

**TRAFFIC**

**BRIEFING**

# CAMEROON TIMBER TRADE

## LEGALITY TRAINING MANUAL

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## Aims of the manual

Enhancing the capacity of private sector operators and traders in Cameroon in trading legal timber

### LAWS AND REGULATIONS



The manual aims to allow a better understanding of Cameroon's forest legislation and rules by all operators throughout the supply chain through the European Union Voluntary Partnership Agreement's (EU VPA) legality lens. This applies to Chinese operators also.

### GOVERNANCE AND TRANSPARENCY



It also aims to help improve the governance and transparency of forest management, logging and timber trade in Cameroon by Chinese and other logging companies including operations predominantly supported by Chinese capital.



## Cameroon key figures

22.5 million hectares of forests  
annual timber production : 2.3million m<sup>3</sup>  
forestry contributes 30% national economy  
forestry accounts for roughly 4% of GDP  
provides 22,722 direct permanent jobs

## Contextual background

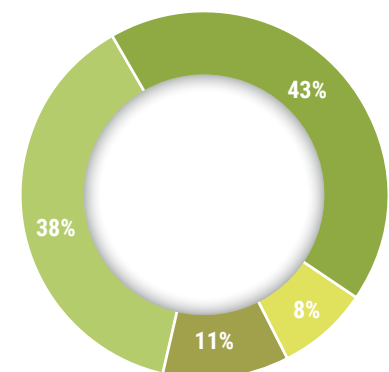
Cameroon's forestry sector is dominated by timber companies, most of which export national timber to Europe and Asia. Investments by foreign companies in Cameroon's forestry sector, timber trade and associated operations are gaining in volume and significance. This briefing document outlines the context to Cameroon's current timber trade and introduces how **TRAFFIC's** Legality Training Manual can help companies trade timber legally.

### Mainland China is one of the major consumers of Cameroon forest products

Chinese investments in Cameroon's forestry sector have increased exponentially, and huge amounts of timber and non-timber forest products are exported to China and other Asian countries. Chinese markets can therefore play significant role in providing opportunities that could be capitalized upon to improve the contribution of Cameroon's national economic growth from the forestry sector.

In this context, it is clearly important to ensure that national policies and legislations are respected in order to optimize the benefits at all levels of the investment chain. This training manual has been developed as part of the implementation of a project funded by the Department for International Development, UK (DFID) entitled: "Reinforcing Chinese government and industry actions to reduce illegal timber in supply chains originating from Cameroon."

Forestry investments and timber trade involving Chinese companies in Cameroon Source: Chupelzi et al., 2015



- Chinese owned companies
- Companies with Chinese partnership
- Companies exporting to China with unidentified partnership
- Potential domestic sellers with unidentified Chinese partnership

#### Evolution of trade dynamics since 2004

**55%**

mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan SAR's share of Cameroonian timber exports

**173%**

the increase in export of logs from Cameroon between 2004 and 2014

## Legality definition in Cameroon

### The Cameroon National Legality Framework (NLF)

is based on the signed VPA with the EU and encompasses 8 legality matrices (LM) that cover various forestry and trade regimes within the country. Except for LM8, the legality matrices of Cameroon have been drawn up based on 5 common criteria (See figure: *Cameroon's overall definition of legality*)

## Users of the manual



The **Cameroon Timber Trade Legality Manual** has been developed as a tool for **Cameroon's Government** and **private sector** (particularly Chinese companies operating in Cameroon) to monitor any illegal activity in their supply chains and help conduct a due diligence risk assessment in timber traded from Cameroon.

This manual is likely to be adapted for use throughout similar national supply chains following collaborative workshops with various partners such as **local and international NGOs**.

It is hoped that this manual will be **adopted by training institutions** in Cameroon and elsewhere to complement other capacity building and awareness raising activities.

## How is the manual structured?

The Cameroon Timber Trade Legality Manual is a set of five sessions:



### SESSION 1

#### Overview of timber legality definitions

This Session will present a VPA definition of timber legality repackaged into the WWF Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN)-TRAFFIC common legality framework.



### SESSION 2

#### Forestry law and legislative instruments in Cameroon

Several regulatory instruments, frameworks and guidance notes have been developed to highlight the proper management, monitoring and control of forests in Cameroon. This session gives a broad description of the procedures related to their implementation.



### SESSION 3

#### Timber legality requirements in Cameroon

Cameroon signed a VPA with the EU in 2010 which includes a series of requirements to ensure compliance with the agreed legality definition in the country. This session provides an overview of these requirements although Cameroon has yet to issue a VPA FLEGT certificate.



### SESSION 4

#### Offences, legal implications and procedures

The Cameroon judiciary system is organized in a way that also addresses forest offences. This Session provides an overview of the judiciary sector in Cameroon, information on various courts and their scope and highlights the sanctions related to all offences in the field.



### SESSION 5

#### Key Institutions and documents for legal timber trade in Cameroon

This manual does not cover every issue related to timber legality in Cameroon, only those endorsed by the VPA, so this session points users to additional forestry documents and institutions.



## About TRAFFIC

**TRAFFIC**, the wildlife trade monitoring network, is the leading non-governmental organization working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

[traffic.org](http://traffic.org)

## Further information



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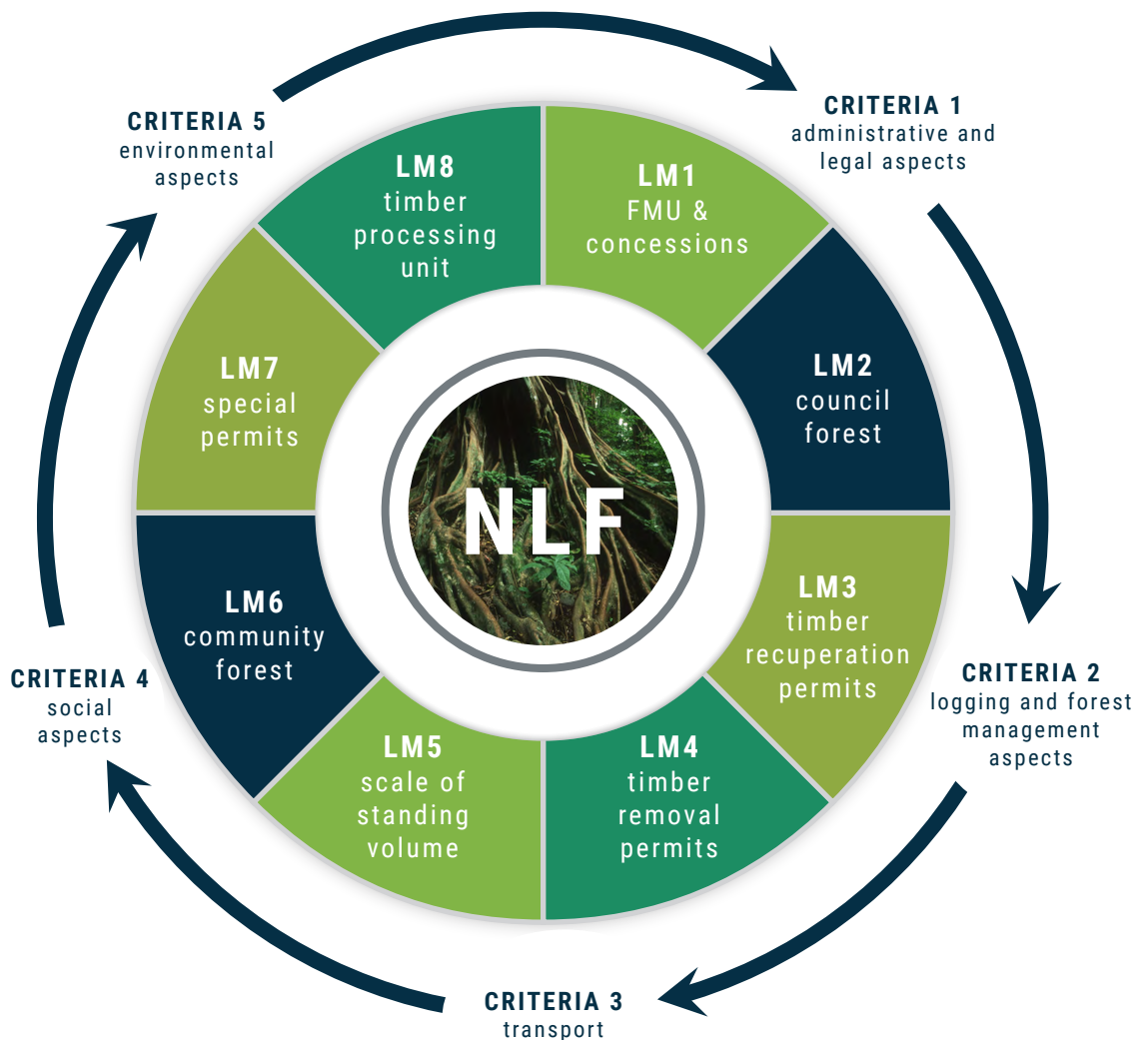
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## Cameroon's overall definition of legality

The Cameroon national legality framework (NLF) encompasses eight Legality Matrices (LM). With exception to LM8, 5 common criteria drives each LM of the NLF in Cameroon.



Access the full Legality Training Manual here: [traffic.org/storage/cameroon-timber-manual.pdf](http://traffic.org/storage/cameroon-timber-manual.pdf)



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