



Cameroon and the European Union

Joint Annual Report 2012

On VPA implementation in Cameroon



Common efforts to ensure and promote legal timber trade and good stewardship of the forest sector



Niger

Chad

Nigeria

Central African
Republic

Republic of
Cameroon

Equatorial
Guinea

Gabon

Republic of
the Congo

Democratic
Republic
of the Congo

Angola



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1

Introduction and context

The Republic of Cameroon is home to abundant forests which cover 22.5 million hectares, half of the national territory. Approximately 17.5 million hectares of forest are harvestable of which 14 million are classified for long-term forest use as production or conservation forests (referred to as permanent forests). In addition, an estimated 1.4 million hectares are dedicated to community and communal forestry.

Since 2000, national forest production has stabilised at about 2.3 million m³ per year since 2000 with slight variations. Annual exports total approximately 1 million m³. The European Union (EU) being the preferred market for historical reasons - especially for sawn timber - and Asia is the second biggest market.

The forest sector is key sector to Cameroon's economy, accounting for 6% of GDP.

Cameroon entered into a FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the EU. It became the third country in the world to do so after signing the VPA on 6 October 2010. The VPA was then ratified and it entered into effect on 1 December 2011. The VPA is a public document which can be downloaded from the websites of the European Commission or the Cameroon Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF).

The VPA aims to strengthen forest governance and promote legal timber from Cameroon. It establishes a FLEGT licensing scheme between Cameroon and the EU, which includes a set of requirements covering legislation, systems, controls and verification procedures to ensure that all timber and timber products shipped to the EU have been legally acquired, produced, processed and exported. The VPA also establishes a transparent forestry tax recovery system. Timber verified as legal will receive a FLEGT licence. The VPA emphasises Cameroon's intention to ensure that all timber traded domestically and exported is legally compliant.

As explained in this report, the FLEGT licensing scheme is still being developed and is not operational yet.

Since the VPA formally entered into force on 1 December 2011, substantial progress has been made towards implementing the objectives set out in the VPA. Article 18 of the VPA requires the preparation of a joint annual report and this is that report. It covers the period from 1 December 2011 to 31 December 2012. As the FLEGT licensing scheme is not yet operational, there are a number of areas which have not been reported on. The approach taken was to describe the objectives of these sections and the type of information that will be covered in subsequent reports.

This report has been produced jointly by both parties, Cameroon and the EU, and was validated by the Joint Monitoring Committee in April 2013.



Photo: Ollivier Girard/CIFOR

Legality assurance system

Legality verification of the timber intended for the EU market will be based on the implementation of a credible legality assurance system (LAS). The foundation on which the system is built is a legality definition around which a multistakeholder consensus has been reached in Cameroon. The LAS described in Annex III of the VPA includes a timber and timber product tracking system from the forest or processing unit to the port of export as well as a series of verification protocols to ensure

that each supply chain stage complies with Cameroon legislation, which is described in Annex II.

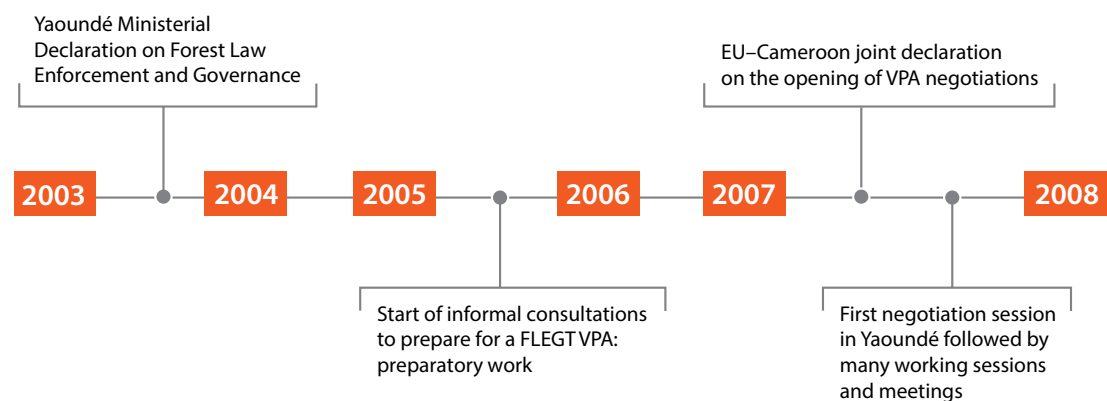
The LAS relies on verifying the legality of the forest unit, monitoring and controlling forestry operations, verifying supply chain compliance and issuing FLEGT licences for timber shipments verified as legal, all of these steps being independently audited in order to ensure credibility. LAS implementation is carried out against a clear institutional framework as prescribed in Annex III B of the VPA.

The following sections provide an update on progress made on LAS development during 2012.



Photo: Olliver Girard/CIFOR

Milestones of the Cameroon-EU VPA implementation



2.1. Legality verification procedures

As explained above, legality tables were developed by the various stakeholders when the VPA was negotiated. These are described in Annex II. Indicators and verifiers to verify the compliance of forestry companies were then specified. Legality verification of forestry companies will result in a 'legality certificate' which is one of the documents required for FLEGT licences to be issued.

In 2012, significant progress has been made towards establishing legality verification procedures:

- A Decree establishing the criteria and procedures for the issuance of legality certificates under the FLEGT licensing scheme was prepared and adopted on 7 February 2013;
- A Decree on the activation of a computerised forestry information management system (SIGIF) was prepared in 2012 and adopted on 7 February 2013. It stipulates that SIGIF is the prescribed database for issuing legality certificates and registering related assurances of conformity, confirming the tax compliance of forest operators and their status with regard to forest offences, and for issuing FLEGT licences.

- Legality verification procedures have been finalised and adapted to VPA provisions. MINFOF has thus developed and adopted:
 - A procedures manual for monitoring the legality and traceability of timber and timber products in circulation in Cameroon;
 - A guide for forest controllers based on FLEGT legality tables with the support of the independent observer.

At the same time, with the support of the Research and Action Center for Sustainable Development in Central Africa (CERAD) the Labour Ministry has developed verification protocols using indicators of compliance with labour laws and codes.

- Mapping of compulsory timber transit points as part of the timber traceability system.
- Capacity building initiatives intended for staff in charge of forest law enforcement in the context of VPA implementation.

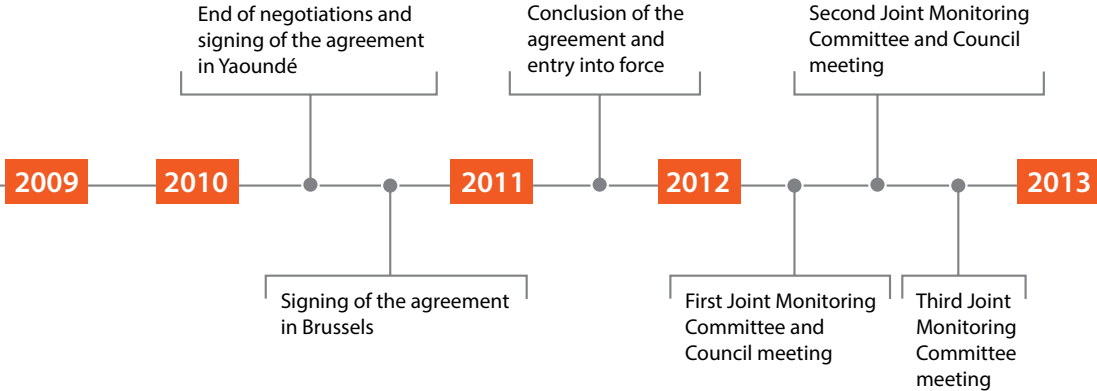




Photo: Ollivier Girard/CIFOR

2.2. Traceability system development, operation, challenges and lessons learnt

As described above, the VPA provides for the establishment of a timber traceability system from forest to port of export.

A project to develop a traceability system was carried out by a consortium from 2010 to 2012. This was financed by the EU and Cameroon through the European Development Fund. Execution of the project ran into difficulties and the traceability system was not operational when the project came to an end in December 2012.

Both signatories to the VPA assessed the experience and knowledge gained during the project, considered the lessons learnt and identified the stages necessary to improve the SIGIF so the system integrates both traceability and legality verification aspects. In 2013, Cameroon and the EU will come to an agreement on how best to deploy the SIGIF in order to have a credible LAS as soon as possible.

2.3. Mechanism to handle non-compliance

Under the FLEGT licensing scheme it has been agreed not to issue licences in cases where there is non-compliance with the legality definition. Therefore, FLEGT licences shall not be issued for timber and timber products until any such non-compliance is resolved. In order for the LAS to be operational, clear and effective procedures to handle non-compliance as and when they are detected are essential and they should be consistent with the judicial framework and the penalty mechanism.

Procedures for resolving non-compliance issues and the drafting of requirements with regard to corrective action shall be addressed in 2013. Once the licensing scheme is operational, this section will describe each non-compliance identified and the steps taken to correct them.

2.4. Independent observer

The development and implementation of the FLEG Independent Observer (OI-FLEG) in Cameroon aims to help apply good governance principles in forestry operations and improve forest law enforcement. This mechanism was launched in 2000 and was implemented successively by Global Witness (with UK funding), Resource Extraction Monitoring (REM) and the Belgian research institute AGRECO with the Cameroonian NGO CEW (with EU funding). The OI-FLEG supports MINFOF's National Forest and Fauna Law Enforcement Strategy (SNCFF), which was adopted in 2005. This includes a section on 'promoting good governance through the presence of an independent observer during forest law enforcement activities in order to ensure that these sensitive operations are conducted in a transparent manner'.

Cameroon committed to establishing the Independent Observer as part of its Forest Environment Sector Programme (FESP).

Between the launch of the OI-FLEG AGRECO/CEW project at the start of 2010 and the end of 2012, 48 field observation missions were carried out in regular contact with the National Law Enforcement Brigade of MINFOF. The reports which have been validated by the editorial committee are available on the project website (www.oicameroun.org).

2.5. Issuing licences

The FLEGT licensing scheme is meant as the outcome of the implementation of the VPA between the EU and the Republic of Cameroon. A FLEGT licence is required for all timber product shipments to the EU. This process will be operational only once all other LAS stages are up and running (legality verification with the issuance of legality certificates and traceability).

A decree establishing the FLEGT licence issuance procedure as part of the FLEGT licensing scheme

was prepared in 2012 and adopted on 7 February 2013.

Work is in progress with the Finance Ministry's General Directorate of Customs to review how licences should be issued taking into account its intention to move to paperless procedures for international trade.

Photo: EFI



2.6. Independent auditor

In order to ensure that FLEGT licences are issued successfully and efficiently, the VPA prescribes an independent audit of the FLEGT system. The independent auditor's terms of reference are set out in Annex VI of the VPA and include a description of the main tasks, methodology, information resources and reporting requirements.

The establishment of the independent auditor was finalised in 2012 with the awarding of a contract to the EGIS/Oréade consortium through a funding agreement between the EU and Cameroon.

As agreed by the Joint Monitoring Committee in July 2012, the auditor first worked on setting up a database to verify the compliance of the allocation of the different types of titles (title audit) and analysing confiscated timber volumes. At the same time the auditor is developing its work methodology, document management system, procedures manual and a system for collecting and handling potential complaints, as prescribed by Annex VI.

3 Legality definition and regulatory changes

The aim of the VPA is not just to verify the legality of timber exports to the EU, but also to strengthen forest governance in general. The VPA process has helped to reach a consensual legality definition, and also to identify a number of areas where a reform of the regulatory framework is necessary. VPA Annex X describes these areas.

3.1. Short-term reforms

In order to ensure that the FLEGT licensing scheme is operational, to enforce it and harmonise some of the VPA provisions with the existing regulatory framework, several decrees were prepared during 2012:

- Decree No. 2013/002 on implementing a computerised forest information management system (SIGIF);
- Decree No. 2013/003 on establishing a FLEGT licence issuance procedure under the FLEGT licensing scheme;
- Decree No. 2013/004 on establishing the criteria and procedures for the issuance of legality certificates under the FLEGT licensing scheme.

In 2012, the Labour and Social Security Ministry also signed a collective agreement for the logging industry, which sets out working conditions for forest sector workers. The Environment, Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development Ministry adopted legislation on reducing the cost of environmental impact assessments.

Photo: EFI



Second Joint Implementation Council of the Cameroon-EU VPA, Yaoundé, July 2012

3.2. Medium-term reforms

Annex X of the VPA describes the improvement of the legal framework on forest management, in particular with regard to aspects which lack structure or regulation. It also sets out the principle of in-depth consultations to support legislation preparation. A detailed list of the areas concerned is provided in Annex X.

In 2012, MINFOF advanced the revision of the 1994 Forest Law. Several reviews were carried out between 2009 and 2012 (for example, an economic and financial audit of MINFOF and an internal assessment for the first decade of forest law implementation) and several subject-specific multistakeholder working groups were formed during this period. In 2012, MINFOF finalised a proposal for the revision of the Forest Law which was forwarded to the Office of the Prime Minister for adoption subject to its approval by the National Assembly in 2013.

4

Domestic timber market

The concept of an internal market for wood (marché intérieur du bois, MIB) was born out of the need to improve the structure of the domestic timber market in Cameroon. Research has shown the importance of this domestic market, which is comparable to timber exports in volume.

However, the domestic market is poorly regulated and supplied with material of often unknown or dubious origin as far as its legality is concerned.

A decree issued in 2010 sets out how the timber market should be organised. The aim is to promote timber legality on the domestic market as well as information on timber supply and demand.

4.1. Monitoring and organisation of the domestic timber market

Annex X of the VPA describes the monitoring of the domestic timber market.

As of today pilot sites which are actual sites have been selected in Yaoundé, Bertoua and Ngaoundéré, as well as at the port of Douala. Work is underway on strategies to improve the structure of these markets.

4.2. Other measures and policies to strengthen the contribution of the domestic timber market to the national economy

In partnership with MINFOF, the Center for International Forest Research (CIFOR) is working on identifying how to improve the regulation of the informal sector on a practical level with a view to strengthening the potential benefits from forests to local communities and small and medium enterprises. Initiatives on

resource access, the legal status of the resource in agroforestry areas, permit allocation, entry rights to the forestry profession, chainsaw milling monitoring and safeguards to prevent pre-emption of the benefits by local elites and corruption are being considered. The option of decentralising small permit allocation has also been suggested.

As part of a World Bank programme, MINFOF is working on training young people in timber-related occupations in order to improve professionalism in the country's industry. Company clusters are supported through this programme and are to be established in Yaoundé and Bertoua.



Photo: Yves Derenne/EuropeAid

5 Trade in FLEGT-licensed timber

As stated in Article 2, one of the main objectives of the VPA is to ensure that all timber and timber products imported into the EU from Cameroon have been legally produced or acquired. Once the FLEGT licensing scheme is operational, this section of the annual report will focus on trade statistics relating to FLEGT-licensed timber and timber products. The information provided will include:

- Quantity of timber and timber products exported from Cameroon to the EU under the FLEGT licensing scheme;
- Quantity of timber and timber products from Cameroon and elsewhere imported into the EU under the FLEGT licensing scheme;
- Quantity of timber and timber products imported into Cameroon;
- Quantity of timber and timber products having transited through Cameroon;

- Information on prices for FLEGT timber on the international market;
- Number of FLEGT licenses issued by Cameroon;
- Number of Cameroon FLEGT licences received by the EU;
- Number of problems and cases of non-compliance with the FLEGT licensing scheme and steps taken in such instances.

5.1. The FLEGT licence verification process by the EU

In accordance with the EU Council FLEGT Regulation (No. 2173/2005), EU Member States have appointed their competent authorities for FLEGT. Competent authorities will be responsible for receiving and processing FLEGT licences once the FLEGT licensing scheme is operational. A list of FLEGT competent authorities is available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/flegt.htm>.



Photo: Jolien Schure/CIFOR

5.2. Measures to maintain the integrity of the FLEGT licensing scheme and prevent its circumvention

The VPA allows for the legality verification system to be used for all timber and timber products, regardless of the final destination market. This will help to reassure all consumers about the legality of Cameroon timber.

Similarly, Cameroon is also committed to monitoring timber imports and timber in transit so that these are covered by the traceability system. Cameroon is discussing the issue of proof of legality for timber imports with its

neighbouring countries, in particular with the Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic. These countries are also implementing a FLEGT VPA so they should be able to prove the legality of their timber through FLEGT licences in the near future.

These issues are being discussed within COMIFAC (Commission des forêts d'Afrique centrale) and ECCAS (Economic Community of Central African States).



Photo: Ollivier Girard/CIFOR

5.3. The EU and other international markets

In October 2010, the European Parliament and the EU Council adopted EU Regulation No. 995/2010 which sets out the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market. This regulation, also called the EU Timber Regulation entered into force in March 2013. It explicitly recognises FLEGT-licensed timber and thus encourages EU operators to source such timber in order to comply with the regulation.

In 2012, several implementing regulations were adopted in the EU. EU Member States have at the same time appointed their competent authorities to be in charge of implementing the EU Timber Regulation. The list of competent authorities is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eutr2013/contacts/index_fr.htm.

6.1. New institutional structures

In order for the VPA to be effective, it is necessary to create new institutional structures. The following sections describe the roles of these structures and their current development status.

National Monitoring Committee (CNS, Comité national de suivi)

The National Monitoring Committee established on 10 September 2012 by the Prime Minister's Decree No. 126 is a national stakeholder consultation platform on VPA implementation pursuant to Article 16 of the VPA. Since the VPA was ratified the CNS has operated informally as a Technical Monitoring Committee (CTS, Comité technique de suivi) and will do so until it is formally established. The multistakeholder CTS participated in VPA negotiations.

The CNS (like the CTS) consists of stakeholders who have an interest in improving forest governance in Cameroon. Besides MINFOF, it is made up of partner administrations in Finance, Environment, Labour and International Relations, parliamentarians, representatives of forest communes, civil society organisations, and sector trade unions. Cameroon is also maintaining a multistakeholder platform during the implementation phase in order to keep consulting the players in the field as this stakeholder engagement is considered to play a key role in the management of the forest sector.

The Committee's composition and organisational and operational arrangements were defined by the decree which established the CNS. The CNS met twice as the CTS during 2012, on 20 February and 19 June. The inaugural meeting of the CNS took place on 20 November 2012.

Joint Monitoring Committee (CCS, Comité conjoint de suivi) and Joint Implementation Council

The VPA provides for two bodies to facilitate, oversee and assess the implementation of the VPA. One of them is the Joint Implementation Council, consisting of two representatives appointed by each party who are in charge of overseeing and deciding on matters relating to VPA implementation. The other is the Joint Monitoring Committee (CCS). The CCS is under the Council's authority and will assess and follow the implementation of the VPA. Its role is to facilitate regular dialogue and information sharing between the two parties on implementation of the VPA and to keep the Council informed.

In other countries that have entered into a VPA, these two bodies are grouped under one structure called the Joint Implementation Committee (JIC).

The Council representation for Cameroon is chaired by MINFOF. The representation for the EU is chaired by the head of the EU Delegation to Cameroon.

The inaugural Council meeting was held on 6 March 2012 and was followed by a second meeting on 18 June 2012. The CCS also met on 28 and 29 November 2012. The minutes of both meetings are available on the websites of the EU Delegation in Cameroon and MINFOF. Operational procedures for the Council and the CCS were discussed during these two meetings and will also be made available to the public once they are finalised.

6.2. Capacity building

Photo: FODER

The responsibility for VPA implementation is shared between the government, the private sector and civil society. Building the capacity of all stakeholder groups includes raising their awareness of VPA requirements, training and developing new skills in order to successfully implement the LAS. Numerous capacity building initiatives have been undertaken, involving various stakeholders and funding sources. The aim here is not to provide an exhaustive list of these initiatives, but rather to give practical examples illustrating the types of activities. A list of projects funded by the EU is included in the Annex to this report.

The following sections describe in more detail the support provided to each type of stakeholder group during the reporting period.

Civil society

In 2012, the ACP FLEGT Support Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) helped local organisations develop initiatives on communal forest monitoring, community forestry support, and raising awareness of local communities on VPA requirements.

Higher education was targeted to improve teaching about the FLEGT process in national schools. As part of a regional project, continuing professional development sessions on forest governance were organised by the University of Wolverhampton.

The EU also launched a call for proposals targeting civil society organisations in Cameroon. Examples include supporting a group of journalists to better inform communities on forestry legislation and the FLEGT process, supporting an NGO to work with forest communities on improving local forest governance, and another NGO to develop a methodology for observation of forestry practices by civil society and local communities.

Other organisations were also very actively engaged in supporting local organisations, such as the Forest Peoples Programme (FPP) as part of their regional project Involving Forest Communities and CSOs in the FLEGT Process, Global Witness through its project Making the Forest Sector Transparent, and FERN and Well Grounded through EU and the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) funding.



MINFOF's Secretary General, Denis Koutou Koulagna, at the First Central Africa Forest Governance Forum held in Yaoundé, 21-22 November 2011

Private sector

The Cameroon Timber Industry Group (GFBC, Groupement de la filière bois au Cameroun) was proactive in raising awareness and training private sector stakeholders in the VPA and verification procedures thanks to funding from FAO, and through a project of the International Technical Association for Tropical Timber (ATIBT).

The Tropical Forest Trust (TFT) received EU funding to help small forestry companies to prepare for implementation and compliance with the VPA legality requirements. This project aimed to:

- raise awareness of small and medium enterprises in the sector about the challenges of VPA implementation;
- understand the problems faced by SMEs when applying the law, based on an assessment of their legal compliance;
- share observations and lessons learned from this work with all stakeholders.



Photo: EFI

Meeting of the CSO platform ECFP on the implementation of the VPA, July 2012

MINFOF and government agencies

Several activities to strengthen capacity of staff in charge of forest law enforcement and forest management were developed in view of VPA implementation, with funding from the MINFOF's budget and the ACP FLEGT Support Programme of FAO. Activities included three regional awareness-raising and extension workshops on VPA and the Code of criminal procedure provisions, as well as central and provincial staff training sessions on using internet technology and traceability tools.

Training on forest law enforcement, budget planning for law enforcement missions and the

Code of criminal procedure was provided as part of the independent observation project.

As part of the programme to secure forest revenue, a pilot project was set up to improve recovery and monitoring of forest revenue.

Other administrations

The Centre de recherche et d'action pour le développement durable en Afrique centrale (CERAD) worked with the Labour and Social Security Ministry and the Caisse nationale de prévoyance sociale (CNPS, National Social Welfare Provident Fund) to implement verification procedures under LAS (see Section 2.1 above).

6.3. Funding arrangements for implementation

The activities undertaken to implement the VPA were supported through funding from various sources: national budget, joint fund of the Forests and Environment Sector Programme (FESP), special fund for forestry development (FSDF), and support from funders such as the EU,

the German international cooperation agency (GIZ) and DFID.

Various civil society and private sector players also contributed their own funds.

7 Stakeholder involvement

Throughout negotiations between Cameroon and the EU, the Cameroon team consisted of representatives from various ministries, Parliament, the private sector and civil society. The multistakeholder platform is maintained during the implementation phase through the

National Monitoring Committee (see Section 6.1.1 above). This shows the extent to which stakeholder consultation is important for Cameroon and is considered a key element of forest sector management.

Photo: EFI



Second meeting of the Joint Implementation Council of the Cameroon-EU VPA, Yaoundé, July 2012

Major work was carried out in 2012 to communicate on the implementation of the VPA, raise awareness, inform and engage national stakeholders and strengthen forest sector transparency in order to improve forest governance.

8.1. Promotion of timber verified as legal

Work is planned to promote timber verified as legal. This work will increase once the legality verification system is operational.

Photo: EFI



8.2. National communication efforts on the VPA

In 2009 MINFOF adopted a communication strategy to divulge information on the VPA and promote legal timber from Cameroon. Since then MINFOF has been coordinating communication initiatives by the various stakeholders involved in VPA implementation. Though several projects and programmes include communication as an objective these still need to be integrated into a consistent national strategy.

For the purpose of communicating about the VPA process, MINFOF published a *Status report on VPA implementation during 2010 and 2011*. The report was drafted with the involvement of all Cameroon stakeholders and showed progress in 2010 and 2011, the numerous initiatives undertaken and the need to better coordinate activities.

A summary report should be finalised at the start of 2013 and will be available on MINFOF's website.

8.3. Information available to the public and stakeholders

The VPA and Article 2.1 and Annex VII in particular emphasise the importance of publicising information and defining what kind of data should be made available to the public. These relate especially to the law on logging, forest title allocation, forest management, processing, production, financial transactions and information on disputes.

Work on implementing Cameroon's transparency commitments was initiated in 2012. At a multistakeholder workshop an agreement was reached on a joint strategy to collect and publish information intended for the public on MINFOF's website. Some information is already available on www.minfof.cm. A dedicated webpage hosting generic VPA information and compiling all of the information listed in Annex VII is being developed and will go live in 2013.

As part of the observation of Central African forests, considerable data specific to Cameroon and the region is already available on www.observatoire-comifac.net.



Meeting of the CSO platform ECFP on the implementation of the VPA, July 2012

Photo: EFI

8.4. Transparency and measures to fight corruption

Several initiatives have been undertaken to increase transparency in the forest sector and combat corruption.

Work carried out by Global Witness and the NGO CED assessed the ease of access and availability of the forestry information listed in Annex VII. A report on this work was produced in 2012.

An initiative to promote transparency and combat corruption in the forest sector in Cameroon (ITAC, Initiative pour la transparence et la lutte anticorruption) was set up by the NGO FODER (Forêts et développement rural) and sponsored by MINFOF in the context of VPA implementation. As part of this initiative a multistakeholder workshop was held in 2012 to establish possible ways to deal with corruption including through the improvement of transparency and the development of specific training modules.

In 2012 MINFOF sponsored a study to describe the status of corruption practices in the forestry and wildlife sector. The results were published in September 2012. This should be viewed as part of the national corruption control approach together with the rapid results initiatives (IRR) to tackle corruption and the publication in 2012 of a report on corruption control in Cameroon in 2011 by the National Corruption Control Commission (CONAC, Commission nationale anticorruption) under the authority of the President.

Monitoring VPA impacts is key to effective implementation of the VPA. The VPA includes a commitment to develop a national-level impact monitoring system. The objective is to establish whether the implementation of the VPA is leading to desired changes in forest governance and to identify any negative impacts it may have so that appropriate mitigation measures can be taken.

Cameroon will start work on its impact monitoring framework in 2013.

9.1. Impacts

Once the national impact monitoring system is effective and the FLEGT licensing scheme is operational, this section will document on the main impacts observed following VPA implementation and the steps taken to mitigate any negative impacts.



Photo: Carl Frosio

9.2. Joint Implementation Council

Chapter 6 describes the institutional arrangements, including the Joint Implementation Council and Joint Monitoring Committee.

Article 19 of the Agreement sets out the monitoring responsibilities of the Council and the Joint Monitoring Committee. These include:

- Recommending a date at which the FLEGT licensing system shall be operational;
- Review the independent observer's reports;
- Publishing public summary reports based on findings by the independent auditor
- Create additional work groups for any areas needing specific expertise.

9.3. System to handle complaints

VPA Annex XI specifies that the Joint Monitoring Committee shall review 'any complaint relating to the operation of the FLEGT licensing scheme on either party's territory ... and suggest appropriate action to resolve the issues raised'.

A system for handling complaints relating to VPA operation shall thus be established.

Once the licensing system is operational, this section will report on the number and types of complaints received, and will provide information on how these complaints were resolved.

10 Annex

List of projects to support the Cameroon VPA in 2012

The following projects were implemented in 2012. Funding includes support over several years and initiatives in other countries targeted at regional projects. Amounts for DFID projects were converted to euros using a conversion rate of 1 GBP = 1.24 EUR. CSO: civil society organisation, ENRTP: Environment and Natural Resources Thematic Programme, including Energy

Donor	Beneficiary	Type of project proponent	Project name	Contribution (EUR)
FAO ACP FLEGT Support Programme	Groupement de la filière bois au Cameroun (GFBC)	Private sector	Strengthening Private Sector Capacity in Cameroon to Prepare for the Implementation of a FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement	92 953
	École nationale des eaux et forêts (ENEF) de Mbalmayo	National CSO	Capacity Building Project on FLEGT for ENEF Teachers and Students	69 357
	Association des communes forestières du Cameroun (ACFCAM)	National CSO	Technical Adaptation of Communal Forest Utilisation in Relation to FLEGT, Opportunities for Forest Communities	82 227
	Centre africain de recherches forestières appliquées et de développement (CARFAD)	National CSO	Governance Support to a Pro-poor Community Forestry Project in the Batouri Diocese	76 507
	Fondation camerounaise de la terre vivante (FCTV)	National CSO	Increasing Effective Forest Law Enforcement and Trade in the Cameroon Congo Basin	65 306
	Commission des forêts d'Afrique centrale (COMIFAC)	Regional institution	Developing Harmonised Legality and Traceability Tools for Timber Exported via Douala Port (Cameroon, Congo, CAR) (regional project)	53 627
	Programme de sécurisation des recettes forestières (PSRF)	Cameroon Government	Pilot Project to Support the Improvement of Forest Revenue Collection and Monitoring in Cameroon	35 751
	Forêts et développement rural (FODER)	National CSO	Strengthening Community Monitoring and Participation in the Implementation of a FLEGT-VPA in Cameroon	92 953

Donor	Beneficiary	Type of project proponent	Project name	Contribution (EUR)
FAO ACP FLEGT Support Programme	Ministère des Forêts et de la Faune (MINFOF)	Cameroon Government	Capacity Building for Personnel of MINFOF's Decentralised Bodies in Charge of Control through VPA Extension	59 119
	Centre international d'appui au développement durable (CIAD)	National CSO	Pilot Project to Support Better Organisation of Lucas Mill Operators in FCs of Lomié, Messok and Ngoyla	68 095
	Centre de recherche et d'action pour le développement durable en Afrique centrale (CERAD)	Research centre	Support to Build the Capacity of the Labour and Social Security Ministry and CNPS for LAS Implementation	28 408
	Ministère des Forêts et de la Faune (MINFOF)	Cameroon Government	Project to Introduce a FLEGT Product Labelling Procedure in Cameroon	38 325
10th European Development Fund	AGRECO and Cameroon Environmental Watch (CEW)	Consultancy, national CSO	Independent Observatory for Controlling and Monitoring Forestry Offences in Cameroon	2 480 070
	SGS and Helveta	Consultancy	Establishing a Forest Product Traceability System in Cameroon	2 270 655
	Egis Bdpa and Oréade Brèche	Consultancy	Independent FLEGT System Auditor in Cameroon	1 010 500
EU ENRTP 2009	SNV Netherlands Development Organisation	International and national CSO	Promoting the Legal Production and Export of Community Forest Timber	1 293 139
	Forest Peoples Programme (FPP) and Centre pour l'environnement et le développement (CED)	International and national CSO	Effective Participation of Forest-Dependent Communities and CSOs in FLEGT (regional project)	972 839
	Centre for International Development and Training (CIDT), Wolverhampton University and Forêts et développement rural (FODER)	International and national CSO	Strengthening African Forest Governance – through High Level National 'Illegal Logging' Meetings (regional project)	2 390 986

Donor	Beneficiary	Type of project proponent	Project name	Contribution (EUR)
ENRTP EU 2010	Centre pour l'environnement et le développement (CED)	National CSO	Supporting CSOs and Communities to Improve Forest Governance	98 500
	Forêts et développement rural (FODER)	National CSO	External and Community Observation in Implementing a FLEGT-VPA in Cameroon	119 280
	Centre d'appui aux femmes et aux ruraux (CAFER)	National CSO	Establishing a Local Forest Operations Monitoring System in Ngambé Tikar Arrondissement	97 246
	Fondation camerounaise de la terre vivante (FCTV) and Living Earth Foundation (LEF)	National CSO and international CSO	Participatory FLEGT in Cameroon	96 891
	Journalistes en Afrique pour le développement (JADE)	National CSO	Improving Information on FLEGT and Forest Legislation	79 600
	Nature +	International CSO	Supporting FLEGT Implementation in Community Forests	99 719
UK Department for International Development, regional projects	Well Grounded	International CSO	Civil Society Engagement in Governance Reforms in African High Forests	1 536 013
	FERN	International CSO	Promoting Good Governance in the Forest Sector	3 527 284
	Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI)	International CSO	Supporting Forestry Communities to Improve Their Tenure and Market Access	12 300 800
	Centre for International Development and Training (CIDT), Wolverhampton University	International CSO	Capacity Strengthening and Empowerment to Improve Forest Governance	2 793 209

This report was jointly prepared by Cameroon and the EU and was validated by the joint committee in April 2013.

This report is a translation of the original report in French.

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Common efforts to ensure and promote legal timber trade and good stewardship of the forest sector

Cameroon – EU

