Cameroon and the European Union

Joint Annual Report 2014

On the implementation of the FLEGT VPA in Cameroon

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

2003


2004

EU-Cameroon joint declaration on the opening of FLEGT VPA negotiations. Yaoundé

2005

Cameroun’s expression of interest addressed to the European Union delegation in Yaoundé. Start of informal consultations to prepare for a FLEGT VPA. Preparatory work. Yaoundé

2006

First negotiation session – followed by numerous working sessions and meetings. Yaoundé

2007

End of negotiations and signing of the Agreement. Yaoundé

2008

Agreement ratified and comes into force

2009

Second Joint Monitoring Committee and Implementation Council Meetings. Yaoundé

2010

Signing of the Agreement. Brussels

2011

First Joint Monitoring Committee and Implementation Council Meetings. Yaoundé

2012

End of negotiations and signing of the Agreement. Brussels

2013

First National Monitoring Committee (CNS) Meeting. Yaoundé

2014

Second National Monitoring Committee Meeting. Yaoundé

2015

Third National Monitoring Committee Meeting. Yaoundé

Implementation of the Computerised Forest Information Management System (SIGIF), Yaoundé

Publication of the criteria and the methods to adopt when issuing legality certificates. Yaoundé

Publication of the procedures for issuing FLEGT licences. Yaoundé

Fourth Joint Monitoring Committee Meeting. Yaoundé

Second National Monitoring Committee Meeting. Yaoundé

Third National Monitoring Committee Meeting. Yaoundé

Fourth National Monitoring Committee Meeting. Yaoundé

Fifth National Monitoring Committee Meeting. Yaoundé

Sixth Joint Monitoring Committee and Implementation Council Meetings. Yaoundé

Fifth Implementation Council Meeting. Yaoundé

Fourth Implementation Council Meeting. Yaoundé

First Working Group/CCS session. Yaoundé

Second Working Group/CCS session. Yaoundé

Third Working Group/CCS session. Yaoundé

The EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) comes into force

First National Monitoring Committee Meeting. Yaoundé
On 6 October 2010, Cameroon and the European Union signed a Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA). The aim of the Agreement is to strengthen forest governance and promote trade in verified legal timber between Cameroon and the European Union countries. Thus, the Agreement introduces a FLEGT licensing scheme, which is based on a series of requirements laid out in Cameroonian legislation and applicable to the forest sector, with reinforced control and verification processes, in addition to an independent auditing mechanism, aimed at guaranteeing the legality of timber and derived products exported to the European market.

The Agreement also establishes measures to ensure the participation of the key stakeholders in its implementation, and involves commitments aimed at increasing transparency and ensuring the public is better informed. Thus, each year, the stakeholders draw up and publish a joint report, presenting the progress recorded within the context of the implementation of the FLEGT VPA regarding the challenges and difficulties faced, as well as the measures planned to reinforce the application of the provisions laid out in the Agreement.

This joint report prepared by the Cameroonian and European parties follows this rule and covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014. It was validated by the Joint Monitoring Committee, which met on 7 July 2015 at the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF) in Yaoundé.

During this period, substantial efforts to fulfill the Agreement’s objectives were recorded. In particular, this involved:

- Improved transparency in the forest sector through the implementation of Appendix VII of the Agreement;
- Regular monitoring with the implementation of VPA consultative bodies: the National Monitoring Committee (CNS), the Joint Monitoring Committee (CCS) and the Joint Implementation Council (Council);
- Reinforced monitoring of the implementation through the creation of a working group dealing with specific problems linked to the major issues involved in the implementation of the Agreement;
- Support for small and medium-sized enterprises in the forest sector and promotion of local and international dialogue between timber suppliers and buyers;
- The introduction of initiatives aimed at standardising independent external observation (IEO);
- The completion of the invitation to tender procedure in order to develop the second-generation computerised forestry information management system (SIGIF 2);
- The preparation of manual issuing procedures for 'legality certificates' whilst waiting on the development and operationalisation of SIGIF 2;
- The preparation of private certification recognition procedures;
- The assessment of the conformity of documents associated with the attribution process for each forest title in force in Cameroon, and the study of the reference position of timber confiscated by the FLEGT system independent auditor;
The review and testing of the norms for carrying out logging inventory work, in order to address the need for the geo-referencing of trees required under the Agreement;

• The improvement and understanding of the effects of the VPA and the dissemination of information to the stakeholders;

• The strengthening of exchanges regarding the issue of reclaimed timber;

• The introduction to forest governance in the study programmes at the Faculty of Agronomy and Agricultural Sciences (FASA) and Faculty of Wood, Water and the Environment Professional Specialities (FMBEE) of the University of Dschang through a multifactor process of reviewing courses, training and education in forest governance.

The implementation is faced with certain challenges that explain the necessary delays in the preparation of the issuing of the first FLEGT authorisations. These challenges include:

• The delay in the organisation of the invitation to tender for the development of SIGIF 2, and consequently for the introduction of the legality assurance system (LAS);

• The prioritisation of the consensus in view of the issuing of the legality certificates following the conclusions of the report by the independent auditor;

• The delay in the development of procedures to verify the environmental conformity of forest companies and their operations at a Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) level.

The main perspectives for the implementation of the Agreement in 2015 concern:

• The assessment of the implementation of Appendix VII and the continuation of work regarding the improvement of transparency through updated information that is made publicly available;

• The consensual decision by the stakeholders on the management of verifiers associated with the title attribution processes following the recommendations of the report;

• The development of the SIGIF 2 application and its rollout in the field;

• The start of work on methodology for monitoring the impacts of the Agreement, supervised by the Joint Monitoring Committee;

• The continuation of the process of recognising private certificates in the issuing of legality certificates within the framework of the FLEGT VPA;

• The renewal of the formal independent observation mechanism;

• The definition of financing priorities for the implementation of the FLEGT VPA within the framework of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF).
Legality verification procedures

The guarantee of the legal conformity of timber exported within the European Union from the effective start of the FLEGT licensing scheme constitutes one of the major challenges that the stakeholders of the Agreement must face. Thus, the Agreement provides for the introduction of a legality assurance system (LAS), described in its entirety in Appendix II-A of the Agreement and whose aim is to ensure the credibility of FLEGT licences. The LAS is based on the one hand on the definition of legality agreed on in Annex II-B of the Agreement, and on the other, on the timber and derived products traceability system from the inventory and forest felling to the place where the goods are sent off to the European Union. Based on the operators’ declarations, the traceability system will be made up of a computer application together with a database and procedures allowing for the verification of the legality at each stage of the supply chain, in line with the legislation applicable to the forest sector.

Firstly, the timber legality assurance system consists of:

- Verifying the legality of the forestry company involved, which can be a logging company, a processing company or a company that has both a logging unit and a processing unit;
- Verifying the conformity of the timber and derived products supply chain, whether the goods are destined for an external or a local market;
- Issuing FLEGT licences for the exportation of timber verified as legal;
- And, finally, carrying out independent audits of the system’s operation in order to guarantee its credibility.

The LAS will be implemented within an institutional framework defined by Appendix III-B of the Agreement. The implementation of a credible LAS proved to be a very difficult task, which is still ongoing.

The following sections present the achievements for 2014 in view of the implementation of the LAS.

2.1 Legality verification procedures

Regulatory texts and other normative documents aimed at making the verification of legality operational, which were adopted and published in 2013, were disseminated widely during 2014 in order to raise public awareness. Both the Cameroon Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF, Ministère des Forêts et de la Faune) and forestry companies as well as other stakeholders paid particular attention to several of these texts. These documents consist of:

- The decree establishing the criteria and the procedures for issuing legality certificates within the framework of the FLEGT licensing scheme;
- Procedures to verify forestry companies’ compliance with legislation regarding labour rights;

Photo: MINFOF
• The procedures manual for monitoring the legality and traceability of timber and derived products in circulation in Cameroon;
• The Guide for forest law enforcement officers adapted to suit the national forestry and wildlife control strategy and the requirements of the FLEGT VPA legality grids.

These texts were disseminated online and through physical media, sometimes in the form of documents with comments and illustrations to make the content easier to understand, as in the case of the decree establishing the criteria and methods for issuing legality certificates within the framework of the FLEGT licensing scheme. The legality certificate proves the legal existence of the entity and its capacity to carry out logging or timber processing activities in Cameroon. Obtaining a legality certificate is the first step that must be taken in view of issuing FLEGT licences after checking the supply chain through the traceability system. The dissemination of this decree allowed 27 requests for legality certificates to be recorded in 2013 (four for timber processing units (UTB), four for sales of standing volume (VC) and eight for forest management units (UFA)), and in 2014 six requests (three for the UTB and three for the UFA). However, although the abovementioned processing dossiers did not lead to the issuing of legality certificates, it did allow for the implementation of the system to continue through the development of proof issuing procedures regarding the environmental and social obligations currently underway in MINEPDED.

It was also during this year that MINFOF validated the manual issuing procedures for legality certificates, in order to process requests from economic operators.

Finally, MINFOF also validated recognition procedure for private legality or sustainable forest management certificates issued by the private voluntary certification systems such as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), the Timber Origin and Legality (OLB, Origine et Légalité des Bois), and the Timber Legality and Traceability Verification (TLTV, Vérification de la légalité et traçabilité des bois). The validation of this process followed on from a long analysis of the requirements of these certification systems, comparing them with the requirements of the legality grids established by the Agreement.

2.2. Traceability system: development, piloting, challenges and lessons learned

The traceability system is the backbone of the legality assurance system for timber and derived products. It makes it possible to document and analyse the compliance of the supply chain with the different stages in the process. Following the unsatisfactory results of the ‘Establishment of a timber traceability system in Cameroon’ (STBC, ‘Mise en place d’un système de traçabilité des bois au Cameroun’) project, completed in December 2012, the stakeholders had agreed to restart the development of the second-generation computerised forestry information management system (SIGIF 2) in order to meet the need for monitoring the traceability of timber and derived products across Cameroon.
Although a manual traceability mechanism is planned as part of the Agreement, the serious risk of mistakes or fraud and the complexity of manual verification would make the FLEGT licences lack credibility. Thus, the development of a computer application for managing the traceability of timber and derived products remains the main option to adopt in order to guarantee the legality of the supply chain.

Launched in 2013, the invitation to tender procedure for the recruitment of a consultant in charge of the development of the SIGIF 2 was completed during 2014 by the selection of a consortium made up of the consultancy firms IAS (France) and BUREDIP (Cameroon). The contracting procedure between the Ministry in charge of public procurement, MINFOF and the IAS-BUREDIP consortium was finalised in February 2015. The consortium’s mission will therefore start in 2015.

One of the major steps forward recorded in continuation of the Agreement objectives in 2014 was without a doubt the review of the logging inventory norms. Indeed, the logging inventory is one of the fundamental steps that need to be taken before logging begins. It makes it possible to identify, characterise, mark and list the trees whose felling is authorised on a given plot of land, the location and boundaries of which are established by the administration in charge of forests. The norms applied to date by the offices authorised to carry out forest inventory work date back to 1995, and are thus 20 years old. They needed to be revised to include the obligation to carry out geo-referencing of the trees to be felled, an indispensable condition for timber origin verification and for inputting data into the traceability system in the form of a database. The norms were revised following a consultative approach.

The result of the training and the field test will allow for the new norms to be finalised and validated in 2015, so that they come into force before the SIGIF 2 becomes operational. The latter will be used to ensure timber traceability in Cameroon.

2.3 Mechanism for handling non-compliance

The legality assurance system is planned in order to prevent a FLEGT authorisation being issued when it is confirmed that an indicator in the VPA legality grid is non-compliant.

This system will thus allow for the detection of cases of non-compliance, which will have to be managed following previously established procedures. In this respect, in 2014 a new decree on forestry disputes was finalised and it is due to be signed in 2015. This decree will determine the manner in which disputes should be managed for the purposes of legality assurance and the issuing of FLEGT authorisations within the framework of the SIGIF, in order to stop authorisations being issued to an operator who does not comply with the legal framework.

However, on a global level, it is essential to establish the obstacles and facilitating factors in the event of any non-compliance detected by the SIGIF.

2.4 Independent observer

The third phase of the ‘Independent Observer for Controlling and Monitoring Forestry Offences’ project carried out by the AGRECO-CEW consortium, which was aimed at controlling and monitoring forestry offences, was completed in December 2013.
The independent observation was, however, continued in 2014 by a group of national civil society organisations, whose actions allowed for the collection, processing and verification of reports of allegedly illegal practices by communities or their members, in order to better inform the competent administrations within the framework of the implementation of the National Forest and Wildlife Law Enforcement Strategy (SNCCF, Stratégie Nationale de Contrôle Forestier et Faunique).

The renewal of formal independent observation within the framework of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF), which civil society organisations with proven expertise could participate in, will help provide a great deal of support for forest law enforcement.

2.5 Issuing of FLEGT licences

The VPA requires a FLEGT licence to be issued for each shipment of timber or derived products to the European market. The issuing of a FLEGT licence marks the final part of the implementation of a series of control operations and verification procedures, which form part of the legality assurance system.

The issuing of FLEGT licences, the practical conditions of which are defined in the legal text made public in 2013 (Decree No 002/MINFOF of 7 February 2013), will not be possible until all the other components of LAS are functional. In order to establish a credible LAS, sufficient time must be taken for its development. Thus, the issue of the first FLEGT licence initially planned in 2015 has been postponed until a later date in order to ensure that all the LAS components are ready and that the institutional framework is firmly established in order to issue reliable licences.

2.6 FLEGT system independent auditor

In order to guarantee the credibility, performance and efficiency of all the components of the legality assurance system, the Agreement has provided for the periodic intervention of a FLEGT system independent auditor, the terms of reference of which are available in Appendix VI. The independent audit also focuses on the processing of the FLEGT licences by the competent authorities in each European Union Member State where the timber is sold.

Mandated in 2012 within the context of a financing convention with the European Union, the EGIS-Oréade Brèche consortium led the very first independent audit, in accordance with the objectives revised by an amendment, bearing in mind the level of development of the LAS. Thus, the FLEGT system independent auditor no longer had to audit the LAS, but to focus its auditing activities on strengthening the implementation of the LAS before the issue of the first FLEGT licences. The independent auditor’s work entailed an exhaustive assessment of the documents linked to the attribution of all the forest titles currently in force in Cameroon, and carrying out a study of the reference situation of confiscated timber in Cameroon.

Over the course of two years, the independent auditor assessed the existence, the availability and the reliability of all the documents required as verifiers by the legality grid within the context of the attribution of forest titles. This work to assess the compliance of existing documents, and notably highlighted the failure of the administration’s filing system, explaining the difficulty in obtaining certain verifiers associated with the attributed logging titles. The FLEGT system independent auditor’s work identified a certain number of decisions to be taken before attributing legality certificates, the procedure of which was underway. The issuing of the first legality certificates was thus delayed in order to allow the administrations and the operators concerned to regulate the situation of several legality auditors. A working group made up of representatives from the different stakeholder groups was created by the Joint Monitoring Committee during its session on 23 April 2014, in order to examine the conclusions of the independent auditor’s report and to propose the measures to take so as to ensure the compliance of the titles already attributed. This approach aims to guarantee respect for the legality requirements at each stage of the attribution of titles in the future.

The working group’s recommendations will be implemented during 2015. Once the corrective measures have been applied, it will be possible to issue the first legality certificates.
The aim of the VPA is to provide a legal framework, which ensures that only timber and derived products that are legally produced or acquired are imported into the European Union from Cameroon. In this respect, in addition to the consensual definition of legality, the preparation of the legality grids allows for the verification and certification of the legality of timber and derived products destined for both the European and local markets. Moreover, the Agreement stipulates that short and medium-term legal and regulatory reforms should be carried out, on the one hand in order to ensure greater coherence of the legal framework applicable to the forest sector and, on the other, to address any possible legal loopholes in the sector.

3.1 Short-term reforms

In 2014, following on from the reform initiated in 2013 through the adoption of decrees allowing for the operation of the FLEGT licensing scheme, a decree establishing the management procedures for forestry disputes within the framework of the FLEGT licensing scheme was created by the Ministry of Forests and sent to the Office of the Prime Minister for appraisal. One of the objectives of this draft decree is to make it obligatory to record all statements of forestry offences and all transactions registered by the SIGIF, in order to improve the management of these issues. Moreover, a procedures manual is currently being completed, which recognises private certification within the framework of FLEGT. Its adoption and application in 2015 will facilitate the issue of legality certificates to the companies concerned.

Furthermore, from the perspective of a complete application of the VPA through the verification of all five of the legality criteria, the Ministry of Labour proceeded to popularise the procedures guide for the issue of certificates regarding respect for social norms, which were developed in 2013. In addition, a circular note from the Ministry of Labour on the application of the legality assurance system was addressed to the local representatives of this ministry.

At the Ministry of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED), the EU FLEGT FAO Programme for preparing procedures for the issue of certificates regarding respect for environmental norms is currently being carried out and a first draft of the guide is already available. This process will lead to the establishment of a procedure for the issue of certificates regarding respect for environmental and social obligations.

3.2 Medium-term reforms

The revision of the forest law process evolved in 2014. The draft bill sent to the Office of the Prime Minister at the end of 2013 underwent an initial examination in order to assess its coherence with regard to the texts by the ministers in charge of the environment, mining, agriculture, land affairs and livestock rearing. A multisectoral working group was created for this purpose at the Office of the Prime Minister level in order to discuss the new forest law project and how to bring it into line with the reforms undertaken in the other sectors, which may affect this law. The amendments adopted were integrated into the draft bill and draft decree.

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1 Short-term reforms that allow for the operation of the FLEGT licensing scheme and which address any possible inconsistencies in the legislation.

2 Medium-term reforms that require in-depth consultation and legislative work to improve the consistency of the legislation applicable to the forest sector and to finalise the points that are not sufficiently structured or regulated.
On 23 April 2014, the Joint Monitoring Committee (CCS) created a multistakeholder working group, whose role was to analyse the reports published on reclaimed wood in development projects and to propose appropriate solutions. This working group analysed the legality of timber from logging titles associated with the implementation of development projects, exported to the European Union. This timber is exploited in accordance with the provisions set out in Article 73 (1) of the Cameroonian forest law, which provides for salvage logging through sales of standing volume within the framework of development projects. Moreover, in November 2014, a capacity building workshop for regional and departmental representatives of forests and wildlife was organised by MINFOF and a civil society organisation on the means of attributing the abovementioned logging titles and the control of the legality of the operations in timber salvage licence (ARB) / harvested timber removal licences (AEB) in line with the FLEGT VPA legality grids. This workshop allowed local representatives of MINFOF to increase their understanding of the processes involved in attributing these titles and to propose solutions to solve the problems related to timber that is confiscated or that comes from recovery authorisations. These solutions include the revision of attribution procedures, the strengthening of forest law enforcement and the raising of MINFOF’s officers’ awareness of the regulations.

Photo: EU Delegation in Cameroon
The domestic timber market (MIB, marché intérieur du bois) was created in order to improve the organisation and channelling of the local market supply chain through a formal framework. Over the course of 2014, MINOF made a great effort to bring the domestic timber market closer to the supply chain operators in the local market. The domestic timber market concept is still very new and popularisation and awareness-raising efforts will continue in 2015 in connection with the creation of legal business clusters in Bertoua, Yaoundé and Douala.

4.1 Monitoring and organisation of the domestic timber market

Appendix X of the VPA provides for the establishment of a system for monitoring the domestic timber market. The establishment of the domestic timber market and its implementation in the various pilot sites is carried out progressively.

Thus, after locating the physical pilot sites in 2013, the evolution of the domestic timber market in 2014 was marked by the designation of the various focal points responsible for the organisation and development of the activities in the pilot sites. The development of dedicated software for the management of domestic timber market operations was also launched.

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

Work on the revision of the forest law, which MINOF and the services of the Prime Minister continued in 2014, provide for a reduction in the conditions demanded of artisan operators for access to authorisation. Facilitated access to authorisation is a measure that favours the formalisation of the local market supply chain in timber of legal origin. It will also facilitate the monitoring and control of operations linked to the local market.

Moreover, through the ‘Strengthening Civil Society and Private Sector Participation in Forest Law Enforcement and Governance for Sustainable Forest Management (CiSoPFLEG)’ and the ‘Strengthening of small and medium-sized enterprises in view of the implementation of the EUTR and LAS requirements’ projects, civil society started to take action alongside small and medium-sized enterprises and the artisan timber sector in order to create opportunities for supplying the legal domestic timber market. These projects have allowed for the mobilisation and training of small and medium-sized enterprises, forest communities and timber warehouse managers in line with the VPA requirements.
Trade in FLEGT-licensed timber

The VPA aims to establish an exclusively legal trade in timber and derived products between Cameroon and the European Union. We cannot speak of trade in FLEGT-licensed timber without referring to FLEGT licences, the issuing of which is still not effective in Cameroon due to the level of development and the establishment of the components of the FLEGT licensing scheme.

However, it is important to note that the entry into force of Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council, setting out the obligations of operators who place timber and derived products on the European market (more commonly known as the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR)), constitutes a palliative measure in the absence of FLEGT licences. Indeed, the exercise of due diligence within the context of the application of the EU timber regulation requires companies that export timber to the European market to supply buyers in the EU with information proving the legality of the shipped timber. The information required by the EU Timber Regulation on EU timber is based on the information required by the FLEGT licensing scheme.

5.1 The process of FLEGT licence verification by the EU

The verification of FLEGT licences at an EU level will start when the first FLEGT licences are issued by Cameroon. Most EU Member States have, however, already appointed their competent authorities for FLEGT, in accordance with the EU Council FLEGT Regulation No 2173/2005. These competent authorities will be responsible for receiving and processing the FLEGT licences that will be issued once the FLEGT licensing scheme is operational. A list of the FLEGT competent authorities and their addresses is provided in the Appendix to this report and can also be consulted at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/flegt.htm.

The form in which FLEGT licences are sent, received and filed is being discussed at a European Union level in order to find the most efficient way of managing FLEGT licences. The development of a centralised electronic system for managing FLEGT licences started in 2014, and should allow the competent authorities in EU Member States to process the FLEGT licences that they will receive efficiently once the legality assurance systems in the various VPA countries become operational.

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

Two main measures are aimed at maintaining the integrity of the FLEGT licensing scheme. They are:

- The extension of the LAS to all sources of supply and to all markets (both local and international), including taking responsibility for timber in transit from the point of entry to the point of exit from Cameroon, in order to avoid fraud completely, or at least to make it very difficult.
- The independent auditing of the system, allowing for the identification of any failures that might have been overlooked by the developers of the LAS, and for corrective measures to be taken systematically to correct these failures in order to eliminate any illegal timber trading.

The new SIGIF should also manage all the information on forest management, notably the attribution of titles, forest inventories, exportation specification forms and dispute management. In time, all operations carried out in the different links in the timber and derived products supply chain will be covered by the new SIGIF.
5.3 The EU and other international markets

The FLEGT Timber Independent Market Monitoring (IMM) project, implemented by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), will make it possible to monitor, analyse and understand the evolution in the different markets with regard to FLEGT timber. In particular, this project aims to achieve the following objectives after 60 months:

- To collect, analyse, report and disseminate information on the acceptance of, and trends in, FLEGT-licensed timber on the EU market;
- To increase knowledge about, and understanding of, the impacts of VPAs on the price of timber, trade and the global market trends;
- To ensure that VPA countries and the European Commission supply reliable statistics and information on trade in FLEGT-licensed timber;
- To respond to demands and clarify the decisions to be taken within the framework of mechanism in which the VPA Joint Implementation Committees supply independent and precise information on the market impact;
- To help monitor the impact of the EU FLEGT Action Plan and clarify its implementation;
- To develop a long-term strategy for the independent monitoring of markets in consultation with EU and VPA partner countries.
The FLEGT VPA between Cameroon and the European Union introduces a legality assurance system (LAS), the effectiveness of which is dependent not only on the establishment of the appropriate structures but also on human, material and financial means for its implementation. To that end, in addition to MINFOF’s own institutional framework, the Agreement provides for an implementation mechanism made up of structures designed to ensure the monitoring of the implementation and the facilitation of dialogue both between the parties to the Agreement and between the various national and international stakeholders involved.

6.1 Structures for the implementation of the VPA

Articles 16 and 19 of the FLEGT VPA between Cameroon and the European Union provide for three structures for monitoring the implementation of the Agreement, one of which is made up of representatives of national stakeholder groups and the other two formed by representatives of the parties to the Agreement.

**National Monitoring Committee (CNS)**

The CNS was created in order to facilitate regular consultations between the Cameroonian stakeholders and to guarantee their participation in the monitoring and the implementation of the Agreement. Created by Decree 126/CAB/PM of 12 September 2012, in accordance with Article 16 of the Agreement, this is the national organ for monitoring the implementation of the VPA. As a consultative body, the National Monitoring Committee’s role is to study, develop and issue recommendations and to formulate all the government’s suggestions and proposals for the implementation of the VPA. The CNS brings together all the stakeholders in the forest sector, namely the representatives of the administrations involved, parliamentarians, and representatives of managers of communal forests, of civil society, of the private sector, of community forests and of indigenous peoples.

In 2014, the CNS held its fourth and fifth sessions on 15 April and 28 November, respectively. In accordance with its mandate, during these sessions the CNS made recommendations regarding MINFOF in order to solve the document filing problem in response to the intermediary results by the independent auditor on the collection of these documents. Moreover, it committed MINFOF to increase the frequency of the coordination meetings for FLEGT projects in order to ensure their coherence and effective contribution to the implementation of the Agreement. In order to make it easier for the public to access this information, the CNS also advised the other administrations involved in the VPA to appoint, in addition to a CNS representative, a focal point who will be in charge of FLEGT in general and of making information available regarding the sector concerned with regard to Appendix VII of the VPA.
Joint Monitoring Committee (CCS) and Joint Implementation Council (the Council)

Article 19 of the Agreement stipulates that the mission of the Joint Implementation Council (the Council) and the Joint Monitoring Committee (CCS) is to facilitate the monitoring and assessment of the implementation of the Agreement. As a decision-making body, the Council is responsible for the implementation of the VPA. To this end, it receives a mandate from the stakeholders for the purpose of supervising the implementation and it makes decisions by consensus. Among other things, it monitors the transparency of the work of the CCS and how related information and results are made available to the public. The Council is made up of two representatives appointed by the European Union and by Cameroon, with one representative per party. The CCS, meanwhile, is a consultative structure that acts as an intermediary between the parties to the Agreement. For that purpose, it prepares draft decisions to submit to the Council. Furthermore, it is the body responsible for facilitating exchanges of information and dialogue between the parties.

The Council held its fifth meeting on 20 June 2014, during which, in addition to the validation of the recommendations of the sixth CCS, the progress made in implementing the FLEGT VPA by Cameroon was shared and Cameroon’s desire to continue to implement this Agreement was reaffirmed.

The rules of procedure regarding the functioning of the Council and the CCS signed jointly in 2013 by the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Cameroon and the Minister of Forests and Wildlife, as well as the reports on meetings between the Council and the CCS, are available on MINFOF’s website (http://apvcameroun.cm) and on the Delegation of the European Union to Cameroon’s site (http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cameroun/index_fr.htm).

On 23 April 2014, the CCS held its sixth session, during which the 2013 VPA joint report was approved and the resolution to create a working group was taken in accordance with the provisions set out in Article 19 of the VPA and Article 8 of the CCS rules of procedure, which provide for the possibility of setting up working groups or other subsidiary bodies for the areas requiring specific expertise.

The mandate assigned to the working group is the analysis of the independent auditor’s reports of the system, the development of terms of reference for an overview of the current status of the implementation of the LAS and for the monitoring of the impacts of the VPA, and the analysis of reports linked to the problems of reclaimed timber from development projects within the context of the VPA. The multistakeholder working group held three meetings, in May, July and November 2014, respectively. These allowed progress to be made on a certain number of elements in its mandate, notably the development of terms of reference in view of the preparation of a situational analysis of the implementation of the VPA and the development of terms of reference for the monitoring of the Agreement’s impacts.

6.2 Capacity building

The FLEGT VPA establishes accompanying measures such as capacity building in order to allow the stakeholders involved to implement specific actions related to the Agreement. In 2014, the stakeholders benefited from technical assistance and financial support for building their technical, material and logistic skills in view of an efficient and participatory implementation of the VPA.
Civil society

The EU (through its budget lines), the Department for International Development (DFID) and the EU FAO FLEGT Programme supported national civil society organisations in the capacity-building initiatives for stakeholders in order to make a sustainable contribution to the implementation of the FLEGT VPA.

In addition to more training for stakeholders in forest governance (provided by the University of Wolverhampton and others), through three projects led by the organisations the Centre for Assistance to Justice and Animation for Development (CAJAD, Centre d’appui à la justice et d’animation pour le développement), Fern and Forest Peoples Programme (FPP), civil society started a learning and methodology development process on monitoring the impacts of the Agreement, based on indicators identified by civil society itself. This work is important as it will allow civil society to structure its contribution and make specific proposals for the development of a formal framework for monitoring the impacts of the Agreement.

Support for the community forest sector continued in 2014 with the involvement of the NGO CARFAD in the implementation of the project ‘Supporting the Federation of Community Forests of Kadey in the Process of obtaining Legality Certificates and the Timber Trade’, funded by the EU.

Finally, the training of journalists in the optimisation of communication on FLEGT and forest governance and the revision of the contents taught in training institutes are some of the contributions made by civil society to the implementation of the Agreement.

Private sector

Projects implemented by NEPCon and FODER have helped improve the capacities of small and medium-sized forestry enterprises in view of the implementation of the FLEGT VPA and their structuring. The project entitled ‘Strengthening of small and medium-sized Cameroonian enterprises in view of the implementation of the EUTR and LAS requirements’, led by NEPCon, helped raise awareness and train small and medium-sized forestry enterprises in the specific implications of the requirements listed in the legality grids; helped support small and medium-sized enterprises in the legal compliance process for their operations, and also clarified the responsibilities of the parties involved in making available the documents-verifiers required by the legality assurance system. Training workshops on the FLEGT VPA and EUTR requirements for small and medium-sized enterprises in the timber sector were organised for this purpose and an exchange workshop was held in Brussels in November 2014 to put European importers and Cameroonian small and medium-sized enterprises in touch with one another and to facilitate dialogue.

The Cameroon Timber Industry Group (GFBC, Groupement de la filière bois du Cameroun) also continued awareness-raising and training activities with its members on the VPA and the EUTR.

In collaboration with MINFOF and the European Union delegation, and with the support of the EU FLEGT Facility of the European Forest Institute (EFI), a study was carried out in August 2014 at the request of the EU FAO FLEGT Programme, in order to analyse the various segments of the Cameroonian private sector and to shed light on future support initiatives. The objective of the study was to learn more about the interactions between operators in the sector in accordance with their role in the value chain, to support the commitment of all the operators in the implementation of the Agreement (micro-enterprises, community enterprises, small and medium-sized enterprises and large enterprises) and to identify the formalisation levers.
The study made it possible to gain a greater understanding of the concerns felt by small and medium-sized enterprises in Cameroon and to rekindle their interest in the VPA. In accordance with the recommendations formulated, the study was followed by several exchanges with the private sector in order to strengthen their participation in the implementation of the Agreement. Other monitoring actions are planned in 2015.

**Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF)**

Capacity-building activities for MINFOF agents regarding the implementation of the FLEGT VPA were carried out in 2014, both organised by MINFOF and with their own funding and also in collaboration with the other stakeholders involved and with financial backing from GIZ the EU FAO FLEGT Programme and EU budget lines. The activities carried out include regional workshops to train stakeholders in the implementation of the FLEGT VPA, training in recognition procedures and the authorisation of private certifications, capacity building of regional and departmental forest delegates and exchanges of experience on the LAS, public auction procedures and the attribution of small titles. Support from GIZ also allowed MINFOF to produce and disseminate an information guide for operators in the forest sector on obtaining legality certificates.

MINFOF also held a meeting with members of the European Court of Auditors within the framework of a performance audit mission on support by the European Union for timber-producing countries, which took place on 3 and 4 November 2014.

Moreover, the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife participated in several other activities at both regional and international levels. These include:

- A sub-regional workshop for reflection on the implementation of the VPA Appendix on the information to be made public under the aegis of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) (Douala/Cameroon);
- Conference of ECCAS ministers on the Green Economy Fund in Central Africa and the structural transformation of the natural resources economy, focusing on: Diplomacy-Integration-Governance and the new timber economy (Kinshasa/DRC);
- International forum on forest governance in Africa (Yaoundé/Cameroon);
- Workshop focused on enforcing demand-side measures in relation to supply chains originating in Cameroon by Forest Trends (Rome/Italy);
- International Technical Tropical Timber Association (ATIBT) (Amsterdam/the Netherlands);

**Other administrations**

Capacity building also involves taking steps to ensure stronger, more operational institutions, for example supporting the development and popularisation of procedures that promote the application of legislation currently in force. It is in this context that the EU FAO FLEGT Programme intervenes for the Cameroonian Government. In 2014, support for the Programme allowed the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MINTSS) to develop procedures for the issue of social compliance certifications to operators in the forest sector. The operationalisation and popularisation of these procedures in 2014 also improved the level of involvement of MINTSS in the implementation of the Agreement.

The Ministry of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) is receiving similar support on the issue of certification for adherence with environmental obligations.

**Forest training institutions**

Finally, an innovative initiative aimed at building the foundations of the long-term capacity building of all the stakeholders was undertaken through the project entitled, ‘Congo Basin VPA Implementation: Championing Forest Peoples’ Rights and Participation (EU-DFID)’, which notably facilitated the introduction of forest governance in the study programmes at the Faculty of Agronomy and Agricultural Sciences (FASA) and the Faculty of Wood, Water and the Environment Professional Specialities (FMBEE) of the University of Dschang, through a multistakeholder process of revising curricula. Training in applied education on forest governance was also organised within the framework of this project, to the benefit of FASA, FMBEE, CRESA Forêt-Bois and the National School of Water Resources and Forestry (ENEF).
6.3 Funding arrangement for implementation (government, donors, private sector)

The carrying out of activities aimed at the implementation of the FLEGT VPA in 2014 benefited from financing both from Cameroon’s own funds, notably the national budget, and the Special Fund for Forestry Development (FSDF). The activities also received financial support from partners such as the European Union, through the EU FAO FLEGT Programme and the Thematic Programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy (ENRTP), the Forest and Environment Sector Programme (PSFE), GIZ (Germany) and DFID (UK). Financial support from KfW (Germany) and others helped to make the SIGIF project headquarters building secure and viable, contributed to the assessment of private certification references with regard to the VPA standards and helped install servers in Douala and Bertoua.

The list of projects in the Appendix to this report describes in detail the different sources of funding for the implementation of the VPA in Cameroon in 2014.
In order to create a favourable environment for the effective application of current regulations, the FLEGT VPA aims to improve governance. A mainstay of governance is the active participation of stakeholders in decision-making processes. The FLEGT VPA in Cameroon is unique because of this participatory nature, which was present from the beginning of the negotiations and continued during the implementation phase. The involvement of the various stakeholders concerned is not only carried out through the CNS and CCS institutional consultation and monitoring frameworks, but also through thematic and multistakeholder working groups. The latter include the working group created during the sixth CCS, designed to examine the measures to take following the independent auditor’s report, to address the problems related to timber originating in development project areas, and to initiate reflection on the monitoring of the impact of the VPA.
8 Communication

Cameroon and the EU consider communication to be one of the basic elements that allow governance to be reinforced within the framework of the application of the FLEGT VPA. Thus, the parties agreed to use the most appropriate communication mechanisms in order to guarantee the transparency of the functioning of the FLEGT licensing scheme and to ensure that both this scheme and the VPA are well understood by all stakeholders. Access to information is thus essential in order to fully understand the process, as is the involvement of all the stakeholders in order to meet the objectives of the Agreement. Transparency also helps to strengthen the image of Cameroon’s timber and derived products on the European Union market.

8.1 Promotion of timber verified as legal

Whilst waiting for the operationalisation of the legality verification system, initiatives designed to promote Cameroon’s timber were undertaken in 2014 through the organisation of meetings.

These initiatives included the meeting organised by NEPCoN between the promoters of Cameroon’s small and medium-sized enterprises and European buyers/importers. MINOF met the competent authorities during a meeting held in Rome in Italy under the aegis of the NGO Forest Trends. During this meeting, Cameroon presented the progress made during the implementation of the VPA and the legality assurance system. In Amsterdam, the Netherlands, ATIBT also organised a forum on the reinforcement of confidence in tropical timber in November 2014, in order to promote certified, legally produced tropical timber. MINOF was also represented at this forum.

8.2 National communication efforts on the FLEGT VPA

MINOF has established a wide variety of communication mechanisms in order to inform the stakeholders about the Agreement. Thus, in addition to the webpage entirely dedicated to the FLEGT VPA on MINOF’s website (www.minfof.cm), the biannual magazine Lettre verte, the monthly journal MINOF newsletter and the weekly radio programme Écho de la forêt allow the Ministry to share information on forests in general and more specifically on the FLEGT VPA. These tools help improve access to the available information. Each year, MINOF also continues to produce and disseminate the publication entitled ‘Forests and wildlife in Cameroon: facts and figures’ (‘Forêts et faune du Cameroun: faits et chiffres’), which provides the public with the most recent official facts and figures on the forest sector.
The other stakeholders, notably civil society and the technical partners, have contributed to communication on the VPA through radio programmes in local languages on community radio stations, dealing with the VPA and forest governance, posters, radio debates and the training of journalists in order to encourage them to communicate more effectively on forest governance issues. An information guide for small and medium-sized enterprises on how to obtain the ‘legality certificate’ was produced and disseminated, as were copies of the VPA.

8.3 Information available to the public and stakeholders

The FLEGT VPA website (http://apvcameroun.cm), developed in 2013 in order to make information available to the public, was augmented in 2014, with the new information contained in Paragraph 3 of Appendix VII, notably legal information, information on the institutional framework of the implementation as well as on the attribution. A MINOF procedures manual for the regular posting of information online was created with the support of the EU FLEGT Facility of the European Forest Institute (EFI) in order to facilitate the continuous and complete dissemination of the information listed in Appendix VII of the VPA.

The website of the Delegation of the European Union to Cameroon also provides information on the state of progress of the implementation of the FLEGT VPA: http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cameroon/index_fr.htm

8.4 Transparency and measures to fight corruption

Measures to fight corruption continued in 2014 in order to stabilise the forest sector and guarantee the credibility of FLEGT licences and the effective implementation of the Agreement. Thus, as a continuation of the initiative for transparency and the fight against corruption in the forest sector in Cameroon (ITAC, l’Initiative pour la transparence et la lutte anticorruption dans le secteur forestier au Cameroun), a study aiming to increase the intensity of the level of corruption detection in the forest sector was carried out so as to assess progress made in improving integrity within this sector. Similarly, more activities were carried out to raise stakeholder awareness of the importance of transparency in the fight against corruption in the FLEGT VPA.

The implementation of the rapid results initiatives approach (RRI), which consists of reducing corruption in a specific area of forestry activity and for a given length of time (6 months or 1 year), intensified in 2014 through the extension of initiatives on three roads compared to one road in 2013 (see below). In 2014, MINOF aimed to reduce operator rackets by 60% through forest agents carrying out roadside checks.
The transport routes for forest products targeted by the RRI in 2014 were:

• For the reduction in the lumber racket:
  - Bertoua to Kousserie via Ngaoundéré, Garoua and Maroua, so involving four regions;
  - Mintom to Douala via Djoum, Sangmelima and Yaoundé, so three regions.

• For the reduction in the organised crime of non-timber forest products (notably Gnetum africanum commonly known as eru or okok):
  - Monatélé to Idenau via Yaoundé, Douala and Limbé, so three regions.

In total, seven regions were affected by the RRI, resulting in a reduction of approximately 65% in racket practices.

MINOF’s desire to fight this curse in the forest sector gave rise to the establishment of an Anti-corruption Unit (CLAC, Cellule de lutte anticorruption) within the Ministry. This Unit is run by a person independent of the Ministry. An anti-corruption plan providing for the participation of civil society was also developed by the Unit, which carried out anti-corruption campaigns within the framework of rapid results initiatives as well as raising stakeholder awareness, giving rise to increased awareness of the risks and negative impacts of this scourge.
9 Monitoring

As described in Section 6.1 of this report, the Council and the Joint Monitoring Committee met on two occasions in July and December of 2013.

9.2 System for handling complaints

In addition to the Council and the Joint Monitoring Committee, the Agreement provides for another, separate independent auditing and impact monitoring mechanism, which allows the stakeholders to express their dissatisfaction with the functioning of the FLEGT licensing scheme. This is a system for handling complaints, which can be utilised by operators or any other dissatisfied stakeholder. Indeed, the parties to the Agreement wish to listen to all stakeholders and respond efficiently to the requests by any parties who are dissatisfied with the implementation of the LAS, and more particularly with the performance of the FLEGT licensing scheme. Only a systematic, in-depth analysis can allow the complainant’s reasons to be identified and measures to be taken to improve the functioning of the Agreement and its impact. It is for this reason that Appendix XI of the VPA specifies that the Joint Monitoring Committee (CCS) 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.

The system for handling complaints relating to the operation of the VPA will be developed in the future in order to ensure the organisation of the receipt, examination, processing and analysis of complaints, as well as the report and information made available to the public on the complaints received and the way in which they are managed.

9.1 Impacts

During the sixth meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee in April 2014, the parties agreed to create a working group, whose mission included ‘developing a methodology to monitor the social, economic and environmental impacts of the Agreement’. During this work, the working group opted to use external experts in the area of impact monitoring and apply a participatory approach, allowing each group of stakeholders to identify and present the criteria that they wanted to be considered. Therefore, the terms of reference for external expertise were drawn up and the main stages in the development of a framework for monitoring the impacts were defined. The mobilisation of the external experts and the start of the development process will take place in 2015.

Civil society became actively engaged in this issue through the participatory project to assess the impacts of the FLEGT VPA, which was organised by the Centre for Assistance to Justice and Animation for Development (CAJAD, Centre d’appui à la justice et d’animation pour le développement) with the aim of proposing a participatory methodology for monitoring the effects of the Agreement. The results of this initiative will be addressed in the formal discussions in 2015.

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# Annexes

## I. MINFOF figures regarding timber

### Exports of forest products

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sawnwood</td>
<td>m³</td>
<td>608</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>780,137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plywood</td>
<td>m³</td>
<td>737</td>
<td>592</td>
<td>591</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>592,708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Veneer</td>
<td>m³</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>13,164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Products (Parquet)</td>
<td>m³</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>28,143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Products</td>
<td>m²</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Productos Especiales</td>
<td>kg</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>872</td>
<td>1543</td>
<td>1932</td>
<td>1789,304</td>
</tr>
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Source: DPFF-LIT and COMCAM
## II. Proposal for traceability checkpoints

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<th>N°</th>
<th>Checkpoints</th>
<th>Regiones</th>
<th>Observaciones</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Douala Port</td>
<td>Coastal</td>
<td>Economic Community of Central African States - EMAC (Congo &amp; CAR) and local timber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bekoko</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>PK14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bridge over the River Dibamba</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mbankomo</td>
<td></td>
<td>CEMAC (Congo &amp; CAR) and local timber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>ELAT Crossroads</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Nkometou</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mbama (crossroads)</td>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Bélabo Park SOMAC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Bélabo / SOCOPAO Entrance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Garoua-Boulai</td>
<td></td>
<td>CEMAC (CAR) and local timber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Kentzou</td>
<td></td>
<td>CEMAC (CAR) timber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Mambélé</td>
<td></td>
<td>CEMAC (Congo) and local timber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Olounou</td>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>CEMAC (Congo) and local timber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Kribi Port</td>
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### III. List of projects to support the Cameroon VPA in 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of funding</th>
<th>Beneficiary</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Amount (EUR)</th>
<th>Person in charge &amp; contact details</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EU FAO FLEGT Programme</td>
<td>MINFOF</td>
<td>Consideration of the private legality and sustainable management certification systems in the issuing of legality certificates within the framework of the FLEGT VPA</td>
<td>37 950</td>
<td>Jean Kongape (<a href="mailto:kojav@yahoo.fr">kojav@yahoo.fr</a>)</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU FAO FLEGT Programme</td>
<td>MINEPDED</td>
<td>Support for capacity building for personnel at MINEPDED and MINTSS for the implementation of LAS for the Cameroon FLEGT VPA</td>
<td>49 305</td>
<td>Dieudonné KAMGUEM (<a href="mailto:dkamguem@yahoo.fr">dkamguem@yahoo.fr</a>)</td>
<td>Underway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU FAO FLEGT Programme</td>
<td>CED</td>
<td>Analysis of the challenges involved in the implementation of the FLEGT VPA in Cameroon</td>
<td>94 769</td>
<td>Samuel Nguiffo (<a href="mailto:snguiffo@yahoo.fr">snguiffo@yahoo.fr</a>)</td>
<td>Underway</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU FAO FLEGT Programme</td>
<td>FODER</td>
<td>Establishment of a national standardised external independent observation system (OE-FLEGT 2)</td>
<td>75 543</td>
<td>Rodrigue Ngonzo (<a href="mailto:rtngonzo2002@yahoo.fr">rtngonzo2002@yahoo.fr</a>)</td>
<td>EU FAO FLEGT</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU FAO FLEGT Programme</td>
<td>MINTSS</td>
<td>Support for capacity building for personnel at the Ministry of Labour and Social Security for the implementation of the VPA LAS</td>
<td>33 000</td>
<td>Nathalie LEBA (<a href="mailto:lebanathalie@yahoo.fr">lebanathalie@yahoo.fr</a>)</td>
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<td><strong>EU FAO FLEGT subtotal</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td>ENRTP 2009</td>
<td>University of Wolverhampton/FODER</td>
<td>Strengthening African Forest Governance (regional project)</td>
<td>1 890 608</td>
<td>Richard Nyirenda (<a href="mailto:R.Nyirenda@wlv.ac.uk">R.Nyirenda@wlv.ac.uk</a>)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>1 890 608.00</strong></td>
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Source: DUE, updated: October 2014
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of funding</th>
<th>Beneficiary</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Amount (EUR)</th>
<th>Person in charge &amp; contact details</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENRTP 2012 (global)</td>
<td>CARFAD</td>
<td>Support for the Kadey Community Forest Federation in the process of obtaining timber legality and marketing certificates</td>
<td>1 472 146</td>
<td>Benjamin Tchoffo (<a href="mailto:benjamintchoffo@yahoo.com">benjamintchoffo@yahoo.com</a>)</td>
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<td>ENRTP 2012 (global)</td>
<td>University of Wolverhamton /FODER</td>
<td>Congo Basin VPA implementation – championing forest peoples’ rights and participation (regional project)</td>
<td>1 571 266</td>
<td>Aurelian Mbzbain (<a href="mailto:A.Mbzibain2@wlv.ac.uk">A.Mbzibain2@wlv.ac.uk</a>)</td>
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<td><strong>ENRTP 2012 subtotal (global)</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>3 043 412,00</strong></td>
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<td>ENRTP 2012 (local)</td>
<td>CED</td>
<td>Monitoring changes in the allocation of forest land</td>
<td>108 663</td>
<td>Samuel Nguiffo (<a href="mailto:snguiffo@yahoo.fr">snguiffo@yahoo.fr</a>)</td>
<td>Underway</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENRTP 2012 (local)</td>
<td>CAJAD</td>
<td>Participatory assessment of the impacts of the FLEGT VPA in Cameroon (EPI - FLEGT Cameroon)</td>
<td>119 066</td>
<td>Barthélémy Tchepnang (<a href="mailto:cajadlimbe@yahoo.fr">cajadlimbe@yahoo.fr</a>)</td>
<td>Underway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENRTP 2012 (local)</td>
<td>NEPCon</td>
<td>Strengthening of small and medium-sized enterprises in order to implement the EUTR and the LAS requirements</td>
<td>120 000</td>
<td>Jan Feil (<a href="mailto:jpf@nepcon.net">jpf@nepcon.net</a>)</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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### IV. List of FLEGT competent authorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Competent authority</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Bundesamt für Wald - Forstliches Vermehrungsgut Federal Forest Office - Forest Reproductive Material Bundesamt für Wald - FLEGT und EUTR</td>
<td>Hauptstrasse 7, 1140 Vienna, Austria Tel: +43 / 1 / 87838 / 2223 Fax: +43 / 1 / 87838 / 2250 E-mail: <a href="mailto:ilse.strohschneider@bfw.gv.at">ilse.strohschneider@bfw.gv.at</a> ; <a href="mailto:hannes.krehan@bfw.gv.at">hannes.krehan@bfw.gv.at</a> Website: <a href="http://www.bundesamt-wald.at">www.bundesamt-wald.at</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment – DG Environment – Product Policy Unit</td>
<td>Eurostation (Desk 2C368), Place Victor Horta, 40 - b10, B-1060 Brussels, Belgium Tel.: + 32 (0)2 524 92 77 E-mail: <a href="mailto:flegt@environment.belgium.be">flegt@environment.belgium.be</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>National Customs Agency</td>
<td>47 Rakovski Str., Sofia 1202, Bulgaria Tel.: +359 2 9859 4378 Fax: +359 2 9859 4062 E-mail: <a href="mailto:marieta.dimitrova@customs.bg">marieta.dimitrova@customs.bg</a> Assistant function: Executive Forestry Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture</td>
<td>Ulica grada Vukovara 78, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia Tel.: +385 1 6443 220 Fax: +385 1 6443 291 Website: <a href="http://www.mps.hr">http://www.mps.hr</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:domagoj.ples@mps.hr">domagoj.ples@mps.hr</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:robert.lacic@mps.hr">robert.lacic@mps.hr</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>Department of Forests, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment</td>
<td>Department of Forests, 1414, Nicosia, Cyprus Tel: +357 22449298 +357 22459003 Fax: +357 22303830 E-mail: <a href="mailto:management@fd.moa.gov.cy">management@fd.moa.gov.cy</a> ; <a href="mailto:planning@fd.moa.gov.cy">planning@fd.moa.gov.cy</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/flegt.htm.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Competent authority</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Czech Republic | Customs Administration of the Czech Republic                  | Budějovická 7, 14096 Prague 4, Czech Republic  
                        | Tel.: +420261332238  
                        | Fax: +420261332300  
                        | E-mail: e.jelinkova@cs.mfcr.cz |
|               | Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic                 | Těšnov 17, 117 05 Prague 1, Czech Republic  
                        | Tel.: +420 221 812 261  
                        | Fax: +420 221 812 988  
                        | E-mail: natalie.benesova@mze.cz |
| Denmark       | Danish Ministry of the Environment, Nature Agency              | Haraldsgade 53, DK - 2100 Copenhagen, Denmark  
                        | Tel.: + 45 72 54 30 00  
                        | E-mail: nst@nst.dk; niboe@nst.dk |
| Estonia       | Ministry of the Environment, Forest Department                 | Address: Narva mnt 7a, 15172 Tallinn, Estonia  
                        | Tel.: +372 626 2902  
                        | Fax: +372 626 2801  
                        | E-mail: keskkonnaministeerium@envir.ee; taivo.denks@envir.ee |
|               | Estonian Tax and Customs Board                                 | Lõõtsa 8a, 15176 Tallinn, Estonia  
                        | Tel.: +372 676 2178  
                        | Fax: +372 676 27093  
                        | E-mail: emta@emta.ee  
                        | Website: www.emta.ee |
| Finland       | Agency for Rural Affairs                                       | P.O. Box 405, FI – 60101 Seinäjoki, Finland  
                        | E-mail: marko.lehtosalo@mavi.fi  
                        | Website: http://www.mavi.fi |
| France        | Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'agroalimentaire et de la forêt | 19 avenue du Maine, F-75732 Paris Cedex 15, France  
                        | Tel.: + 33(0)1 49 55 40 94 / + 33(0)1 49 55 52 70  
                        | Fax: +33 (0)1 49 55 40 76  
<pre><code>                    | E-mail: vincent.naturel@agriculture.gouv.fr; mylène.dupas@agriculture.gouv.fr |
</code></pre>
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<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung (BLE)</td>
<td>Referat 222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Federal Office of Agriculture and Food</td>
<td>Deichmanns Aue 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>DE -53179 Bonn, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tel.: +49 (0) 228 99 6845 – 3369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fax: +49 (0) 228 99 6845 – 3790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:FLEGT-genehmigungssystem@ble.de">FLEGT-genehmigungssystem@ble.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.ble.de">www.ble.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Ministry of the Environment, Energy and Climate Change, General Directorate for the Development and Protection of Forests and Rural Environment</td>
<td>Halkokondili 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>101 64 Athens, Greece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tel.: +30 210 2124554</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fax: +30 210 5240194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:xa31u115@minagric.gr">xa31u115@minagric.gr</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Trade Licensing Office, Trade Authority, Department of Trade Affairs</td>
<td>Németvölgyút 37-39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A Magyar Kereskedelmi Engedélyezési Hivatal</td>
<td>HU - 1125 Budapest, Hungary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kereskedelmi Hatóságának Kereskedelmi Osztálya</td>
<td>Tel.: +36 1 4585 514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fax: +36 1 4585 8288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:keo@mkeh.gov.hu">keo@mkeh.gov.hu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine International Forestry Policy</td>
<td>Agriculture House, Kildare Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dublin 2, Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tel.: + 35 31 60 72 515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:stephen.fitzpatrick@agriculture.gov.ie">stephen.fitzpatrick@agriculture.gov.ie</a>; <a href="mailto:noel.holleran@agriculture.gov.ie">noel.holleran@agriculture.gov.ie</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.agriculture.gov.ie">www.agriculture.gov.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Il Ministero delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari e Forestali</td>
<td>Via Carducci, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Directorate General for Rural Development (Unit DISR 3) and Corpo Forestale dello Stato - Divisione 5</td>
<td>IT - 0187 Rome, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tel.: + 39 06 4665 7046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fax: + 39 06 4818 972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:a.mariano@corpoforestale.it">a.mariano@corpoforestale.it</a>; <a href="mailto:DISR3@mipaaf.gov.it">DISR3@mipaaf.gov.it</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia</td>
<td>Republikaslaukums 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>LV – Riga, Latvia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tel.: +37167027549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:normunds.struve@zm.gov.lv">normunds.struve@zm.gov.lv</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>Customs Department under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania</td>
<td>A. Jaksto 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>LT-01105 Vilnius, Lithuania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tel.: (+370~5) 266 61 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fax: (+370~5) 266 60 05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:ruta.dauksiene@lrmuitine.lt">ruta.dauksiene@lrmuitine.lt</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Competent authority</td>
<td>Address</td>
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<tr>
<td>---------</td>
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<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>Administration de la nature et des forêts</td>
<td>7 Rue Christophe Plantin, L-2988 Luxembourg Tel: +352402201 Fax: +352402201250 E-mail: <a href="mailto:flegt.ac@anf.etat.lu">flegt.ac@anf.etat.lu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change Timber Control Unit – Agricultural Directorate</td>
<td>Ghammieri, Marsa, MRS 3303, Malta Tel: 00356 2292 4253 E-mail: <a href="mailto:marcelle.a.agius@gov.mt">marcelle.a.agius@gov.mt</a> E-mail (copy to): <a href="mailto:cheryl.micallef-borg@gov.mt">cheryl.micallef-borg@gov.mt</a> Website: <a href="http://www.agric.gov.mt">www.agric.gov.mt</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority</td>
<td>Catherijnesingel 59 - 3511 GG Utrecht, The Netherlands Po Box 43006 3540 AA Utrecht, The Netherlands Tel: +31 88 223 33 33 E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@nvwa.nl">info@nvwa.nl</a> Website: <a href="http://www.nvwa.nl">www.nvwa.nl</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Customs Policy Department Ministry of Finance</td>
<td>Tel: +48 22 694 50 05 E-mail: <a href="mailto:sekretariat.DC@mf.gov.pl">sekretariat.DC@mf.gov.pl</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>Ministry of Finance – Customs Department Autoridade Tributária e Aduaneira (Direção de Serviços de Regulação Aduaneira)</td>
<td>Rua da Alfândega, n.º 5 – R/C – 1149 – 006 Lisbon, Portugal Tel: +351 21 8813890; +351 21 8813906 Fax: + 351 218813941 E-mail: <a href="mailto:dsra@at.gov.pt">dsra@at.gov.pt</a> ; <a href="mailto:Ana.Sousa.Pires@at.gov.pt">Ana.Sousa.Pires@at.gov.pt</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Department of Waters, Forests and Pisciculture</td>
<td>Bd. General Gheorghe Magheru 31, Sector 1 RO - 010325, Bucharest, Romania Tel: + 40 21 316 02 15 Fax: + 40 21 319 46 09 E-mail: <a href="mailto:cabinet.ministru@ape-paduri.ro">cabinet.ministru@ape-paduri.ro</a></td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovak Republic</td>
<td>Financial Directorate of the Slovak Republic, Customs Section</td>
<td>Mierová 23, 815 11 Bratislava, Slovak Republic Tel.: +421 (2) 48273158 +421 (2) 48273111, 112, 115 Fax: +421 (2) 43421879 E-mail: <a href="mailto:infocrsr@colnasprava.sk">infocrsr@colnasprava.sk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment of the Republic of Slovenia, Forestry, Hunting and Fisheries Directorate</td>
<td>Dunajska 22, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia Tel.: +386 1 478 91 44 Fax: +386 1 478 90 21 E-mail: <a href="mailto:robert.rezonja@gov.si">robert.rezonja@gov.si</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Customs Administration of the Republic of Slovenia</td>
<td>Smartsinska 55, 1523 Ljubljana, Slovenia Tel.: +386 1 478 38 85 Fax: +386 1 478 38 99 E-mail: <a href="mailto:vojko.otovic@gov.si">vojko.otovic@gov.si</a> ; <a href="mailto:pio.curs@gov.si">pio.curs@gov.si</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Swedish Board of Agriculture</td>
<td>Vallgatan 8 SE - 551 82 Jönköping, Sweden Tel.: +4636155000 Fax: +4636155995 E-mail: <a href="mailto:per.emanuelsson@jordbruksverket.se">per.emanuelsson@jordbruksverket.se</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>National Measurement Office Enforcement Authority (NMO)</td>
<td>National Measurement Office Stanton Avenue Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 0JZ United Kingdom Tel.: +44 (0) 20 8943 7262 Fax: +44 (0)20 8943 7270 E-mail: <a href="mailto:michael.worrell@nmo.gov.uk">michael.worrell@nmo.gov.uk</a> Website: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/flegt">https://www.gov.uk/flegt</a></td>
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This report was prepared by Cameroon and the EU and was validated by the VPA joint implementation committee.

This report is a translation of the original report.

The online version is available on the website of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Cameroon: http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cameroon/index_fr.htm

Photos: Ollivier Girard/ CIFOR, MINFOF.

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