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PRESENTATION

Cameroon's efforts to promote trade in
legal timber and timber products

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PLAN

1. **Country background**
2. **Overview of the Cameroonian forestry sector**
3. **Promoting the production of legal timber and timber products**
4. **Legality Assurance System**





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1. Country background 1/2



- ❖ Central African country located on the Gulf of Guinea;
- ❖ Roughly triangular in shape, stretching over 1,200 km from Lake Chad in the north to the southern coast, and over 800 km from east to west;
- ❖ 420 km of Atlantic coastline in the southwest;
- ❖ Home to a great diversity of ecosystems, namely marine and coastal areas (mangroves), forests, mountains, savannahs and transition areas (ecotones);
- ❖ Bordered by Nigeria to the west, Congo, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea to the south, the Central African Republic to the east and Chad to the northeast.





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1. Country background 2/2



❖ Area:

- 475,650 km²

❖ Population:

- Around 20 million inhabitants;
- Population density: 42 inhabitants/km²;

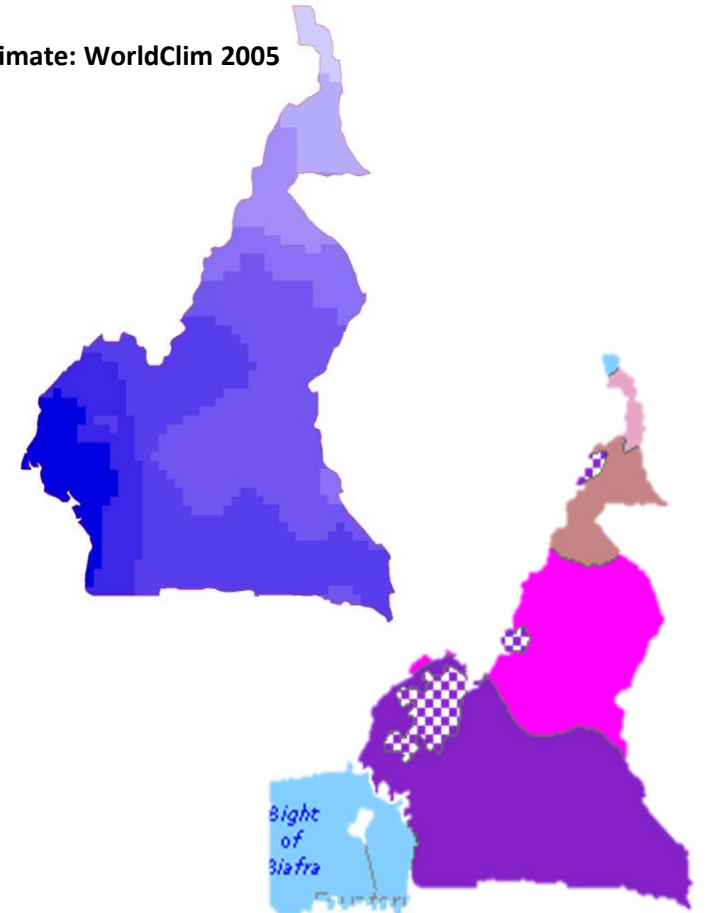
❖ Climate

- Coastal, desert, mountain, rainy and savannah climates;
- Average temperature:
 - 26°C in the south;
 - 30°C in the north;

❖ Forestry

- Forest cover: 22 million ha
- Forest types: African rainforest, deciduous and semi-deciduous forests and savannah;
- Forest ownership: State, communal, community and private;
- Deforestation: approx. 200,000 hectares per year.

Climate: WorldClim 2005



- Tropical rainforest
- Tropical moist deciduous forest
- Tropical dry forest
- Tropical shrubland



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2. Overview of the Cameroonian forestry sector (1/6)



- ❖ In the 1990s, Cameroon significantly reformed its forestry policy, bringing it into line with international guidelines on biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of natural resources;
- ❖ Main aspects of the reform:
 - ✓ Establishment of the Ministry of the Environment and Forests (MINEF) in 1992 and division into two Ministries (MINFOF and MINEP) at the end of 2004;
 - ✓ Adoption of a new forestry policy in 1993;



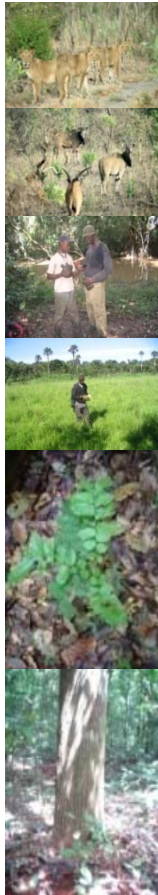


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2. Overview of the Cameroonian forestry sector (2/6)

- ✓ Enactment of the Law on the forestry, fauna and fisheries regime in 1994 and of the Framework law on environmental management in 1996. The objectives of this strategic policy framework include:
 - participative management of forest and fauna resources;
 - conservation of biodiversity through a national network of protected areas;
 - renewal of forest resources and fight against desertification;
 - contribution to economic growth and poverty reduction;
 - strengthening of the core functions of the public sector;
 - implementation of a regulatory framework conducive to private-sector development;
 - harmonization of the land management system through the implementation of a zoning plan;
 - sustainable forest management;
 - improved governance;





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2. Overview of the Cameroonian forestry sector (3/6)

- ❖ Development and adoption of the Forest Sector - Environment Programme (PSFE) as a basic instrument for the sustainable management of Cameroonian forests;
- ❖ Implementation of MINFOF technical activities through the following three programmes:
 - ✓ management of production forests and renewal of forest resources;
 - ✓ management and enhancement of wildlife and protected areas;
 - ✓ enhancement of ligneous and non-ligneous forest resources.





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2. Overview of the Cameroonian forestry sector (4/6)

- ❖ Cameroon has 22 million hectares of forest, covering over 40% of the country;
- ❖ Its forests contain around 300 potentially marketable tree species, of which only 60 are exploited;
- ❖ Output:
 - ✓ Around 2 million m³ of logs and 1.5 million m³ of timber are produced industrially;
 - ✓ 1 million m³ of timber is produced on a small scale for local consumption and also for export to African countries such as Chad, Libya and Sudan;
- ❖ 95% of industrial production is solely for export.





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2. Overview of the Cameroonian forestry sector (5/6)

- ❖ The sector contributes:
 - ✓ 809.63 billion CFAF per year in revenue;
 - ✓ 496 billion CFAF per year in value added;
 - ✓ 4.9% of gross domestic product (GDP) ;
 - ✓ 150,000 jobs, of which 14% are in the formal sector and 86% in the informal sector;
- ❖ Third main sector in terms of GDP contribution after agriculture and oil;
- ❖ Availability of forest zoning plan for southern Cameroon - map showing the allocation of forest land for different uses;





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2. Overview of the Cameroonian forestry sector (6/6)

PERMANENT FOREST DOMAIN (Classified forests)		NON-PERMANENT FOREST DOMAIN (Non-classified forests)	
State forests Forest development units (UFA)	Communal forests	Community forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National domain forests (sales of cut wood, timber exploitation licences, timber salvage licences, etc.) - Private forests - Agroforests, etc.
<i>Private property of the State</i>	<i>Private property of the communes</i>	<i>Area covered by a management arrangement between the communities and the State</i>	





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3. Promoting the production of legal timber and timber products 1/2

❖ Cameroon has taken a number of measures to improve governance and transparency within the national forestry sector, including the following:

- ✓ Planning and transparency in the issuance of forestry licences;
- ✓ Issuance of licences by an interministerial commission with the help of an independent observer;
- ✓ Issuance of secure documents to economic operators from the forestry sector for the exploitation, processing and transportation of forest resources;
- ✓ Assistance provided by an independent observer for the monitoring and control of forestry offences;
- ✓ Adoption of a national forest and fauna control strategy involving all stakeholders;
- ✓ Increase in staff through the recruitment of rangers and contractual forestry workers with military training;
- ✓ Provision of logistics resources and technical equipment for departmental and regional delegations as part of the implementation of the Forest Sector - Environment Programme (PSFE);





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3. Promoting the production of legal timber and timber products (2/2)

- ✓ Mandatory return of the counterfoils of secure documents prior to issuance of new documents;
- ✓ Approval by the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife of timber supply contracts between licensed and non-licensed operators;
- ✓ Suspension or withdrawal of licences in the event of failure to meet tax commitments or management plan requirements;
- ✓ Implementation of anti-corruption measures to promote ethical practices;
- ✓ Publication of forestry information through different media (newspapers, internet etc.);
- ✓ Quarterly publication of offences and dispute records via all available forms of media;
- ❖ The ongoing forest law reform, which involves multiple actors and the general public, takes into account emerging concerns of the international community (REDD+, FLEGT-VPA, climate change, indigenous peoples, governance etc.);





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4. Legality Assurance System (LAS) (1/3)

In order to strengthen forestry governance and promote the production of legal timber:

- ❖ A Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) was signed with the European Union on 6 October 2010. VPA negotiations began in 2007 under the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan;
 - ✓ Agreement ratified by Cameroon on 9 August 2011;
 - ✓ Entry into force on 16 December 2011;
 - ✓ Entry into force of the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) on 3 March 2013;
 - ✓ The FLEGT-VPA aims to combat illegal logging, strengthen forest governance and promote the production of legal timber and its image on the international market;
- ✓ **Operation of the FLEGT-VPA:**
 - LAS (Requirements and procedures for distinguishing between legal and illegal timber);
 - LAS: Based on six elements
 - Legality of forestry entities (use of the legality frame with verifiers and indicators);
 - Timber traceability system (supply chain conformity);
 - National control of forestry activities;
 - National monitoring of forestry activities;
 - Independent audit of the LAS;
 - FLEGT licensing scheme.





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4. Legality Assurance System (LAS) 2/3

✓ Implementation of the FLEGT-VPA

- An implementation schedule was included in the Annex to the Agreement;
- The schedule provided for the issuance of the first FLEGT licences at the beginning of 2013, in preparation for the EUTR;
- The outcome of the traceability system project introduced after the signing of the VPA and implemented by the SGS-Helveta consortium has been inconclusive;
- A new operator is currently being recruited to develop traceability software, which should be available six months after the contract has been signed;
- Signing of a text establishing the use of the SIGIF (forestry data management system) database to record forestry, environmental, social and tax information relating to forestry management;
- Implementation of procedures to issue certificates of legality and FLEGT licences:
 - Order establishing procedures for the issuance of legality certificates;
 - Order establishing procedures for the issuance of FLEGT licences;
 - Dissemination and outreach to explain all texts relating to the FLEGT-VPA;





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4. Legality Assurance System (LAS) 3/3

- Revision of logging inventory rules with regard to the geo-referencing of tree stems;
- Raising of awareness on the VPA and relevant procedures among all stakeholders;
- Signing of the first legality certificates as from June 2014;
- Signing of the first FLEGT licences in 2015;
- Performance of periodic audits in order to verify the reliability of the LAS;
- The first and current audit examines the conformity of documents relating to the issuance of forestry licences, in order to ensure that licencing procedures comply with the legislation in force.



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