonnes (2019)

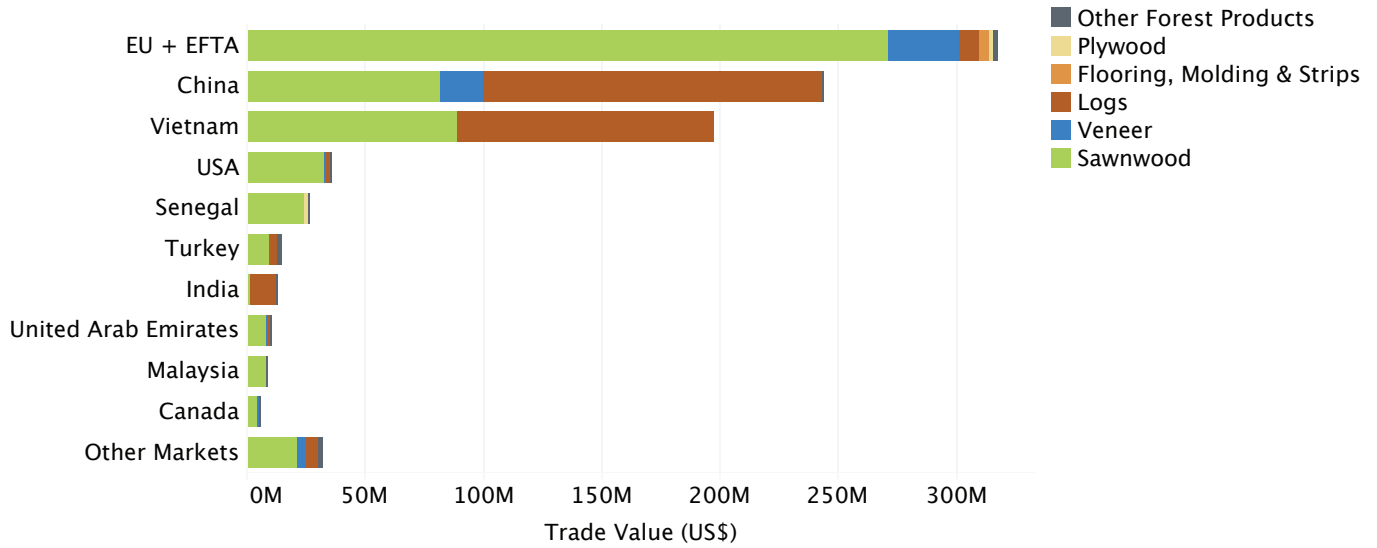
CAMEROON'S TOP SOURCE MARKETS FOR FOREST PRODUCTS BY IMPORT VALUE (2019)^{6,21}



CAMEROON'S TOP SOURCE MARKETS FOR TIMBER PRODUCTS BY IMPORT VALUE (2019)²²

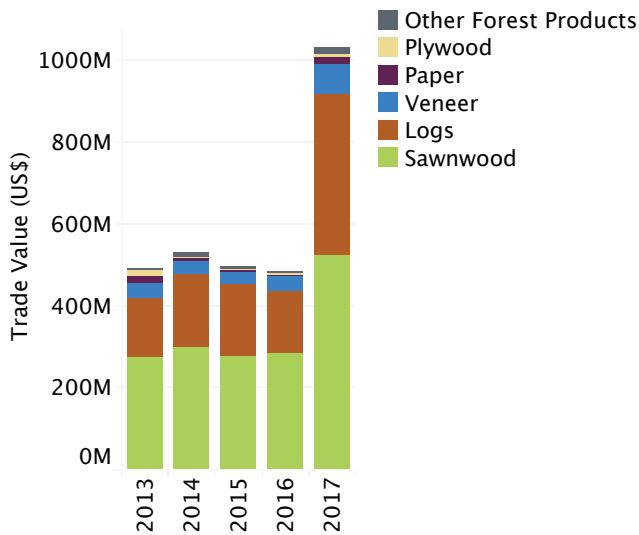


CAMEROON'S TOP DESTINATION MARKETS FOR FOREST PRODUCTS BY EXPORT VALUE (2019)²³

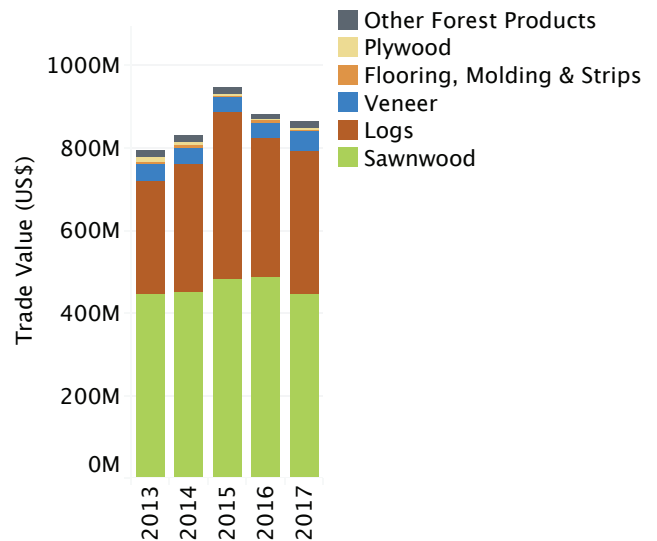


TRADE DISPARITIES: CAMEROONIAN REPORTED EXPORTS AND GLOBALLY REPORTED IMPORTS FROM CAMEROON (2013 - 2017)²⁴

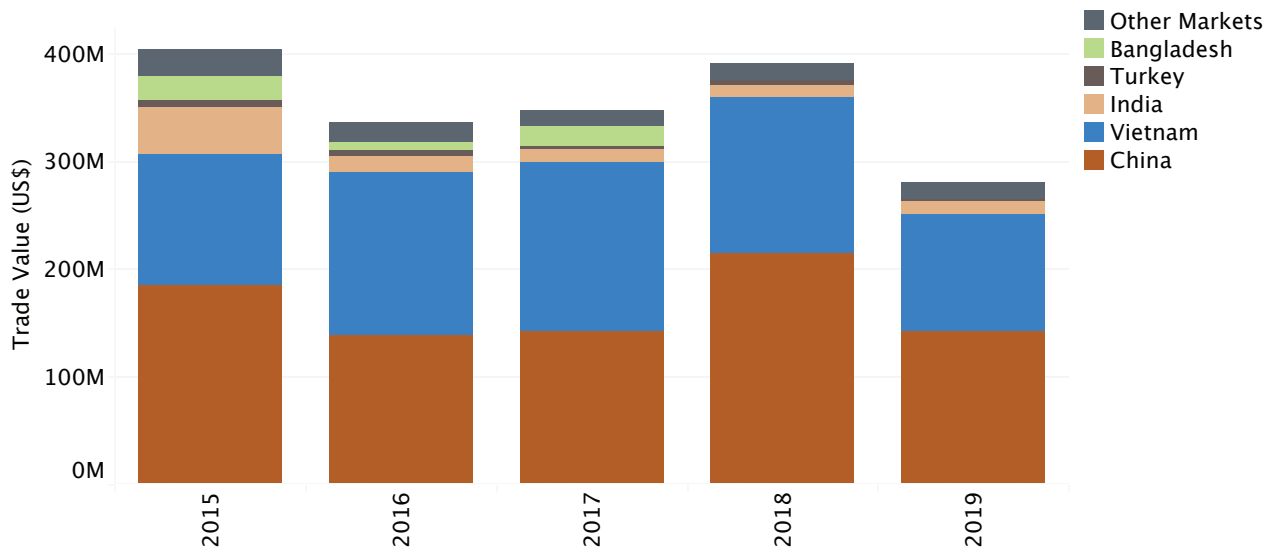
Cameroonian Exports



Global Imports

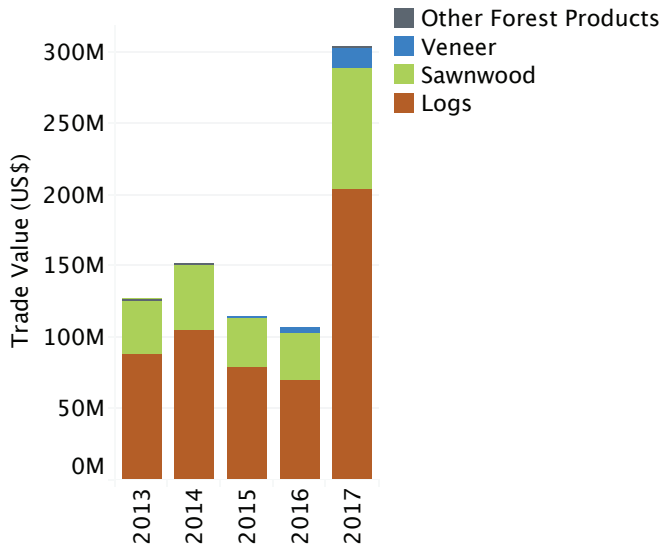


HIGH-RISK TRADE: GLOBAL IMPORTS OF CAMEROONIAN LOGS IN YEARS IN WHICH CAMEROON HAD AN ACTIVE LOG EXPORT RESTRICTION BY COUNTRY OF IMPORT²⁵ (2015-2019)²⁶

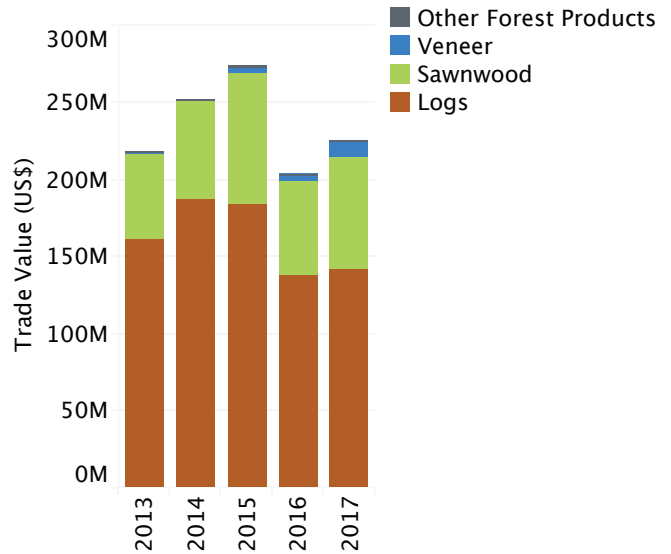


TRADE DISPARITIES: CAMEROONIAN EXPORTS TO CHINA AND CHINESE IMPORTS FROM CAMEROON (2013 - 2017)²⁷

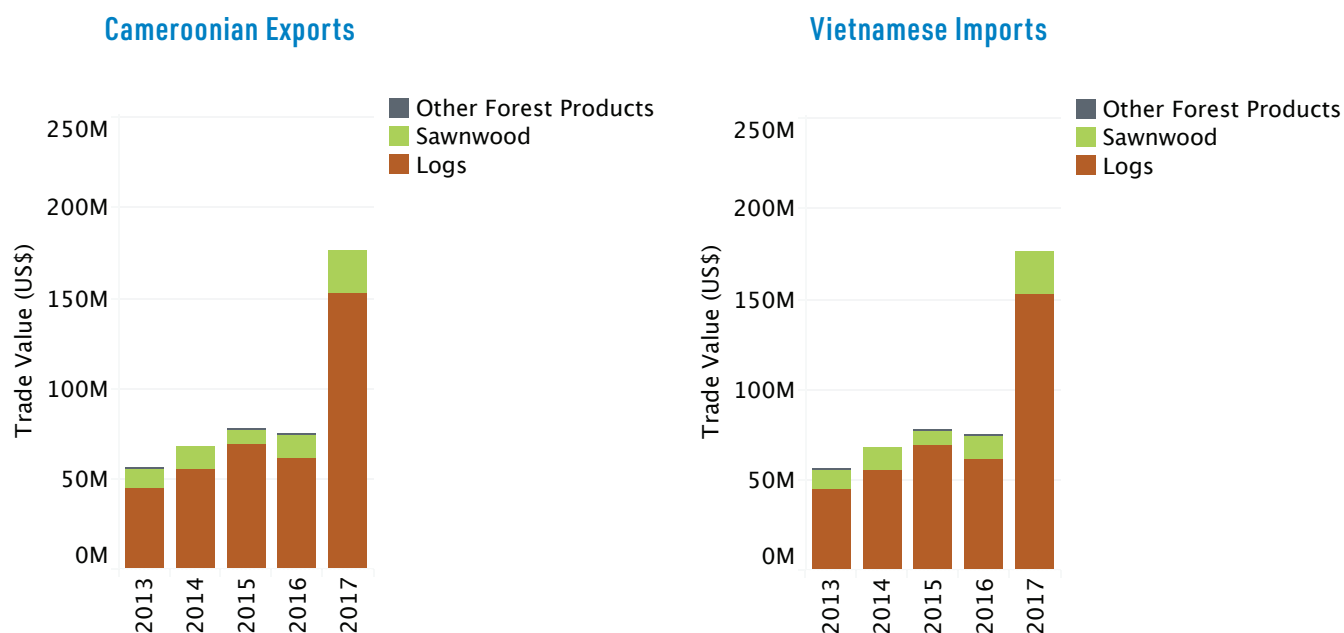
Cameroonian Exports



Chinese Imports



TRADE DISPARITIES: CAMEROONIAN EXPORTS TO VIETNAM AND VIETNAMESE IMPORTS FROM CAMEROON (2013 – 2017)^{28,29}



TIMBER LEGALITY

- **Illegal logging and forest conversion have been widely reported in Cameroon.**

Cameroon's forest area is estimated at 20.3 million hectares or 43 percent of the total land area.³⁰ Natural forests account for 99.7 percent of the forest area with the most widely occurring species including ayous/obéché (*Triplochiton scleroxylon*), sapele/sapelli (*Entandrophragma cylindricum*), tali (*Erythrophleum ivorense*), ilomba, (*Pycnanthus angolensis*), azobé/bongossi (*Lophira alata*), fraké/limba (*Terminalia superba*), movingui (*Distemonanthus benthamianus*), dabéma/atui (*Piptadeniastrum africanum*), iroko (*Milicia excelsa*) and padouk rouge (*Pterocarpus soyauxii*).³¹ The Biafran forest, near the Gulf of Guinea, is a low altitude coastal forest, and home to frequently harvested species, such as azobé and ilomba. Sapele/sapelli and sipo (*Entandrophragma utile*) tend to be harvested from Cameroon's dense tropical forests in the south and eastern regions of the country.^{32,33}

Forest plantations account for just 61,100 hectares or 0.3 percent of the forest area.³⁴ Species such as teak, ayous and rubberwood have been reportedly introduced in plantations.^{35,36}

Cameroon has a long tradition of commercial logging, with the forestry sector contributing 6 percent of the country's GDP and providing about \$124 million of tax revenues to the state based on estimates for 2012.³⁷ Most of Cameroon's forest areas have been permanently designated for long-term forest production or conservation, while the rest is intended for community forestry, a concept initially introduced in the 1994 Forest Law allowing forests outside the permanent estate to be divided and managed by communities or villages.³⁸ Cameroon is still in the process of revising the 1994 Forest Law, which started in 2008.

Illegal logging and forest conversion are significant issues in Cameroon although there are divergent opinions about the scale of illegal logging rates.^{39,40,41} Carodenuto and Cerutti (2014) suggest that the perceived rates of illegal logging have fallen considerably in the past decade, due in part to the international response to illegal logging, while several NGOs have suggested that rates have actually increased.^{42,43} In 2015, Chatham House estimated that as much as 65 percent of the total timber production is illegal.⁴⁴ This is significant given that Cameroon has become one of the leading exporters of timber products in the Congo Basin and Africa,⁴⁵ following a period of growth in national production, which has, at least in part, resulted from the allocation of small forest titles, in particular the Sales of Standing Volumes (SSV, "ventes de coupe") which

are reportedly prone to illegal practices.⁴⁶ Logging in Cameroon takes place in forests classified as Permanent Forest Domain (PFD) and Non-Permanent Forest Domain (NPF). The PFD is composed of Forest Management Units (FMU), council forests, protected areas and forest reserves.⁴⁷ The NPF includes community forests, SSVs, timber and recovery permits.⁴⁸

In practice, most of the declared timber harvested in Cameroon originates from either FMUs or SSVs. The most significant differences between these two production regimes are that SSVs are considered short-term logging titles of up to three years which allow harvesting of a forest area of up to 2,500 hectares.⁴⁹ SSVs do not require a forest management plan.⁵⁰ FMUs or concessions, in contrast, are awarded through public calls for tender with an inter-ministerial committee review of the bids and allocated for a duration of 15 years with the ability to renew once for another 15 years.⁵¹ As of 2019, Cameroon had granted 120 FMUs, totaling roughly 7.1 million hectares.⁵² At that time, 65 percent of the active concessions had approved forest management plans.⁵³ FMU logging agreements require companies to make specific investments to guarantee that their operations are sustainable, via developing and implementing a forest management plan.⁵⁴ Cameroonian law also requires that a percentage of the area-based Annual Forestry Royalty paid by companies in both FMUs and SSVs must be redistributed back to local communities. For SSVs, a proportion of volume-based stumpage fees should also be paid to local communities.⁵⁵

NGOs have documented corruption and illegalities tied to the allocation of SSV permits as well as highly destructive and illegal practices associated with logging in SSVs.⁵⁶ Greenpeace reports that SSVs are typically used as “cut and run” titles with the timber exploited very rapidly.⁵⁷ Illegal logging in SSVs has also been reported by independent observers, with the most frequently cited illegalities including logging outside the boundaries of the SSV and then laundering the timber into the supply chain by declaring that the wood originated from within the SSV.^{58,59} As such, illegal logging is facilitated by poor inventories, leading to overestimated logging quotas and more importance being placed on timber transportation permits rather than the quantities of wood actually available in the plots.⁶⁰

The biggest issue related to forest conversion in Cameroon is reportedly agro-industrial plantations.⁶¹ Illegalities in the allocation of permits for timber extraction linked with development projects including agribusiness plantations have also been documented.⁶² Community forests, which in some cases have brought improved forest conservation and livelihoods, have also been linked with reports of illegal logging.⁶³

Cameroon has signed a wide-ranging agreement on tackling illegal logging with the European Union (EU). Cameroon and the EU entered into a Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) in 2011 to promote trade in legal timber products and improve forest governance.⁶⁴ The commitments laid out in the agreement between Cameroon and the EU are ambitious,^{65,66} but the VPA is yet to enter into force and progress has reportedly been slow.⁶⁷ FLEGT licensing is not operational.

- **Wide-ranging illegalities in specific supply chains have recently been exposed, in particular related to the Cameroon-China and Cameroon-Vietnam timber trade but concerns remain about illegal timber entering other international markets.**

Wide-ranging illegalities in specific supply chains have recently been exposed, in particular related to the Cameroon-China and Cameroon-Vietnam timber trade flows.^{68,69,70} There has been an increase in exports to Asia, particularly Vietnam, which saw a 327 percent increase in exports of sawnwood between 2015 and 2019.⁷¹ Chinese involvement in forestry and the timber trade in Cameroon has also risen. Chinese companies reportedly prefer raw logs, buying around 55 percent of the 2019 total volume of logs exported by Cameroon.⁷²

The most common species exported to Asian markets include tali followed by okan/adoum, ayous/obeche, dabéma (*Piptadenia africana*) and sapele/sapelli.⁷³ Reports suggest that demand from Asia is increasingly for the species that are being abandoned by the European market like iroko, azobe, moabi (*Baillonella toxisperma*) and the red padouk/ padouk rouge.⁷⁴ There has also reportedly been a reorientation of demand away from bubinga, to ekop-beli and pachyloba.⁷⁵

Of the 100 companies holding logging titles in Cameroon, 18 have Sino-Asian capital, with 16 operating with Chinese capital.⁷⁶ There has been a growing appetite for Asian firms to acquire FMUs since 2005. However, to date, MINFOF has not issued a logging permit to any Sino-Asian operators.⁷⁷ Given the difficulties faced in obtaining FMUs, some Asian-owned companies decided to target access and logging rights in communal forests. Companies have reportedly signed notarized partnerships with community councils which has created a set up whereby the company offers to finance the forest classification process and development of the required forest management plan. In return, the community agrees to sell logged timber to that company at a preferential price, or at a specific volume or species.⁷⁸ In most cases, these contracts have reportedly lasted for

five years.⁷⁹ Of the 21 notarized subcontracts approved by MINFOF for the exploitation of communal forests, 12 were signed with Asian enterprises. In these instances, the companies have reportedly targeted the communal forests of the South and Littoral regions due to the presence of specific high value species in high demand by Asia (azobe, tali, ayous and ekop-beli) and the proximity to ports. Today, there has been a shift in operations with many of the companies operating with Asian capital now reportedly minimizing their risks and increasingly sourcing from companies that already have logging titles.⁸⁰ This has led to the growing importance of broker companies known locally as “courtiers” that do not have their own logging titles but buy from other companies and act as traders.⁸¹ The majority of these companies are based around the port of Douala and rely on agents or “transitaires” to handle the entire export process.⁸²

Illegalities tied to trade with Asian markets include, for example, companies logging outside of authorized areas, export of logs in breach of the partial log export ban, misdeclaration of the timber products and species exported, use of Cameroonian front-face companies to cover foreign-controlled operations in breach of national laws, violation of labor laws and corruption.^{83,84}

Most Asian traders reportedly pay their timber suppliers in cash.⁸⁵ The amounts of the payments range from hundreds of thousands to tens of millions of CFA francs. This method of payment does not comply with the legislation and reportedly facilitates tax avoidance, creating a loss of earnings for the government of Cameroon.⁸⁶ This practice also reportedly gives rise to the payment of commissions and royalties.⁸⁷

Concerns have also been raised regarding the legality of the trade between Cameroon and the EU.^{88,89} The European Union is Cameroon’s main export market for sawn timber with many large-scale forest operations predominantly owned by European companies. For example, a series of Greenpeace investigations into the broker or “courtier” company Compagnie de Commerce et de Transport (CCT), which has historically supplied the European market but is now reportedly Cameroon’s top log exporter to China, found that a number of logging companies that supplied CCT were allegedly involved in the laundering of illegally harvested wood.^{90,91} Many of the suppliers were reportedly logging with SSV permits.⁹² Greenpeace reports that CCT has traded with companies importing into several European Member States.⁹³ Dutch enforcement authorities took a Dutch importer of CCT timber to court with a ruling in 2017 that the importer was in breach of the due diligence obligations under European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR).⁹⁴ MINFOF subsequently issued responses to Greenpeace’s investigations, refuting the allegations.⁹⁵

- **Significant efforts have gone into increasing transparency but corruption remains a concern.**

Cameroon is classified by the World Bank as a state in *Medium-Intensity Conflict*.⁹⁶ Violent conflict has emerged in the Anglophone North West and South West regions which started as peaceful demonstrations in 2016 but gave way to a violent secessionist conflict perpetrated by a multitude of armed groups, increasingly laced with what the World Bank describes as “common banditry”, resulting in a dramatic escalation in violence since 2018.⁹⁷ As a result, Cameroon has become an increasingly fragile country with a considerable share of its population living in conflict areas.

Cameroon has also been grappling with attacks by Boko Haram in the Far North region. While the intensity of the violence has abated since its peak in 2016, there are continued frequent small-scale suicide attacks, especially in areas close to the border with Nigeria.⁹⁸ Since September 2017, violence has displaced more than 500,000 persons internally and claimed the lives of close to 400 civilians and over 200 military, gendarmerie, and police officers.⁹⁹ While the root causes of the conflict in the North West and South West regions are quite different from those in the Far North region, the World Bank reports that there are common factors, notably the poor quality of government services associated with corruption, a lack of empowerment of local governments and communities, and a sense of marginalization by a highly centralized state run by a President currently serving a seventh seven-year term.¹⁰⁰

Cameroon ranks low on Transparency International’s Corruption Perception Index for 2020, at 149/180.¹⁰¹ Rule of law, corruption, regulatory quality, and accountability remain problematic undermining the effectiveness of government policy. Weak governance and institutions, including inconsistent enforcement of laws and regulations persist with reports of bribery, nepotism and corruption rife in almost all sectors of the economy.¹⁰²

Reports suggest that extensive bribery takes place among senior officials, civil servants and companies in return for logging permits which fuels illegal logging.¹⁰³ Cameroon’s Penal Code criminalizes corruption, bribery, extortion, and bribery of foreign public officials. Corruption is punishable by a prison term, a fine and/or asset seizure but insufficient implementation of anti-corruption legislation coupled with impunity among public officials has reportedly exacerbated the levels of corruption in the country.¹⁰⁴ State officials allegedly collect more than EUR 46 million in bribes per year from illegal logging practices.¹⁰⁵

Transparency in the Cameroonian forest sector remains a challenge. Citizens' abilities to hold the forest authorities accountable or to fully participate in the management of forest resources is limited as a result of a decentralized system and limited availability of information.¹⁰⁶ While the VPA process in Cameroon includes commitments to improve governance and transparency, progress has reportedly been slow to deliver on the enforcement, transparency and traceability commitments.^{107,108} Since 2013, there has been no formal Independent Monitor of Forest Law Enforcement in place unlike in other countries in the region such as Republic of the Congo.^h Lack of transparency around logging permits continues to be reported as an issue, including, for example, the lack of publicly accessible maps for areas of operation for some SSVs.¹⁰⁹ Up to date data on production, forest concessions and timber exports are still lacking and after several unsuccessful attempts, the legality verification system still requires work.¹¹⁰ However, some national civil society organizations have developed external forest independent monitoring systems, which are playing a growing role in improving the availability of information on the ground.¹¹¹

- **Reports continue to document cases of illegal logging particularly around high value species.**

A survey of Ebo forest by Cameroon's Agricultural Research Institute for Development (IRAD) between August 2020 and March 2021 highlighted that around 2 tons of African zebrawood (*Microberlinia bisulcata*), a critically endangered species on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List is being smuggled out of the forest with the researchers predicting that illegal logging will push the species to the brink of extinction within the next two years.¹¹² In 2006, the Cameroonian government designated Ebo forest a proposed National Park, although no decree was ever signed. Logging, palm oil concessions and SSVs have been designated since.¹¹³ Chinese traders based in Douala were reportedly paying \$600/m³ for African zebrawood, a price that has doubled since 2018 and driving the current rates of illegal commercial harvesting.¹¹⁴

- **Enforcement remains weak and there is a risk of illegal timber harvested from Cameroon being smuggled across the border and exported from Nigeria.**

In theory, several actors are involved in enforcement including, among others, the administration in charge of forest and wildlife, law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, other multilateral partners such as Interpol, NGOs and forest bordering communities.¹¹⁵ However, in practice, these actors reportedly are only involved in providing information.¹¹⁶ MINFOF rangers are ultimately responsible for investigating forest crimes and lead control missions to inspect companies. There have been a number of missions which appear to have led to temporary suspensions of company operations although statistics and information on missions, rates of non-compliance and penalties applied appear to be announced occasionally and are difficult to find. In 2019, MINFOF announced that two logging companies Société Bois Africains du Cameroun (SBAC) and 'Société Forestière de Bouraka (SFB) were ordered to suspend logging activities in east Cameroon with some timber seized as a result of the companies reportedly breaking the law.¹¹⁷ On September 4, 2020, the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, Jules Doret Ndongo, signed two decrees temporarily suspending the operations of about twenty wood processing units in the Littoral region.¹¹⁸

Relying on only one ministry dedicated to managing and enforcing all forestry issues has reportedly strained local implementation and enforcement. Furthermore, budgetary constraints further hamper enforcement efforts. Cameroon reportedly has around 360 rangers for all 9.1 million hectares of protected areas.¹¹⁹ The number of rangers operating and carrying out missions outside of protected areas is unclear. An operational analysis looking at Cameroon's mechanisms for fighting illegal logging over the period 2017-2019 in the southern and eastern regions found that very few forest offenders are the subject of legal proceedings and the penalties imposed are not dissuasive enough which is reportedly contributing to maintaining or even increasing rates of illegal logging.¹²⁰

There are also concerns about the coordination of enforcement efforts transnationally, and particularly between the governments of Cameroon and Nigeria as well as the Central African Republic and the Republic of the Congo regarding cross border illegal logging. For example, in January 2021, 21 Nigerians were arrested in Donga-Mantung, the north-west border region of Cameroon, for illegal logging.¹²¹ The number of Nigerians arrested in a single operation has led to reports that there is an established transnational syndicate operating between Nigeria and Cameroon which can only be controlled through stronger domestic and regional enforcement responses.¹²²

The Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) has reported that much of the wood exported from Nigeria between 2014 and 2017 was illegally logged and exported in violation of state and federal laws. Although Nigeria ranks second among Africa's seven largest tropical wood-producing countries, much of this timber is reportedly sourced from Cameroon.¹²³ EIA have reported that the illegal timber is often smuggled from Cameroon to Nigeria by way of bribes to police and army at the border

and on the road.¹²⁴ Over 1.4 million illegally sourced Cameroonian kosso logs, a high-value and rare “lookalike” rosewood species which has seen rapidly increasing demand from China, were shipped to China through Nigeria in 2017.^{i,125} Taraba State borders Cameroon and serves as Nigeria’s wood trafficking hub. Poor forestry governance, weak monitoring and corruption have depleted forest reserves over the past decade and illegally logged wood from Donga-Mantung is now reportedly trafficked to Bissaula in Nigeria.¹²⁶ In Takum, a popular hub for timber products in Taraba, it is reloaded onto trucks and moved through Benue and Kogi states to depots in Obollo-Afor and Sagamu. From there it’s hauled to Onne and Lagos seaports and shipped to Hanoi in Vietnam, which is the gateway to China’s timber markets.¹²⁷

The Minister of Forestry and Wildlife announced in July 2021 that an operation was being carried out in Boumba and Ngoko in east Cameroon following similar actions taken along the Sangha and Ngoko rivers within Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo where 22 people were arrested including 14 Cameroonians.¹²⁸

REPORTS & ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

A list of relevant reports and additional online tools to complement this country report are also available at the IDAT Risk website: <https://www.forest-trends.org/fptf-idat-home/>

Key Reading:

- Cerutti, Paolo O., Martin Mbongo, and Marc Vandenhoute. 2016. “State of the timber sector in Cameroon (2015).” Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the Center for International Forestry Research.
- Meyers, James, Samuel Nguiffo, and Samuel Assembe-Mvondo. 2019. “China in Cameroon’s forests.” International Institute for Environment and Development.
- Perram, Anouska. 2016. “Behind the Veil: Transparency, Access to Information and Community Rights in Cameroon’s Forestry Sector.” Forest Peoples Program.

METHODOLOGY & TERMINOLOGY NOTES

- ^a Risk scores reflect Preferred by Nature’s Timber Risk Assessment which measures the risk of illegality occurring in 21 areas of law relevant to timber legality, as well as Forest Trends’ national governance scores which provides an average relative governance and corruption risk score for 211 countries globally. Preferred by Nature’s scores have been flipped to ensure compatibility with Forest Trends’ national governance scores, where higher scores are associated with greater governance and corruption challenges. An average of both the Preferred by Nature and Forest Trends scores has been calculated for 66 countries where both are available as of 2021. For all other countries, the risk score reflects Forest Trends’ national governance scores. Countries scoring less than 25 are considered “Lower Risk,” countries scoring between 25 and 50 are “Medium Risk” and countries scoring above 50 are “Higher Risk.” It is important to note that it is possible to source illegal wood from a well-governed, “Lower Risk” state and it is also possible to source legal wood from a “Higher Risk” country. As such, the risk scores can only give an indication of the likely level of illegal logging in a country and ultimately speaks to the risk that corruption and poor governance undermines rule of law in the forest sector.
- ^b The term “forest products” is used to refer to timber products (including furniture) plus pulp and paper. It covers products classified in the Combined Nomenclature under Chapters 44, 47, 48 and furniture products under Chapter 94. While the term “forest products” is often used more broadly to cover non-timber and non-wood products such as mushrooms, botanicals, and wildlife, “forest products” is used to refer to timber products plus pulp and paper in this dashboard.
- ^c Except where otherwise specified, all 2015 – 2017 trade statistics and chart data are sourced from Cameroonian reported data to UN Comtrade, compiled and analyzed by Forest Trends. All 2018 and 2019 data are sourced from globally-reported data to UN Comtrade, with the exception of Chinese import and export data, which are sourced from the General Administration of Customs, P.R. China, as compiled and analyzed by Forest Trends.
- ^d Regulated markets reflect countries and jurisdictions that have developed operational measures to restrict the import of illegal timber. As of 2021, this included the U.S., Member States of the European Union (as well as the United Kingdom,

Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland), Australia, Canada, Colombia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea and Vietnam. Some measures are more comprehensive in scope, implementation, and enforcement than others.

- ^e Up to date information on LegalSource certificate holders available at: <https://nepconsustainability.secure.force.com/Certificates/CertificateSearch#>
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- ^g All references to "EU + EFTA" signify the 27 Member States of the European Union (as of 2021), as well as the United Kingdom, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
- ^h Independent forest monitoring (IFM) has become a component of the Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs), which are a pillar of the EU's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan. The Action Plan entered into force in 2003 in response to rising international concerns about the social, economic and environmental impacts of illegal logging and related trade. Each VPA is a bilateral trade agreement negotiated between the EU and a timber-exporting country. While parties enter into a VPA voluntarily, the agreement becomes legally binding when both parties have ratified it.
- ⁱ All range states of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* have been referred to the CITES Standing Committee on the basis of documented, widespread and pervasive illegal trade. The CITES Plants Committee encouraged all range state to publish their zero export quotas, harvest or trade ban information but Cameroon has not, at the time of writing (October 2021), informed the CITES Secretariat that they have done this. See <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/pc/25/exsum/E-PC25-ExSum-04-R1.pdf>

No range State of this species has carried out a non detriment finding stating that trade in kosso is sustainable. The Cameroonian CITES Authorities have stated that there is no up to date population inventory nor distribution data and that there are no management standards for the species. The authorities also noted that the species is at risk of unregulated and illegal logging, with illegally harvested timber exported to China via Nigeria.

See Cameroon section of WCMC report <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/pc/25/Documents/E-PC25-15-05.pdf>.

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- ¹²⁸ Government of the Republic of Cameroon, Ministry of Forestry and Fauna. 2021. MINFOF Website. <http://minfof.cm/en/admin/files/crpcb.pdf>

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