

**Timber Legality
demand side measures
and
Cameroon origin timber products**

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VPA-FLEGT FOCAL POINT-MINFOF

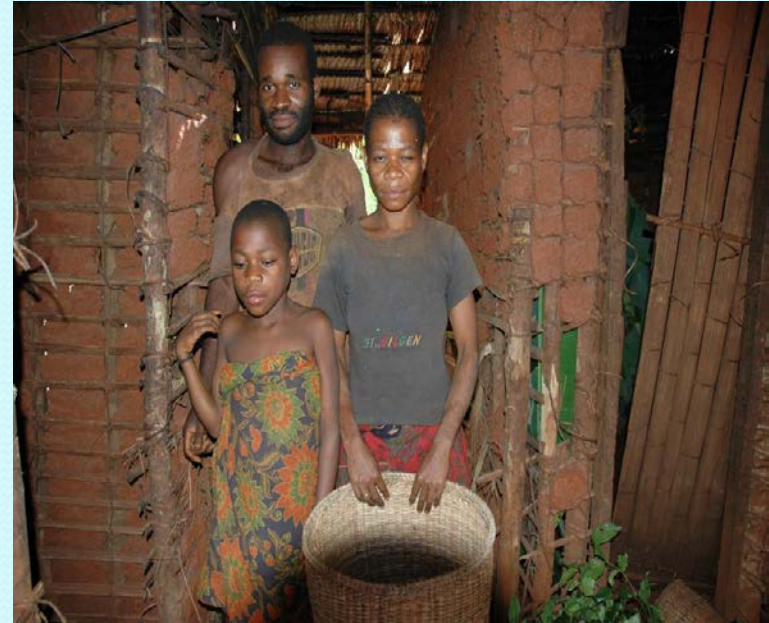
Importance of forests in Cameroon

- 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)

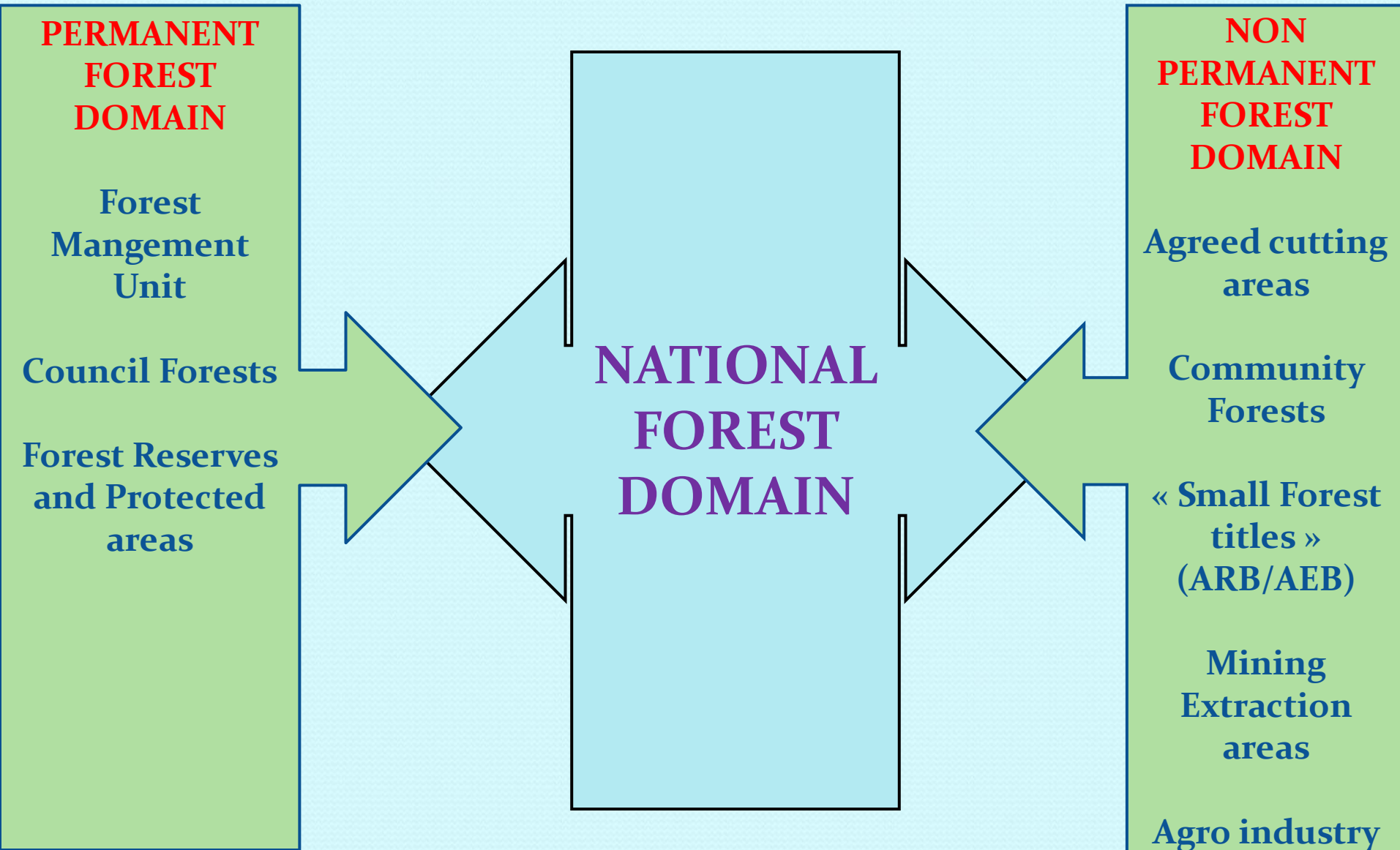


Cameroon Forest Policy Strategy

- 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



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

Fighti against illegal logging

International promotion of TLAS

Improvement of transparency

Improvement of forest revenue

Promote timber accompagnied 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

TIMBER LEGALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM (TLAS)

4. Verification of the compliance of the supply chain;
5. issuance of the FLEGT Licenses;
6. Indépendent 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

TLAS implementation

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 tax 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

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graph TD; TLAS[TLAS] --> CL[CERTIFICATE OF LEGALITY]; CL --> FLEGT[FLEGT LICENSE]; FLEGT --> TLAS; FLEGT --> CL; CL --> FLEGT
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TLAS

**CERTIFICATE OF
LEGALITY**

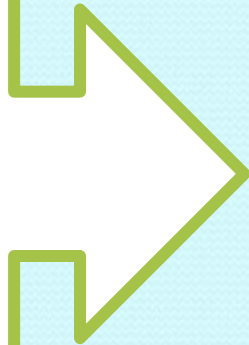
FLEGT LICENSE
**Passport for the placement of timber
on the EU market**

INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN SIGIF RECORD

SIGIF II

**Forest
Information
Management
System**

**MINFOF
Official data
base**



RECORD

- **Approval of CMR Forest operators ;**
- **CAEMC Operators and woods**
- **Certificate of registretion 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**

DOCUMENTS TO BE ISSUED BY SIGIF

SIGIF II

Forest
Information
Management
System

MINFOF
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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

DF

DPT

BNC

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

Environment

Labor and
Social
affairs

MINFI/
Taxes

Information management - MINFOF

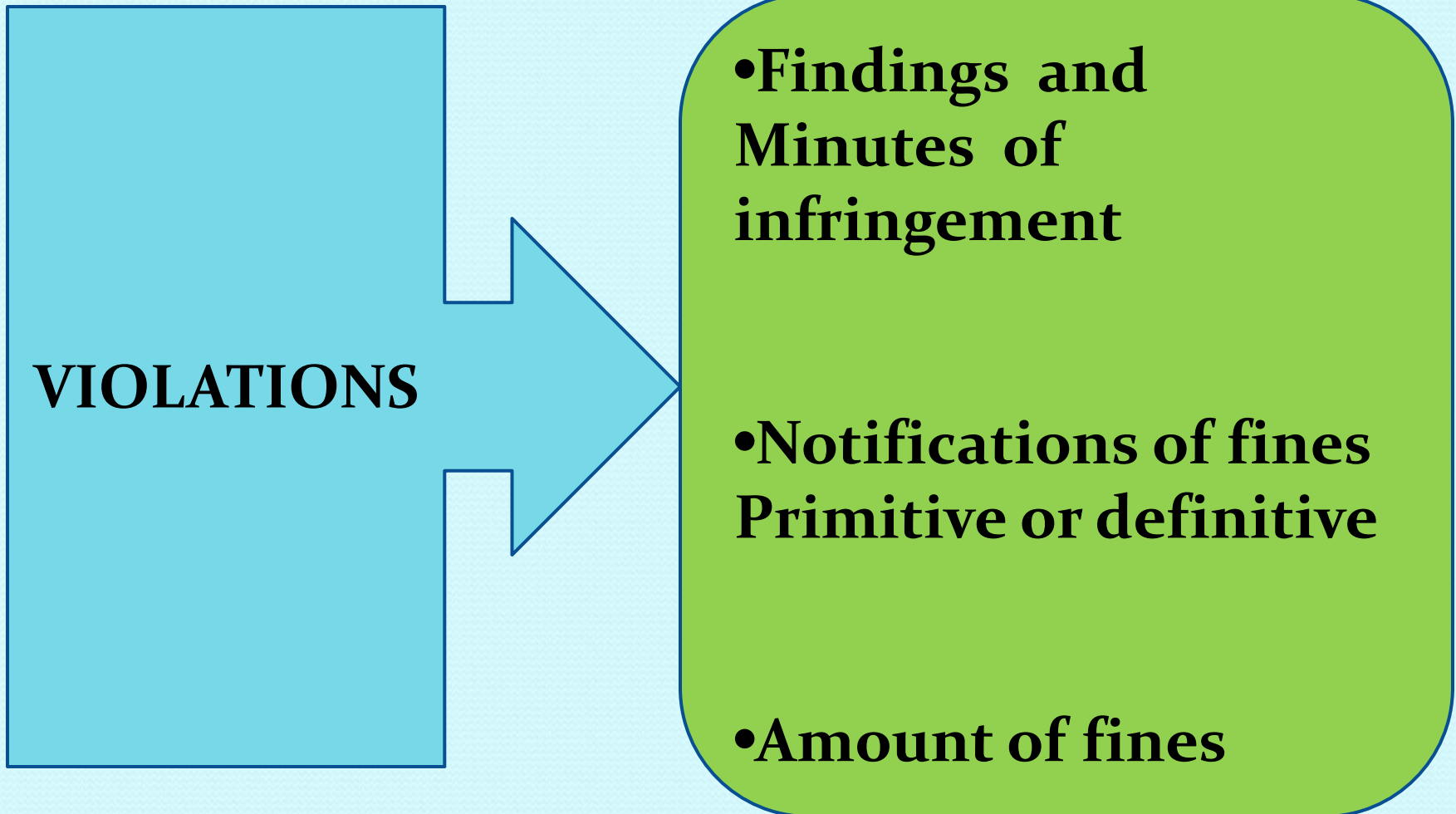
• Major informations:

- 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
- CEQEGB, Quotas, ATRNOR, CO, CITES
- CEQTB, CEQEBT

Information management - MINFOF

- **Major informations:**



Information management – Min. of Environment

- The Ministry of Environment archived informations that will be verified by FLEGT-IA

**Certification
of compliance
with
Environmental
Standard**



- **Letter of aproval 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 compagny of about 20 employees
- Internal regulation signed by the labor inspector
- Paieiment 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