

« ROLES OF CAMEROON IN TIMBER TRADE FLOWS » :

Terms of Reference

Background

Cameroon's forests with 22.5 million ha are part of the vast and rich ecosystems in the Congo Basin, having special attention from members of the Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC) and the international community because of their biodiversity and their impact on global climate. Flora such as fauna in Cameroon also plays an important role in the survival of populations in both rural and urban areas.

Forestry / Wildlife sector contributing to date up to 11% of GDP and 20% of foreign exchange and occupying the second rank after oil, it certainly appears as one of the pillars of economic development. This arises from the fact that special attention has been paid since 1992 through a number of commitments, decisions and laws: the adoption of the Forest Policy in 1993, the Forestry Law enacted in 1994, the Framework Law on Environment of 1996, the Yaoundé Declaration in 1999 with the birth of the COMIFAC Convergence Plan, its inclusion in the Strategy Document of Poverty Reduction in 2002, commitments on AFLEG and FLEGT and the recent signing of the VPA -FLEGT with the European Union in September 2010.

For a better profitability of this sector for improved governance and preservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, the national strategy document for forest and wildlife control including its annexes has been produced and must make operational all laws and regulations. But the point made by MINFOF (2005) in this document demonstrates that the application of this regulation poses huge problems between stakeholders, the most prominent are:

- the poor understanding of laws and regulations, procedures and methods of control in force ;
- the difficulty for the ministry to effectively perform her duties because of deficiencies at the organizational level, skills and equipment ;
- the limited involvement of civil society and economic operators in the implementation of the forest policy ;
- the low MINFOF collaboration with other agencies involved, such as: Customs, Justice, Police, Police, Finance, etc.

In the specific context of timber logging, derived products and associated trade, Cameroon is a major hub of the movement of these resources, because of its road network from very operational production sites to the main exit which is the Port of Douala (open sea compared to neighboring countries producing tropical timber). Usually timber from Central African Republic and Congo passes through Cameroon. Given the problems mentioned above we agree that the capture of data on these movements is unknown because less capitalized and probably one of the main consequences is the illegal logging.

Study rationale

The importance constantly gradual that is observed around the timber trade at both regional and international levels, presence of many traders with minimal considerations for the sustainable management of natural resources, tend to aggravate the situation of unsustainable and/or illegal timber logging.

This study therefore intends to generate initial information and data to understand the movement of timber in Cameroon as well as cross-border trade and presents figures of illegal timber trade. It will propose mechanisms to promote transparency in the forestry sector and border crossings.

Understanding the forestry sector, will contribute to improve measures to ensure sustainable supply of timber products. A legal timber trade will help reduce the current rate of deforestation and climate change in the Congo Basin. The study will also look at one of the Millennium Development Goal including No. 7: "Ensure sustainable human environment" target 7A: "Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources."

It will support the axes 1 and 5 of the COMIFAC Convergence Plan: "Harmonization of forest policy and taxation" and "Valuation of forest resources"

Same with the signature of the VPA-FLEGT by Cameroon on the 06th October 2010, which is an agreement with the European Union, the study will provide mechanisms that go in the direction of achieving the ultimate objective of this agreement namely "to ensure that only legally produced timber is exported to EU countries, identifiable by certificates issued in the producing countries. "

So it is under its ITTO / MINFOF project : "Strengthening the national process for controlling illegal logging and associated trade in Cameroon", that TRAFFIC Central Africa launches this study entitled "Role of Cameroon in the flow of timber trade"

Objectives

The main objective is to evaluate the timber flows and transparency in the forestry sector in Cameroon.

More specifically this will involve :

- assess the scope, scale and extent of the role of Cameroon in the timber flows with countries of Central Africa and to Europe, Asia and America;
- identify the impact of small scale loggers entering the supply chain to the countries of Central Africa, Europe, Asia and America;
- capture statistics regarding illegal logging in Cameroon;
- examine the impact of illegal logging on the national economy, the tax system;
- examine the impact on the sustainable management of production forests to contribute to the establishment of a mechanism of transparency and legality in the wood supply chain in Cameroon.

Activities

The study will be carried out in two phases: a first phase dedicated to the comprehensive review of the literature relating to the timber logging and trade in Cameroon and a second phase devoted to the consideration of the existing legislative framework (strengths and weaknesses), with field trips to meet the stakeholders involved.

For greater efficiency in data collection, a questionnaire will be developed to the attention of different stakeholders involved and will be presented to respondents in the first phase of the study. This questionnaire will consist of a survey on the perceptions of different actors on illegal logging (Administration, national civil society, international organizations, industrial operators and small scale loggers), and will provide additional information to support the overall objective of the study.

Study Framework

The study is dedicated to the forest regions of Cameroonian territory and will specify at the end of the first phase areas to visit.

Evaluation of production and marketing of wood

Review and analyze data relating to production and marketing of timber for past and ongoing operations, including:

- survey data on timber production (industrial and artisanal), available from the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife as well as from other partners;
- Information on the overall market in terms of timber supply and demand and the detailed supply chain of operators and different flows;
- various timber products (type and species) and their volume;
- operation of forest industries in terms of ownership and control (freelance agents, market intermediaries or individual operators), including individuals or groups involved in the chain and their source of funding;
- the match between the real logging level of timber products and the annual quota regulations in force (illegality tracking);
- recognition of the value of wood in terms of revenues and transfers for the benefit of the forestry administration and communities in general and other parties involved in particular;
- domestic market assessment of wood and its impact in the marketing channel;
- monitoring systems and controls in place where they exist;
- the control chain of forest products and the various stakeholders;
- synergies between existing stakeholders in the exercise of their functions in their respective field of competence (MINFOF, Customs, Police, Gendarmerie, etc.);
- the current system of taxation of industries and its applicability to small scale loggers in the informal sector;
- identification of the various drivers of illegal logging and related trade and estimated volumes involved;
- system (s) of communication and information developed for better visibility of the forestry sector (providing data available in a transparent way).

Impact Assessment

This part concerns data collection regarding the socio-economic impacts of illegal logging of timber and its associated trade on current regulations and agencies involved. The study will :

- identify actors who benefit from illegal logging and associated trade;
- assess the financial, ecological and social implications, at the expense of the Cameroon government and the reduction of poverty in the country as far as it's concerned;
- identify possible interventions to mitigate unsustainable illegal logging and associated trade and promote the legality and sustainability.

Analysis of taxation, legislative framework and governance

The legislative framework and taxation system that gathers the forestry sector are key elements to consider. Their implementation level should be measure and gaps mentioned. The study is going to focus on :

- analyzing legislative documents governing the timber logging and trade;
- the level of law enforcement and governance and the various constraints in the chain of custody;
- the types of conflicts between actors and potential regulations that follow, the harassment suffered by one and ticketing / fines hand in by other;
- the SWOT analysis of the legal and regulatory framework regarding control and provide recommendations to mitigate illegal logging and associated trade;
- analyze the general taxation system operational in the forestry sector in Cameroon.

Outputs and Deliverables

- A summary report of Phase 1 (literature review), with proposed sites to visit on the field and compiling data from questionnaires;
- A summary report of phase 2;
- A comprehensive final report (in French or English, providing also the Executive summary, Methodology, conclusions and recommendations in the other language) on the results of the two phases (literature review, different analysis, field visits, etc.) including recommendations for better management in the fight against the illegal logging and associated trade in Cameroon¹;
- Pictures of field visits;
- A summary of results in the form of an article in English for publication in appropriate newsletters (eg. TRAFFIC Bulletin cf. <http://www.traffic.org/bulletin>).

¹ The consultant have to respect the TRAFFIC Style Manual for style and format of the report.

Reports

The consultant will submit various reports to TRAFFIC Central Africa specifically to the coordination of the project INT210 ITTO / MINFOF "Strengthening of the national process for controlling illegal logging and associated trade in Cameroon". The final report will necessarily have the following chapters:

- Acknowledgement
- Acronyms
- Executive Summary
- Background
 - Brief Overview of Cameroon and its forest sector
 - Legislation and regulations in force in Cameroon in terms of timber logging and associated trade of wood
- Introduction
- Methodology
- Results
- Conclusion
- Recommendations (including possible measures for better management of logging and associated trade)
- Reference
- Appendices

Work Plan

The work for this study will be carried out in fifty (50) days, twenty (20) days Phase 1 and thirty (30) days in phase 2 from the date of signature of contract by the Consultant.

Activities should include consultations with all key stakeholders: MINFOF, Customs, Police, Gendarmerie, the MINFI, Justice, industrial and artisanal operators, civil society, IUCN, WWF, CIFOR, World Bank COMIFAC, FAO, etc.

The timing of the study is as follows:

Timing from the contract signature	Activity
D1-D5	Consultant Briefing, planning, launch of data collection (literature review, submission of questionnaires to resources persons, stakeholder consultations)
D6-D20	Consultations with stakeholders, submission of Phase 1 report, field visits Planning
D21-D40	Field visits, data collection, consultations with stakeholders involved, submission of the 2nd phase report
D41-D43	Submission of draft of the final report to the Project, collection of amendments for improvement
D44-D50	Submission of the final report amended, and other materials requested, validation workshop of conclusions and recommendations of the study

Finance

According to the aforementioned information, the Applicant is invited to submit to TRAFFIC an appropriate financial proposal to accomplish the mission. For more information, the applicant can refer to the document entitled "Technical and Financial proposal – Guidelines". **Financial offers shall not exceed the total amount of USD 15 000.**

Support

The Consultant will be expected to collect data on the field in difficult working conditions. The Project Coordinator of INT210 ITTO / MINFOF "Strengthening of the national process for controlling illegal logging and associated trade in Cameroon" and the MINFOF Focal Point will support where needed.

Some references

- Biya Paul, 1994. LOI N° 94/01 du 20 janvier 1994 portant régime des forêts, de la faune et de la pêche. Yaoundé Cameroun.
- Brown & al. (éds) 2009 Bois légal : Vérification et gouvernance dans le secteur forestier. CIFOR et ODI, Bogor, Indonésie.
- MINFOF, 2005. The national strategy for forest and wildlife control in Cameroon. Yaoundé Cameroun.
- Secrétariat Exécutif de la COMIFAC, 2004. Plan de convergence pour la conservation et la gestion durable des écosystèmes forestiers d’Afrique Centrale. Yaoundé Cameroun.
- Les Forêts du Bassin du Congo 2008. Eds : de Wasseige C., Devers D., de Marcken P., Eba’a Atyi., Nasi R. et Mayaux Ph., Office des publications de l’Union Européenne, 2009.

Useful links

- <http://www.traffic.org/search-publications/>
- <http://www.traffic.org/forestry-reports/>
- <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/>