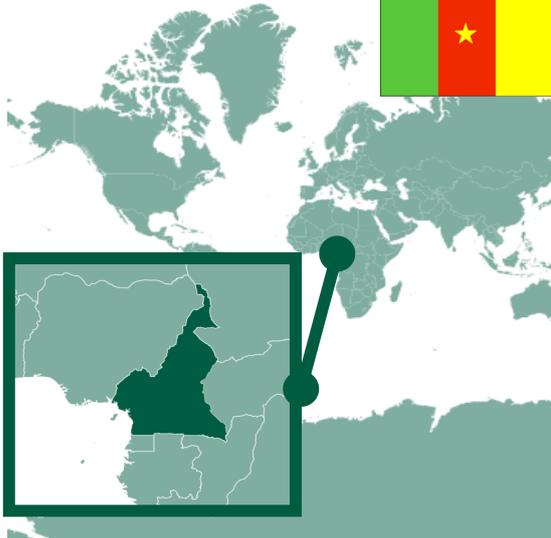


Cameroon



Illegal timber risk summary

Corruption perception index

The Corruption Perceptions Index ranks countries and territories based on how corrupt their public sector is perceived to be. A country or territory's score indicates the perceived level of public sector corruption on a scale of 0 – 100.



Main species risk at a glance

Native	Species	Risk Level
	Pericopsis elata	SPECIFIED
	Bubinga (Guiboutia spp)	SPECIFIED
	Khaya ivorensis	SPECIFIED
	Prunus Africana	SPECIFIED
	Diospyros crassiflora	SPECIFIED
	Lovoa trichilioides	SPECIFIED
	Khaya anthithea	SPECIFIED



LOG EXPORT BAN - An export ban has been in place since 1999 on sawn timber from some species harvested in natural forests.



VPA STATUS—Implementing a Voluntary Partnership Agreement with the EU.

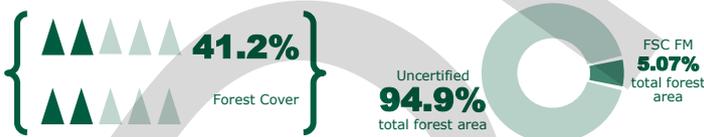
Timber legality in Cameroon

Cameroon has a land area of 47.5 million hectares. Estimates of forest area vary from 19.7 million hectares (MINFOF 2008), to 21.2 million hectares (Government of Cameroon 2009, FAO 2010), to 27.2 million hectares (de Wasseige et al. 2008). Cameroon has both a high level of forest cover, and a high level of deforestation that has been increasing in recent years (REDD Desk 2015, FAO 2010). The estimated annual deforestation rate ranges between 0.06% – 0.2%, the latter placing Cameroon amongst the highest among Congo Basin countries (REDD Desk 2015). Illegal logging has long been recognised as a significant problem in Cameroon. Concerns have been raised over the misuse of certain logging permits in the country, and over a lack of effective regulation and law enforcement (Chatham House 2015). The threat posed by land conversion for oil palm plantations has also been recognised (Greenpeace 2014). The high level of illegality in Cameroon's forests is "the result of many years of poor governance – not least entrenched corruption, weak institutions and unclear and inappropriate laws and policies" (Chatham House, 2015). Cameroon and the EU entered into negotiations in November 2007 for a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA). The VPA was signed on 6 October 2010. Procedures for legality verification are currently under development (Chatham House 2013).

Forest statistics

	Area	% forest area	% total area
Production forest	14.5 mill ha	85.7%	30.5%
Protected forest	3.9 mill ha	19.5%	8.2%
Other wooded area	1.4 mill ha	7.0%	2.9%
Total forest area	19.9 mill ha		41.2%
Total land area	47.5 mill ha		

Source: FAO Country Report 2010: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/al471f/al471f.pdf>



Cameroon's trade in timber

	Product	Unit	2010	2011	2012	2013
Exports Value	Ind. roundwood	Mill US\$	249.3	291	266.8	268.2
	Sawnwood	Mill US\$	359.3	464.4	455.6	335.3
	Veneer	Mill US\$	49.4	50.6	43.3	64.8
	Plywood	Mill US\$	3.9	4.1	4.1	7
Imports Value	Ind. roundwood	1000 US\$	197.85	832.14	36.17	36.17
	Sawnwood	1000 US\$	32.27	233.15	25.91	96.38
	Veneer	1000 US\$	28.62	34.48	131.08	131.08
	Plywood	1000 US\$	206.46	326.82	323.55	1536.82

Source: ITTO Annual Review Statistics Database http://www.ito.int/annual_review_output/

More information

For more information, references, examples of documentation and other Forestry Risk Profiles visit our website.



www.nepcon.net/forestry-risk-profiles/Cameroon

Principal natural forest species

- Entandrophragma cylindricum (sapelli)
- Entandrophragma utile (sipo)
- Erythrophloeum suaveolens (tali)
- Triplochiton scleroxylon (ayous)
- Lophira alata (azobé)
- Cylicodiscus gabunensis (okan)
- Entandrophragma candollei (kossipo)
- Milicia excelsa (iroko)
- Pericopsis elata (assamela)
- Distemonanthus benthamianus (movingui)

- Lovoa trichilioides (dibétou)
- Sterculia rhinopetala (lotofa)
- Baillonella toxisperma (moabi)

Principal plantation species

- Terminalia ivorensis
- Aucoumea klaineana
- Tectona grandis
- Pinus spp
- various Meliaceae and eucalypts.

Illegal Logging in Cameroon

Illegality is a systemic issue in the timber industry in Cameroon, and illegal practices have been widely reported throughout the timber supply chains.

The 2015 NEPCon National Risk Assessment for Cameroon identified specified risks in 16 of the 22 legal criteria and sub-criteria. Risks of illegality have been identified in the following areas of applicable legislation:

Legal Rights to harvest—overlapping/conflicting land classifications, unofficial land claims and/or shifting cultivation; Management and harvesting planning is often based on limited information from the field/low quality data and are frequently not fully implemented due to a lack of capacity of the Forestry Department and limited resources, and there is a high risk of corruption in the allocation of harvesting permits numerous reports of chainsaw harvesting being carried out without permits (e.g. CIFOR 2010, Chatham House, 2015).

Taxes and fees—the payment of royalties and harvesting fees is not well monitored and misappropriation of funds is common and because the income and profit taxes-system is self declaratory, there is a risk that companies may make false declarations to reduce their tax debts, or avoid making payments at all.

Timber Harvesting activities— companies do not obtain all the necessary documents prior to harvesting; enforcement in protected-areas system is weak and timber is illegally harvested from reserves and wildlife is poached; a proportion of production is carried out with no management planning; systematic non-compliance with health and safety requirements, including wearing Personal Protective Equipment; frequent use of unlicensed workers, workers without contracts and minors.

Third parties' rights—only a small percentage of Cameroonians have registered their land rights, most continue to claim rights based on diverse customary laws, at times in direct conflict with other claimants to the land.

Trade and transport—companies are frequently harvesting above authorized/granted volumes and false volume statements; significant levels of corruption and bribery in domestic transport; and exports without necessary document or documents based on false claims or forged documents.

Supply chain risks

Cameroon is not dependent on imported wood due to the importance on the forestry sector and the production industry. The NEPCon Risk Assessment has shown risks throughout the timber supply chain in Cameroon. Cameroon is developing the systems needed to control, verify and license legal timber, called the SIGIF II database (Système Informatique de Gestion des Informations Forestières, or Digitalised Forest Management Information System). During the negotiation of the VPA / FLEGT between Cameroon and the EU, the parties agreed on the principle of developing the legality checklist to be used to certify the legality of the forestry entities and wood products derived therefrom.

Options to mitigate risk

An option is to purchase timber from Cameroon that are accompanied by full FSC CoC certification. If the timber is uncertified, the high level of risk will mean that extensive risk mitigation will be necessary. This may include supply chain verification detailed to forest level, including audits of each level of the supply chain by a credible third party auditor.

Is there low risk timber in Cameroon?

The timber that is produced in the large Forest Management Units (FMU's) has been assessed as lower risk than other sources in some legal categories. However, as there are still 13 legal categories that are specified risk for FMUs, extensive risk mitigation is still necessary to reduce this risk level to negligible.

CITES and protected species

Cameroon acceded to CITES in 1981. There are 133 plant species from Cameroon listed in CITES, including two Appendix II tree species:

- *Pericopsis elata*; and
- *Prunus africana*. *Guibourtia demeusei* (bubinga-African Rosewood)

Legally required documents

Harvesting



Numerous (see full list at Annex I), including:

1. Annual cutting Certificate (ACC) or annual operating permit (AOP)
2. Exploitation site booklet or DF10.

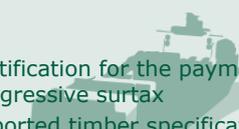
Transport



Numerous (see full list at Annex I), including:

1. Secure waybills, signed by competent authority
2. Secure booklet sheet, signed by competent authority.

Export



1. Justification for the payment of progressive surtax
2. Exported timber specification sheet
3. Certificate for registration as timber processor/exporter
4. Export permit issued by SGS
5. Tax clearance