Timber Legality demand side measures and Cameroon origin timber products

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VPA-FLEGT FOCAL POINT-MINFOF
Importance of forests in Cameroon

- 11% of Central African humid dense forests
- 22 million acres
- 26% of export earnings
- 80% of population depends on forest resources for livelihoods (mainly agriculture)
- 80% of the total energy (firewood, charcoal)
Cameroon Forest Policy Strategy

- Fight against poverty
- Participation of populations in forest management through Community forests, Council forests and hunting community areas
- Conservation (30% of the land protected by law)
- Good governance
Forest Management System

PERMANENT FOREST DOMAIN

- Forest Management Unit
- Council Forests
- Forest Reserves and Protected areas

NATIONAL FOREST DOMAIN

NON PERMANENT FOREST DOMAIN

- Agreed cutting areas
- Community Forests
- « Small Forest titles » (ARB/AEB)
- Mining Extraction areas
- Agro industry
The objective of the VPA

- The Voluntary Partnership Agreement was signed in Nov 2010, ratified in Aug 2011 and entered into force in Dec 2011

- The VPA aims to provide a legal framework to ensure that all exports to the EU have been legally produced or acquired

- The VPA is now part of the legal arsenal governing the forest sector in Cameroon.
Expected benefits in Cameroon

Article 18 of the VPA makes reference to the following promotion action for Cameroonian timber placed on the EU market:

- Encouraging public and private procurement policies
- Fighting illegal logging
- International promotion of TLAS
- Improvement of forest revenue
- Improvement of transparency
- Promote timber accompanied by FLEGT License
TIMBER LEGALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM (TLAS)

1. Verification of the Legality of the forest entity;
2. National Monitoring of forestry activities;
3. National Control of forestry activities;

Through the Information System, we check the compliance of legality

Through the Information System we follow the supply chain until the point of export

Through MINFOF, FMO and Ministry of Justice We ensure compliance with the legal framework
4. Verification of the compliance of the supply chain;
5. issuance of the FLEGT Licenses;
6. Independent Audit.

Through SIGIF II
Compliance of timber acquisition

Through SIGIF II
Supply chain, payment of fees, status of litigation, and the existence of certificate of legal compliance

To ensure the performance and efficiency of the TLAS
To operate the VPA, MINFOF has signed decrees in February 2013:

- **Order N°002/MINFOF** implementing the SIGIF II that will follow traceability, Environmental and Social Standard, and taxe payment;

- **Order N°003/MINFOF** setting terms for issuance of FLEGT Licenses;

- **Order N°004/MINFOF** laying down the procedures for issuance of Certificate of Legality under the FLEGT licensing scheme
CERTIFICATE OF LEGALITY

FLEGT LICENSE
Passport for the placement of timber on the EU market
INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN SIGIF

SIGIF II

- Forest Information Management System
- MINFOF Official data base

RECORD

- Approval of CMR Forest operators;
- CAEMC Operators and woods
- Certificate of registration as an exporter;
- Valid Titles;
- Geo-referenced inventories;
- Export Quota;
- Logging declarations;
- Declaration of entry in factory;
- Attestations concerning the certificate of Legality;
- Specification for export
- Litigation
SIGIF II
Forest Information Management System
MINFOF official Data Base

ISSUANCE
- PAO, CAE, AEB;
- Consignment for timber and for sawnwood;
- Forest taxes;
- Certificate of Legality;
- Attestations of compliance;
- FLEGT Licenses.
Challenges related to information management for FLEGT licensing

1. *lack of exchange of Information* produced by MINFOF services

2. *Limited mandate from MINFOF on information* produced by the other Ministries
Information management - MINFOF

• Major informations:

- Cartography
  - Planning
- Inventories
- Approvals
- Forest data management
- Standards
- Promotion and Transformation

- Forest Maps
- Management Plans
- Inventory datas
- Agreements, Orders, Decision, License
- CAE, PAO, Waybill, consignment, Statistics
- CEQEBG, Quotas, ATRNOR, CO, CITES
- CEQTB, CEQEBT
Information management - MINFOF

- **Major informations:**
  - Findings and Minutes of infringement
  - Notifications of fines
    - Primitive or definitive
  - Amount of fines
The Ministry of Environment archived informations that will be verified by FLEGT-IA

- Letter of approval of reference terms for environmental impact audit
- Environmental compliance Certificate
- Report on the implementation of environment management plan
- Compliance with other Environmental laws
Information management – Min. of social affairs

*Certificate of Compliance with labor and Social standards

- Signed work contracts
  - Payment registry
  - Employer’s registry
  - Convention on health for employees
  - Hygiene Committee
  - Proceedings of election of staff representative trial for company of about 20 employees
  - Internal regulation signed by the labor inspector
  - Payment of social taxes (CNPS)
CHALLENGES

1. The database developed by the Independent Auditor needs to be completed.

2. The collection of information from operators to analyze applications for Legality Certificates

3. The implementation of the Forest Information System (SIGIF)
PERCEPTION AND IMPACT OF THE EUTR

- Companies in Cameroon need to know what is needed by EU operators to prove the LEGALITY of timber products.

- Competent Authorities could contact MINFOF to inquire about the LEGALITY OF TIMBER even if it’s not totally a government-led process.

- The EUTR is used as a mechanism to help our country to continue selling timber on the EU market.
PERCEPTION AND IMPACT OF THE EUTR

- The EUTR is helping the administration **to tackle illegal logging while** Cameroon develop its system to issue FLEGT Licenses.

- The VPA and the EUTR contribute directly to ensure the compliance with all Cameroonian regulations.
Where can you find information on forest sector operators and legal requirements in Cameroon?

www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun
THANK YOU