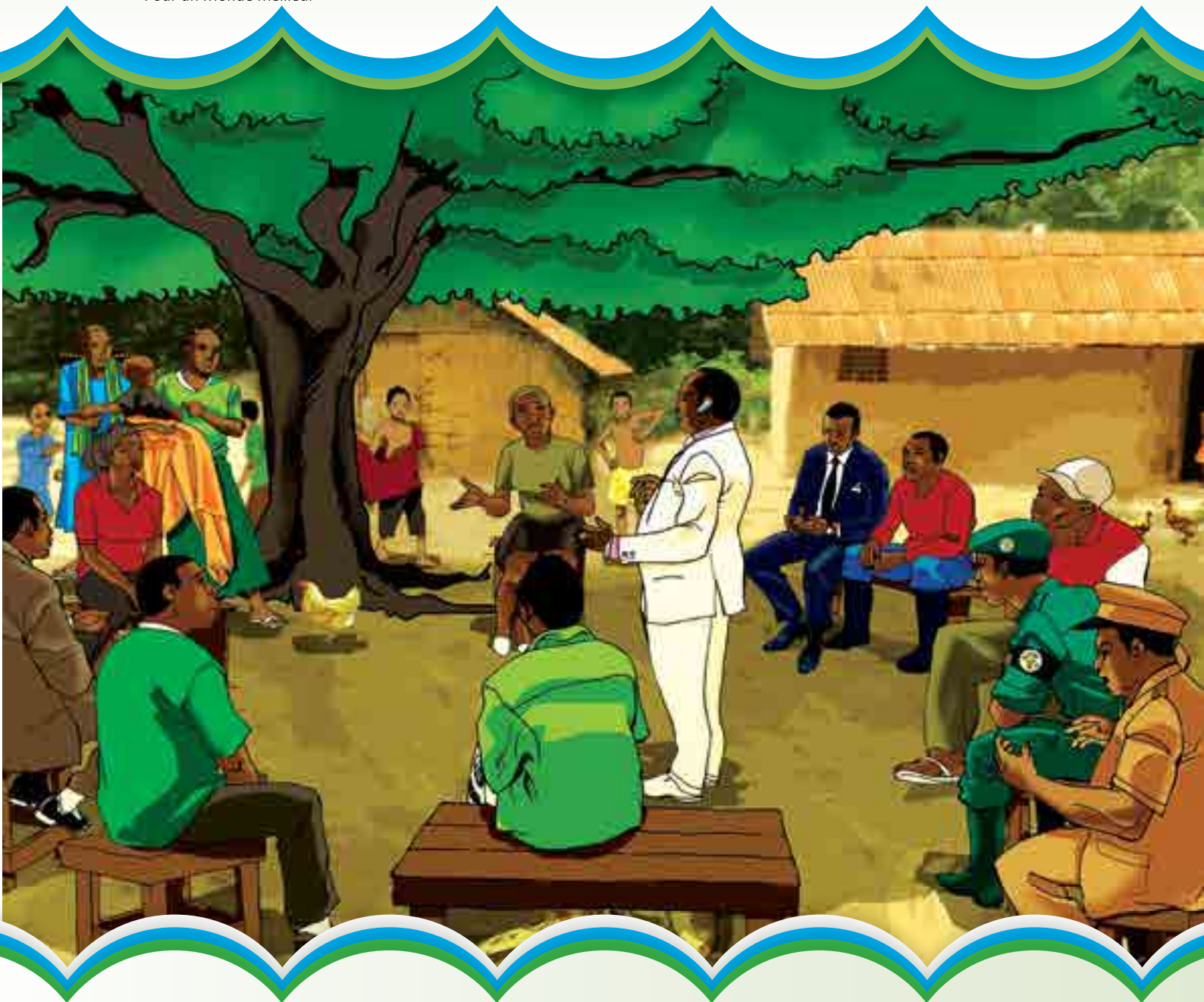




Forêts et Développement Rural
Pour un Monde meilleur



REPORT

EVALUATION REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSPARENCY IN THE FOREST SECTOR IN CAMEROON

Fébruary 2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	ABBREVIATIONS	10	III.1.5. Sub Regional Workshop of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) on Forest Transparency
4	INTRODUCTION	11	III.2. Assessment of Transparency based grid
5	OBJECTIVES OF STUDY	12	IV. DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
6	METHODOLOGY	12	IV.1. Analysis of the results of the transparency evaluation grid
6	II.1. Literature review	14	IV.2. Stakes and challenges induced by transparency
7	II.2. Data and information collection	15	V. POSSIBLE PROSPECTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF IMPROVING FOREST TRANSPARENCY
8	II.3. Difficulties encountered	16	CONCLUSION
8	III. RESULTS	17	DOCUMENTS CONSULTED
8	III.1. Review of implementation of initiatives of Annex 7	19	ANNEX I: 2014 EVALUATION GRID OF TRANSPARENCY IN THE FOREST SECTOR IN CAMEROON
8	III.1.1. Project «Improving Transparency in the Forest sector» by CED		BIBLIOGRAPHY
9	III.1.2. ITAC Project «Initiative for Transparency and the fight against Corruption» by FODER		
9	III.1.3. Project «To make publicly available the information listed in Annex VII of the Cameroon-EU VPA» by MIN-FOF		
10	III.1.4. Commentary notes from the European Community-Forest Platform (ECFP)		



ABBREVIATIONS

VPA:	Voluntary Partnership Agreement
JMC :	Joint Monitoring Committee
CED :	Centre for Environment and Development
ECCAS :	Economic Community of Central African States
COMIFAC :	Central Africa Forests Commission
ECFP :	European Community-Forests Platform
EFI :	European Forest Institute
ITAC :	Initiative for Transparency and the fight against Corruption
FAO :	Food and Agriculture Organization
FODER :	Forests and Rural Development
FLEGT:	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
MINFOF :	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
OI :	Independent Observation
NGO :	Non Governmental Organisation
UE :	European Union
ToR :	Terms of Reference

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INTRODUCTION

Within the framework of improving forest governance and sustainable forest management, Cameroon signed with the European Union (EU) and ratified a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) of the “Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT)” initiative, to stop illegal logging and associated trade. One of the indicators that determine a context of good forest governance is transparency with the corollary access to forest information, that is, the provision of this information to the public. Transparency, therefore, aims at strengthening the image of Cameroon forestry products on the international market, and at improving the investment climate for exporters of timber in the EU, and at facilitating a high level of citizen participation in forest management. The text of the agreement in Article 21 makes the information made public, one of the foundations of governance in the operation of the FLEGT licensing scheme. Annex VII of this Agreement considers public access to forestry information as essential to the understanding of the VPA-FLEGT process and the involvement of all stakeholders in the pursuit of good governance goals. Annex VII details the types of information to be made public and the main channels of information dissemination, and refers to seventy-five (75) documents and data listed in ten (10) categories.

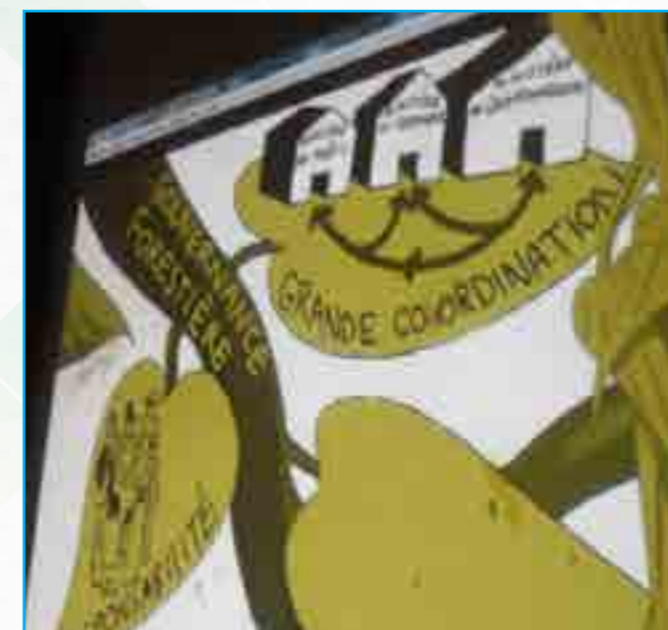
Cameroon, has taken a number of steps to make this commitment operational with, among others, the implementation of Annex VII of the VPA. To achieve this, Cameroon is accompanied by the EU in the implementation of activities provided for by VPA, including those relating to Annex VII on “information made public”. Thus the project “Initiative for Transparency and the Fight against Corruption (ITAC)” was launched in 2012 with funding from the Support Programme Afri-

can Caribbean Pacific-FLEGT (ACP-FLEGT) by the FAO with the aim of supporting the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) in triggering the implementation of Annex VII. At the end of the first phase of the ITAC, an implementation strategy of this Annex was developed and led to the opening of a publication window for information on VPA in MINFOF website (FODER, 2012).

Thereafter, the support project of the European Forest Institute (EFI) to MINFOF, entitled “Making publicly available the information listed in Annex VII of the Cameroon-EU VPA” was launched with the general objective to support forestry administration in its efforts to make forest information public. Through this project, the information relating to Annex VII were identified, collected, scanned and published through the window of the FLEGT-VPA website (www.minfof.cm/apvca-cameroun). A draft procedures manual for the collection, processing, validation and dissemination of online information to make public was drafted and is awaiting approval.

So there are both public and private initiatives in supporting the implementation of Annex VII of the VPA. Within the framework of this annual assessment of transparency in the forest sector, its aim was to evaluate the measures taken by the Government of Cameroon for the public release of information in accordance with Annex VII of the VPA, as a contribution to promoting transparency and improving forest governance in Cameroon.

I. OBJECTIVES OF STUDY



Picture 1: Illustration to show that forest governance requires a lot of coordination between ministries involved

The general objective of this study was to conduct a participatory evaluation of the implementation of transparency in the forest sector in Cameroon, looking at the implementation of Annex VII of the VPA - FLEGT.

This general objective is divided into two specific objectives, namely:

- Review the efforts made in the implementation of transparency in the forest sector since the multi-stakeholder workshop to reflect on the operationalization of Annex VII (Yaoundé, 15-16 November 2012);
- Identify and propose measures for improving transparency in the forest sector, based on Cameroon’s commitments on transparency and on the analysis of the results of relevant initiatives.

II. METHODOLOGY

II.1. Literature review

The review of literature helped to reveal that a preliminary work had been done by the Centre for Environment and Development (CED) in 2012 and 2013, namely the development of a checklist of information to be made public according to Annex VII of the VPA and the development of a data collection chart. This checklist takes for indicators all 75 types of documents and data referenced in Annex VII, and which are listed under 10 categories including respectively legal information, information on production, allocation, the planning, processing, exports, the verification system of legality and control, audits, financial transactions and institutional setup. According to this initiative, availability (does information exist?) and accessibility (is it made public?) for each indicator were evaluated and illustrated through traffic lights: yes = green, part = yellow, no = red, and blue = not applicable (CED, 2013).

Thereafter, the BUREDIP and INTER ACTIV firms developed almost similar methodology for data collection as part of the implementation of the

project: “Make publicly available the information listed in Annex VII of the VPA Cameroon-EU”. Indeed, the consultants adopted a participatory and operational approach. This approach was based on consultation on one hand, and dialogue with key actors in the implementation of Annex VII on the other, on the collection using a summary table, the information identified in the Annex VII to the generating sources of information from the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, partner administrations (focal points) and some websites. The summary table from this project describes the characteristics of information in terms of availability, expiration, renewal, services and people in charge of collection, validation and updating of this information. This table includes seven (07) tabs that cover the 10 categories of information to be made public. The innovations of the summary table that are marked in collecting data cover:

- The collection, validation and publishing procedure of information. This column summarizes how the information is collected from the source(s) and then validated and published online (so it answers the questions who, what, how);



- The update procedure of information. This column summarizes how information is regularly updated based on the latest available version published online in the time required (when, how);
- The frequency of updates (what is the update frequency required?) (BUREDIP, 2014).

II.2. Data and information collection

For almost a month, an independent consultant carried out research and literature review, held talks with representatives of the various stakeholders as well as consultants and resource persons involved in both the implementation of Annex VII and the monitoring of VPA. This assessment stage led to the writing of a draft update of the evaluation grid. The second stage of the evaluation was to submit the updated draft of the grid to a multi-stakeholder group of participants during a workshop on “Review and Prospects of the implementation of transparency in the sector in Cameroon”, held on 21 and 22 January 2015 in Edea. During the workshop which brought together about thirty people from public administrations, civil society, private sector and communities, three (3) committees were set up to review the grid and propose measures to strengthen the implementation of Annex VII and improve transparency.

Comments and amendments of the 3 committees were presented and discussed in plenary and the update of the grid was enhanced during the evaluation finalization stage.

Within the framework of this work, the collection of information was done on the basis of seventy-five (75) indicators of the checklist in Annex VII of Cameroon’s VPA FLEGT, followed by an assessment of three parameters which are availability, accessibility and publicity of such information. Comments have been made and actions have been proposed indicating the information sources in question as well as evaluating the evolution of indicators evaluated in 2012. Meanings are attributed to the following terms: Available (Avail.) = existing document; Accessible (Acc.) = Information that can be acquired by all targets and Pu-

blic (pub.) = Dissemination of information to make it accessible to all stakeholders.

Categories and types of information	Available (Avail.)	Accessible (Acc.)	Public (pub.)	Comments and actions proposed	Head of publication and source	progress compared to 2012
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Table I: Annex 7 – data collection table on transparency for 2014

To fill the information in the table above, the websites of MINFOF, partner administrations (Ministries in charge of foreign affairs, environment, labour, finance, agriculture) and the Delegation of the EU in Cameroon, were most often consulted during this step. Data were obtained from three different sources including:

- (i) *direct observation or collection of opinions from members of civil society, NGOs, community representatives and administrations;*
- (ii) *analyzing the implementation of initiatives of Annex VII;*
- (iii) *documentation on the information to make public according to Annex VII.*

The analysis and summary of all the data and information collected were based on a literature review including laws and regulations, official reports and websites.

II.3. Difficulties encountered

One of the major difficulties in data collection was Internet connection because to access the information published in the websites, you had to have a good connection. In addition, some labels on types of information in Annex VII were not harmonized with the national context.

III. RESULTS

III.1. Review of implementation of initiatives of Annex 7

One of the essential points of VPA is the establishment of a climate of transparency in the forest sector materialized in the agreement under Article 21 and Annex VII “information made public”. Thus all the initiatives already taken to boost the implementation of Annex VII were revisited.

III.1.1. Project “Improving transparency in the forest sector” CED.

In Cameroon, assessments at the level of implementation of the requirements of Annex VII of VPA were conducted in 2011 and 2012 by Global Witness and CED, and in 2013 only by CED. Thus CED through its “improving transparency in the forest sector” published a series of annual reports on transparency in the forest sector, a project that was implemented until March 2013. These reports analyze the state of transparency in the sector and makes recommendations that the principal stakeholders (Government, private sector ...) must implement to ensure transparency and good forest governance in Cameroon. It has published since 2009:

- Five (05) annual reports on transparency in the forest sector (2010-2013);
- two (02) evaluation reports of implementation of Annex VII of VPA - FLEGT (2012 and 2013).



Picture 2: front page of the 2010 annual report of transparency in the forest sector.

III.1.2. ITAC Project “Initiative for Transparency and the fight against corruption” by FODER

Within the framework of the implementation of Annex VII, the ITAC project developed by the organization FODER and directed closely with MINFOF helped:

- to conduct a participatory assessment of the implementation status of Annex VII by measuring the availability of information listed in the agreement;
- to develop for the first time a strategy and a first operational plan for making publicly available the information listed in Annex VII;
- to trigger the development of an information window on the VPA in MINFOF website to host information related to Annex VII.

Following this project, the “Joint Monitoring Committee” (JMC) which is the main body responsible for monitoring VPA-FLEGT between Cameroon and the EU, declared the implementation of the operationalization map of Annex VII from the joint activities of the action VPA-FLEGT plan for 2013. These included the following activities under:

- the development of a website to make public the information of Annex VII;
- the publication of information to be made public;
- developing internal procedures for information to the public.

Registration in the implementation priority plan of VPA-FLEGT of actions relating to the implementation of Annex VII, demonstrated the willingness of Cameroon and European parties to improve the state of transparency in the forest sector. This desire led to the creation of the project: “Making publicly available targeted information in Annex VII of VPA-FLEGT”

III.1.3. Project “To make publicly available the information listed in Annex VII of the Cameroon-EU VPA” by MINFOF

This project was led by MINFOF through the BUREDIP and INTER ACTIV firms, with funding from the “European Forest Institute (EFI)”. Through this project, MINFOF pledged, with the assistance of the EU, to feed the website created for the collection of information, processing, digitization, putting online on MINFOF website and drawing a list of recommendations to strengthen and sustain the public information system provided for in Annex VII. As a result, the project has to its credit the collection and posting of seven (07) groups of information on ten (10) provided in Annex VII, reporting and developing a draft procedures manual to guide the collection, processing, validation and online dissemination of information to make public and creating an online window dedicated to VPA on the website of MINFOF: www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun



Picture : Preview of a web page on VPA

III.1.4. Commentary notes from the European Community-Forest Platform (ECFP);

Following the submission of the draft procedures manual under the terms of Annex VII of the VPA, developed under the project “Making available the information listed in Annex VII of the VPA signed between Cameroon and the EU”, civil society organizations members of the ECFP

platform drafted a commentary note to MINFOF, and on the putting of some forest information online. This position paper validated and adopted at a meeting held in Yaounde from 24 to 26 March 2014, summarized the comments, observations and recommendations of civil society organizations. These comments were provided in response to a critical analysis of both the operation of MINFOF’s website in connection with the information to make public, and on forest information which were already there. The platform has developed a non-exhaustive list of missing information on MINFOF’s website, including those relating to certain national laws governing forests and on taxation, labour, agriculture, and applicable to the forestry sector.

Similarly, a statement of missing information on the allocation, management, production, the verification system of legality and control, exports and processing was also prepared.

III.1.5. Sub Regional workshop of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) on forest transparency

ECCAS and the Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC) organized a sub regional workshop on 15 and 16 May 2014 in Douala to share experiences and reflect on the implementation of the VPA-FLEG-T annexes relating to information to make public. The main objective of this workshop was to allow signatories of VPA (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo) and to those who are in negotiation (Gabon and the Democratic Republic of Congo) to share their experiences and thoughts on how collection, processing, verification, validation or authentication, publication and dissemination modalities of information to make public of their respective VPA-FLEG-T.

Hence, key stakeholders in the management of Congo Basin forests met to reflect together on the issue of access to information in the forestry sector, in a quest for practical solutions to increase transparency in forest management at the national and regional level.

As main result, a draft roadmap for effective support of stakeholders in the implementation of the

VPA requirements for information to be published was developed and validated by the participants.

III.2. Assessment of transparency based grid

The detailed results of the analysis of 75 indicators of the checklist, followed by comments from the source of information as well as developments in relation to the 2012 assessment are presented in the table in Annex I to this report. Thus monitoring the

availability, accessibility and compliance vis-à-vis the Annex VII of the information published on MINFOF’s website (<http://www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun/>) and other websites of partner administrations were evaluated. The information disseminated by MINFOF newspapers like the lettre verte and newsletter were also assessed.

IV. DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

IV.1. Analysis of the results of the transparency evaluation grid

The evaluation grid of the information listed in 2014 in Annex VII of the VPA in Cameroon allows for an analysis of the availability, accessibility and compliance of the published information vis-à-vis Annex VII. Indeed, the creation in MINFOF’s website of an information window dedicated to VPA and publication of information listed in Annex VII is an important step towards improving transparency and access to forestry information by the public.

Following the results in the table, the majority of legal information is currently available, accessible and downloadable on MINFOF’s website.

A list of all legislative and regulatory references was compiled by a consultant and submitted to MINFOF, but all the information is not yet available online. Moreover, certain information requested is held by different ministries involved in the implementation of the Agreement and cannot be accessed permanently.

Partner administrations to MINFOF are more sensitised on the importance of making public forest information which they must provide through their focal points within the VPA monitoring bodies.

A great effort remains to be done concerning the information relating to the production, allocation and exports, as the majority of this information is still not available and accessible.

Amongst others, the following information is missing on sites visited:

- List of annual operating permits/annual logging certificates issued (securities having obtained the PAO/CAE);
- Location maps of valid logging titles and annual areas available for logging;
- Official areas of valid logging titles and allocation price (forestry royalty- FR);
- List of annual withdrawals of secure documents (DF10 worksite book and consignment notes);
- List of approved companies in the industry (logging, processing, inventories, management, forestry);
- Notification of start of activities for timber salvage licenses (ARB).

Liste des permis annuels d’opération/certificats annuels d’exploitation délivrés (titres ayant obtenus les PAO/CAE) ;

As for information on land use, some remain inaccessible, while others are absent. These are:

- List of concessions under management;
- The area of forestry concessions involved in management (including annual operating plans and five year management plans);
- The area of forestry concessions with approved management plan;
- The area of forest concessions with certification;
- Approved management plans documents;
- Specifications;
- The list of concessions having realised Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Environmental and Social Audit (AES).

The general conclusion that emerges from this analysis is that most of the information available at this time focuses on institutional and regulatory aspects, and almost none on forestry and taxation statistics. For example, information on timber production is not available. This information relates to:

- Total annual log production;
- Annual authorized logging volumes, by species, title and company;
- Annual volumes processed, by type of product, species and company;
- Annual volumes of logs exported, by species;
- Annual volumes of timber sold at public auction;
- Annual volumes of timber products imported into Cameroon, and by country;
- Information on processing;
- The processing capacity per processing unit (Percentage of capacity actually used);
- The entry volume factory/company;
- The exit volume factory/company;
- The end-of-year stock;

Information on financial transactions and the verification system of legality and control need to be improved.

Collection, validation and publication procedures of information if they are validated and implemented constitute a good basis for the continuation of the process to make public the information on FLEGT-VPA in Cameroon, but their scope is limited to MINFOF. It would be worth involving other administrations involved in the implementation of the VPA in the production and publication of information on the forestry



Picture 6: logging trucks with logs along the Lomie road

sector which are generated and managed by their services.

Finally, the information distribution channels are not routinely used and their variety is paradoxically very poorly exploited. The bilingualism of official texts is not always respected in the production and dissemination of information.

IV.2. Stakes and challenges induced by transparency

Transparency is nowadays seen as a mark of prestige for countries involved in the VPA process as it is necessary and fundamental to forestry development for improved governance. Transparency induces improved stakeholder participation and credibility that is an asset to attract investors.

VPA is part of the legal arsenal governing the forestry sector in Cameroon and as a result, the prime issue for Cameroon is to meet commitments provided by the Agreement. Among them, is that on the dissemination of information to the public. To do this, Cameroon has opted for the online dissemination of information through the creation of a website dedicated to it. This leads to the observation that stakes of transparency for Cameroon include among others:

- **Compliance with commitments of the Agreement;**
- **Facilitation of access to information by consumers and buyers;**
- **Providing answers to questions of all kinds and making Cameroon's FLEGT credible to the licensing scheme;**
- **The good appreciation of Cameroon timber entering the European market.**

If the sharing of information is seen as an important pillar of transparency, it is left for devolved services not to always expect their hierarchy to provide them with information and publication or distribution authorization while there is lots of information that can be collected, produced and disseminated from the base (devolved services).

It is also noted that the private sector is an important source of forest information for it is it that generates the information relating to the development,



V. POSSIBLE PROSPECTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF IMPROVING FOREST TRANSPARENCY

Among the major challenges in the implementation of the information contained in Annex VII to Cameroon, there is not only automatic updating and online posting of texts and/or new texts/amended, but also the availability of soft and hard copies in all decentralized services. It would be necessary that information which already exists be made available to develop ways to make it accessible in remote areas (without access to the internet).

Overall, it appeared that the central problem is that of archiving information, but the following points or tracks can help improve transparency in the forest sector, namely:

- Collaboration with other technical services of MINFOF and partner administrations in the dynamic collection and dissemination of information;
- The need to encourage duplication of quite elaborate strategies for information gathering;
- The need to assess the impacts of information broadcast system through websites in target groups for adjustment because access to the internet could

exploitation, transportation and trade in timber. The pooling of information sharing efforts is strongly recommended.

On analysis, it appears that one of the major challenges is the need to establish a mechanism to authenticate the information to be broadcast, ensuring their effective update and ensure that the 10 groups of information provided in Annex VII are published.

hamper the dissemination of information;

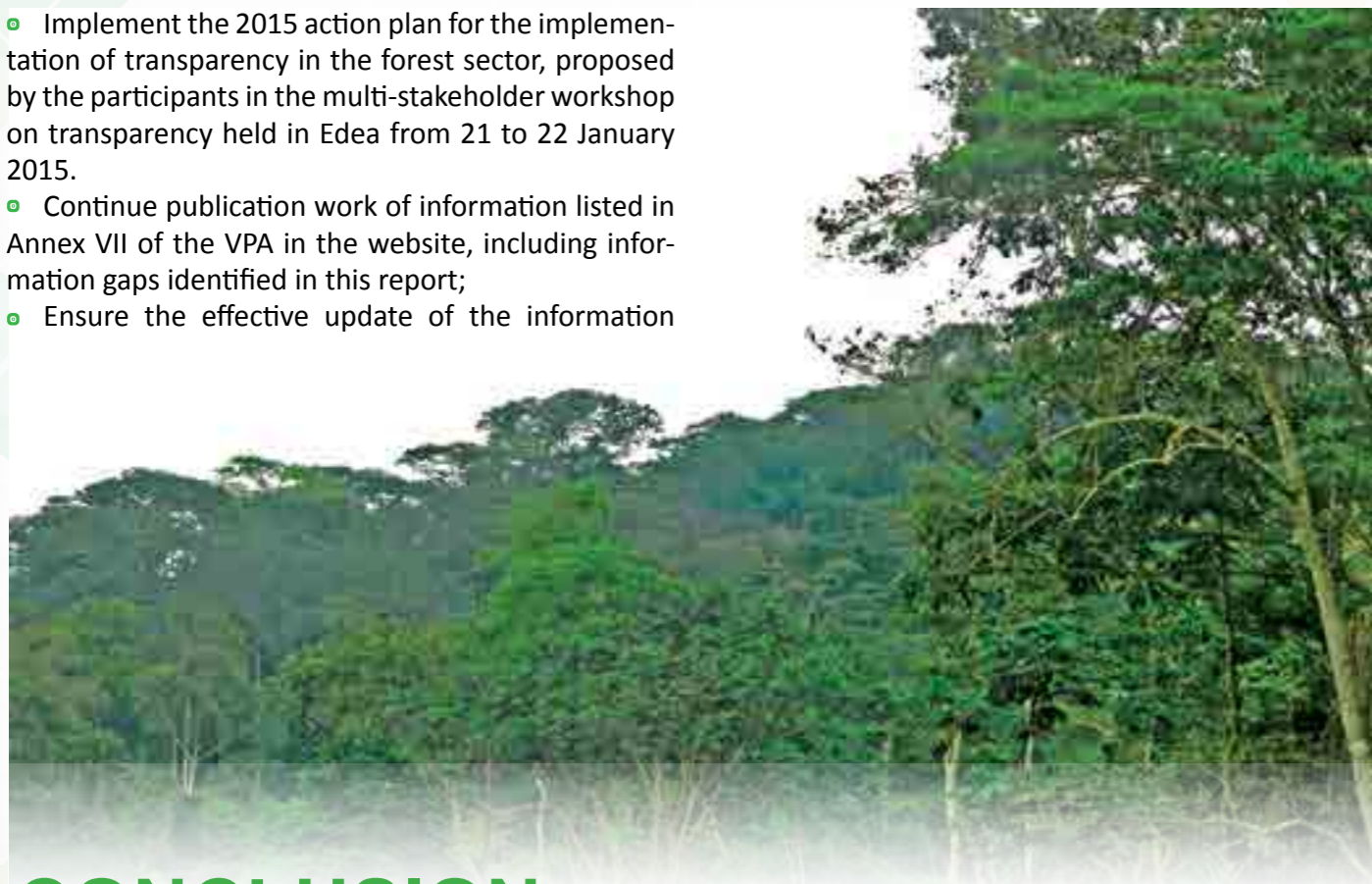
• The need to develop tools/benchmarks for forest transparency, which will assess the social, economic and environmental impacts related to the implementation of transparency in the forest sector.

It is important to note that funding for implementation of Annex VII initiatives that are mentioned in this document come mainly from NGOs through funds received from FAO and the EU. Until now MINFOF's budget does not include financial provision for making public the information contained in Annex VII. Following this work, the following recommendations are made to the attention of MINFOF:

- Capacity building of managers and MINFOF agents in general and especially those of the Forestry Department and sector focal points for the implementation of Annex VII;
- Authenticate all information to be broadcast in the MINFOF website;
- Finalize and adopt the draft procedures manual for collection, processing, validation and publication of information;

- Involve decentralized departments of MINFOF and other administrations involved in the production and dissemination of information related to forests;
- Assess the costs of transparency implementation and inclusion in the annual budget (operating and investment);
- Use different channels of communication and dissemination of forest information by ensuring translation into local languages;
- Encourage other parties (private sector, civil society, communities) to further contribute to improving transparency in the forest sector;
- Implement the 2015 action plan for the implementation of transparency in the forest sector, proposed by the participants in the multi-stakeholder workshop on transparency held in Edea from 21 to 22 January 2015.
- Continue publication work of information listed in Annex VII of the VPA in the website, including information gaps identified in this report;
- Ensure the effective update of the information

- contained in the site;
- Conduct an assessment of the implementation of Annex VII at the end of each year;
- Plan actions to ensure ownership of the process by the relevant authorities and ensure continuity in the implementation of Annex VII (awareness, training, monitoring and evaluation);
- Engaging other administrations generating or managing information related to forests and the chain of providing wood.



CONCLUSION

Throughout the study, it was found that the information to be made public is considered one of the basic elements designed to strengthen governance in the forest sector and to make the functioning of FLEGT licenses Plan credible. The major challenge was the access of all stakeholders to information on the objectives, progress in the implementation, monitoring and control to ensure complete understanding and an ownership of the process by all stakeholders to achieve the objectives of the agreement.

Such transparency will strengthen the image of Cameroon forestry products on the EU market because the more the public will have access to comprehen-

sive, accurate, reliable and relevant information, the more it can participate in decision making in Forest management.

Moreover, it is important to acknowledge the progress made by each person to make publicly available the information on the forestry sector. However, it would make sense that the government set up the basis of information analysis matrix to make public which it will evaluate each end of year and which could lead to the production of an annual report on the state of transparency in the forest sector as well as on the implementation of Annex VII of the VPA.

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ANNEX I: 2014 EVALUATION GRID OF TRANSPARENCY IN THE FOREST SECTOR IN CAMEROON

Evaluation done in a participatory manner under Annex VII of VPA-FLEGT

The results of the evaluation are presented in the form of a grid containing the 75 categories of information to be made public following Annex VII, followed by an assessment of the three parameters which include availability, accessibility and the advertising of such information; comments and/or actions, not to mention the source where the information in question is kept available as well as evaluating the evolution of the parameters evaluated in relation to the 2012 assessment

Evaluation grid of Annex VII of VPA – Year 2014

Available (avail.) = existent document; Accessible (Acc.) = information that can be acquired by all targets and Public (pub.) = dissemination of information to make it accessible to all stakeholders.

Categories and types of information	AVail.	Acc.	Pub.	Comments and/or proposed actions	Heads of publication and source	Progress compared to 2012
Legal information						
1. Legality grids	Yes	Yes	Yes	The original legality grids exist and have been made available through MINFOF website. However, they remain difficult to access at the local level despite the multiplication of some copies by GLZ and AGRECO-CEW. Intensifying the popularisation of the legality grid	MINFOF http://www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun/Documentapv/grille_legalite.pdf	Downloadable from MINFOF website
2. All legal references, regulations in force and normative documents listed in Annex II	Yes	Yes	Yes	Most of the texts are available and accessible through MINFOF website. A list of all legal and regulatory references was drawn up by a consultant and submitted to MINFOF. Intensify the collection of texts to put them on the website. Empower staff and follow up (e.g. create a unit responsible for collecting, processing and posting of information)	MINFOF http://www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun/index.php/10-textes-juridiques/43-secteur-foret	ULots of texts can be downloaded from MINFOF website
3. Texts of all laws and amendments applicable to the forestry sector (same as 2)	Yes	Yes	Partial	A collection of most of the various texts applicable to the sector was made and is easily accessible. However, some texts are scattered in the relevant ministries and are not accessible permanently. Partner administrations to MINFOF are more aware of the importance to make public the forestry information they generate.	MINFOF http://www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun/index.php/10-textes-juridiques/43-secteur-foret	An inventory was made by MINFOF and gradually brought online in their site.
4. Forest Code (laws and regulatory texts)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Available in electronic format on MINFOF website.	MINFOF http://www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun/index.php/10-textes-juridiques/43-secteur-foret	Downloadable from MINFOF website
5. Implementation texts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Some implementation texts are still absent, others have been revised several times and are partially accessible.	MINFOF http://www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun/index.php/10-textes-juridiques/43-secteur-foret	The majority of implementation texts can be downloaded from MINFOF website

Categories and types of information	AVail.	Acc.	Pub.	Comments and/or proposed actions	Heads of publication and source	Progress compared to 2012
6. List of international conventions and agreements signed/ratified	Yes	Yes	Yes	DAvailable and disseminated on MINFOF website, but some texts are not there.	MINFOF http://www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun/index.php/textes-juridiques/les-textes-de-l-apv	A non-exhaustive list is downloadable from MINFOF website
7. Text of the VPA, annexes and subsequent amendments (covers the information requested in point 1)	Yes	Yes	Partial	Information disseminated within the main groups of major actors. The VPA text has been in the form of publication and edited by IO-FLEGT, but the distribution of the document remains low because the local population does not have access.	MINFOF http://www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun/index.php/textes-juridiques/les-textes-de-l-apv	IThe text of the VPA and its annexes are available on MINFOF website..
8. Labour Code and principal regulatory texts applicable to the forestry sector in this area	Yes	Yes	Partial	An arsenal of texts on labour and social welfare is available on MINFOF site. Other regulatory texts applicable to the forestry sector are not there.	MINTPS http://www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun/index.php/textes-nationaux/10-textes-juridiques/55-travail-et-prevoyance-sociale	Downloadable texts from MINFOF website
9. Tax Code and finance laws	Yes	Yes	Partial	Those of 2013 are on MINFOF website but those of 2014 are not yet posted.	MINFI http://www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun/index.php/10-textes-juridiques/52-fiscalite	downloadable from MINFOF websiteF
10. List of private certification of legality/sustainability that are recognized by the Ministry of forestry	No	No	No	At the present state of our knowledge, MINFOF has not yet officially recognized a Private Certification System (SPC). However, the certification bodies are submitting their entries for their recognition in FORMIS. The definition of a procedure and criteria for recognizing SPC is required.	MINFOF	Filing of applications for recognitions at the FORMIS by the certification bodies.
Information on production						
11. Total annual production of logs	Yes	No	No	There exists on MINFOF website a link that leads to information about the production but no information is displayed. It is assumed that they will be generated by FORMIS II/it depends on the implementation of FORMIS II.	MINFOF http://www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun/index.php/informations-rendues-publiques/production	No change
12. Annual authorized logging volumes, by species, title and company	Yes	No	No	However, MINFOF validates the information available in their current form and puts them online until the operationalization of FORMIS II	MINFOF	No change
13. Annual volumes processed, by type of product, species and company	Yes	No	No		//	No change
14. Annual volumes of logs exported, by species (total and to the Union)	Yes	No	No	The data exist and are produced by the COMCAM Douala office of the Littoral regional delegation of MINFOF. These data are not made public and the practice remains the requirement of official approval by the heads that have the information.	MINFOF/COMCAM	No change

Categories and types of information	AVail.	Acc.	Pub.	Comments and/or proposed actions	Heads of publication and source	Progress compared to 2012
Informations sur la production						
15. Annual volumes of timber and derived products imported in Cameroon and per country	Yes	No	No			No change
16. Annual volumes of timber sold at public auction	Yes	No	No	Data exists at the National Law Enforcement Brigade but are not systematically made available.	MINFOF	No change
Information on allocation						
17. Liste des titres valides avec noms des sociétés attributaires	Yes	Yes	Yes	MINFOF regularly publishes a list of valid titles but it is not updated automatically. The latest list published in MINFOF Site dates July 2014, which is the date of the last allocation in 2014.	MINFOF http://www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun/index.php/12-informations-rendues-publiques/51-liste-des-titres-valides	Downloadable list from MINFOF website
18. List of annual operating permits/annual logging certificates issued	Yes	Yes	partial	The latest list published dates March 2013. This list is not updated.	MINFOF http://www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun/Documentapv/titre_operationnel.pdf	a publishing effort started, and what is left is to regularly update the list
19. Location map of valid logging titles	Yes	Yes	partial	It is reported on MINFOF website but when we click on the link, the 2011 interactive atlas displays. Generally, the newly assigned ARB and VC are not found in the atlas. Information exists but is not updated.	MINFOF http://www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun/index.php/informations-rendues-publiques/attribution/2-non-categorise/46-atlas-forestier-interactif	No change
20. Location map for annual areas available for logging	Yes	No	No	this activity should be initiated because it is a requirement of the VPA/the ministry must align to it	MINFOF	No change
21. Official areas of valid logging titles and allocation price (annual forestry fee - AFF)	Yes	No	No	Posted on MINFOF website but contains no element.	MINFOF http://www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun/index.php/informations-rendues-publiques/attribution	No change
22. Notices of various invitations to tender (sale of logs, timber salvage license, wood work permits, etc.)	Yes	Yes	partial	Posting in central and decentralized services. Disseminate through the press and radio. MINFOF systematically produced the tender notice for all titles: information is now fully available but remains partially accessible.	MINFOF http://www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun/attribution/Correctif_AAO_VC_2013.pdf	No change
23. Information on the pre-emptive right	No	Partiel	Partiel	Contained in forest texts that are moderately accessible and disseminated. However, the National Control Brigade conducts field visits to sensitize the populations on their pre-emptive rights when new sales of logs are attributed.	MINFOF	Reports of the field visits of the forest administration on pre-emptive rights published on MINFOF website

Evaluation grid of Annex VII of VPA – Year 2014

Categories and types of information	AVail.	Acc.	Pub.	Comments and/or proposed actions	Heads of publication and source	Progress compared to 2012
24. List of annual withdrawals of secure documents (DF10 worksite books and consignment notes)	Yes	No	No	There is need to validate the information and make it available, accessible and publish it.	MINFOF	No change
25. Results of the inter-ministerial title allocation committee	Yes	Yes	partial	Pasted (MINFOF Notice board) but not widely distributed (online on the site)	MINFOF	No change
26. List of approved companies to the profession (operating, processing, inventories, management)	Yes	No	No	The list is available at FORMIS but not accessible.	MINFOF	No change
27. Notification of start-up activities for timber salvage licenses (ARB)	Yes	No	No	The information is accessible only to operators concerned meanwhile CSOs and local communities need it for monitoring the activity and hence ensuring their participation in management.	MINFOF	No change
Information on management						
28. Mandate, Roles and responsibilities of ministries responsible for management	Yes	Yes	Yes	There is a framework and land use law in Cameroon available on MINFOF website. However, the mandate, roles and responsibilities of the departments in charge of management are not in the text.	MINFOF http://www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun/amenagement/Loi_AMT.pdf	No change
29. List of concessions under management	Yes	Yes	Yes	The data are available but not updated and published systematically	MINFOF	No change
30. List of communal forests and their surface areas	Yes	Yes	Yes	The data are available on FORMIS, the Atlas and the website of the CTFC (Communal Forest Technical Centre)	MINFOF http://www.foretcommunale-cameroun.org/	possible to have it on CTFC website
31. Surface of forestry concessions allocated	Yes	Yes	Yes	The data are available on FORMIS and also from the Sub-Directorate of Forest Inventory and Management (SDIAF). They are made public through the website of WRI which is a partner of MINFOF	MINFOF http://www.wri.org/project/interactive-forest-atlas-cameroun	Downloadable from MINFOF partner's website
32. Surface of forestry concessions involved in management (including annual operating plans and five year management plans)	Yes	No	No	Les informations sur les surfaces sont accessibles mais en ce qui concerne les plans quinquennaux de gestion et plans annuels d'opération, elles ne sont rendus publiques. Aucune information ne se trouve dans le site web du MINFOF	//	No change

Evaluation grid of Annex VII of VPA – Year 2014

Categories and types of information	AVail.	Acc.	Pub.	Comments and/or proposed actions	Heads of publication and source	Progress compared to 2012
Informations sur l'aménagement						
33. Surface area of forestry concessions with approved management plan	Yes	No	No	Ces informations ne sont pas disponibles sur le site internet du MINFOF	//	No change
34. Surface area of forestry concessions with certification	Yes	Yes	Yes	This information is available on the websites of the certification systems (FSC)	http://www.observatoire-comifac.net ; www.fsc.org	No change
35. Records of approved management plans	Yes	No	No	//	//	No change
36. Specifications	Yes	No	No	The specifications are considered strategic information to the categories of actors holders of information (MINFOF and foresters)	//	No change
37. Environmental impact studies	Yes	No	No	Documents are available but not always made public	MINEPDED	No change
Information on processing						
38. List of authorised processing companies	Yes	Yes	Partial	Exists but not updated	MINFOF http://www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun/transfo-Sommiers-transformateurs.pdf	The list is downloadable from MINFOF website but it is not updated
39. Location of processing	Yes	No	No	//	//	No change
40. Processing capacities per processing unit (% of capacity actually used)	Yes	No	No	Data are available at the Directorate for the Promotion of Transformation (DPT) in MINFOF but are not made public. There is a Decision No. 0353/D/MIN-FOF of 27 February 2012 on categorization of processing units and determining the degree of processing of wood products.	MINFOF	No change
41. Volume entry factory/company	Yes	Partiel	Partiel	Data exists with DPT and PSRF and can be accessed on demand.	MINFOF	No change
42. Volume sortie usine/société	Yes	Yes	Partiel	Data exists with DPT and PSRF and can be accessed on demand.	MINFOF	No change
43. Stock en fin d'exercice	No	No	No			No change

Evaluation grid of Annex VII of VPA – Year 2014

Categories and types of information	AVail.	Acc.	Pub.	Comments and/or proposed actions	Heads of publication and source	Progress compared to 2012
Information on exports						
44. Data on timber in transit	Yes	No	No	These data are available at the Customs and SEPBC (Cameroon Timber Yard Operations Company) in Douala but are not accessible.	SEPBC	No change
45. Data on exports, by species, country and company	Yes	No	No		MINFOF/STBC	No change
Information on the verification system of legality and control						
46. Descriptif final du système de vérification de la légalité	No	No	No	Under development	MINFOF	No change
47. Procedure for issuing certificates of legality and FLEGT licenses	Yes	Yes	Yes	The procedures were developed by Orders and made public. It is Reported on MINFOF website but the page does not open.	http://www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun/index.php/informations-rendues-publiques/systeme-svl/12-informations-rendues-publiques/58-procedure-de-delivrance-du-certificat-de-legalite-et-des-autorisations-flegt	orders exist and have been shared with major stakeholders but are not yet online.
48. National strategy and control procedures	Yes	Yes	Yes	The strategy exists, is made public	http://www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun/attribution/strategie_nationale_de_controle.pdf	Downloadable from MINFOF website
49. Reports from the independent title allocation observer	Yes	No	No	Reports exist but are not made public	http://www.observatoire-cameroun.info/Theme.html	No change
50. Report of the independent forestry control observer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Accessible after validation by the editorial board and permanently (Online)	http://www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun/index.php/informations-rendues-publiques/systeme-svl/12-informations-rendues-publiques/60-rapport-de-l-observateur-independant	downloadable from MINFOF website
51. Reports from the control teams	Yes	No	No	Reports are available but are not made public	MINFOF http://www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun/index.php/informations-rendues-publiques/systeme-svl/12-informations-rendues-publiques/67-rapport-bnc	No change
52. List of legality certificates issued	No	No	No	Not Applicable (N/A) as the activities have not yet started	MINFOF EU	No change
53. List of FLEGT licenses issued	No	No	No	N/A	MINFOF EU	No change
54. Applications for certificates rejected	No	No	No	N/A	MINFOF	No change
55. FLEGT license applications rejected	No	No	No	N/A	MINFOF	No change

Evaluation grid of Annex VII of VPA – Year 2014

Available (avail.) = existent document; Accessible (Acc.) = information that can be acquired by all targets and Public (pub.) = dissemination of information to make it accessible to all stakeholders.

Categories and types of information	AVail.	Acc.	Pub.	Comments and/or proposed actions	Heads of publication and source	Progress compared to 2012
Information on audits						
56. Terms of Reference for audits	Yes	Yes	Partial	Information on changes to the terms of reference of the first independent audit is not published online	MINFOF UE	No change
57. Auditor recruitment process	Yes	Yes	Yes	EU procedure for the award of service contracts, see data centre and resources on EU markets (TED)	UE	No change
58. Results of audit	Yes	No	No	An audit was carried out in 2014 but the report is not available. The report should be validated and put it online.	MINFOF UE	An independent audit report is being discussed at MINFOF and has not yet been made public
59. Plaintes relatives à l'audit et leur traitement	No	No	No	N/A	MINFOF UE	
60. Introduction of corrective measures	No	No	No	N/A		No change
Information on financial transactions						
61. List of forestry disputes (record of offenses)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Disseminated by electronic and press means and downloadable from MINFOF website.	BNC http://www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun/index.php/contentieux/sommier-des-infractions	tdownloadable on MINFOF website
62. Annual report on forestry revenue	Yes	Yes	Partial	Data exist but are not published systematically	PSRF MINFOF (SFF)	No change
63. Annual payments of the annual forestry fee (AFF) by title	Yes	Yes	Partial	Periodical publication but weak relay of information at local level.	MINFOF	No change
64. payment list of local and national taxes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Published periodically in the Cameroon Tribune (newspaper)	PSRF MINFOF	systematic publication
65. List of fines for offenses	Yes	Yes	Yes	The list is published systematically and on a regular basis on MINFOF website and in the press	MINFOF	systematic publication
66. List of litigation settled	Yes	Yes	Yes	The list is published systematically and on a regular basis on MINFOF website and in the press	MINFOF (BNC)	systematic publication

Evaluation grid of Annex VII of VPA – Year 2014

Available (avail.) = existent document; Accessible (Acc.) = information that can be acquired by all targets and Public (pub.) = dissemination of information to make it accessible to all stakeholders.

Categories and types of information	AVail.	Acc.	Pub.	Comments and/or proposed actions	Heads of publication and source	Progress compared to 2012
Information on the institutional setup						
67. Structure and functioning of the Joint Monitoring Committee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Exist by the text of the agreement and several JMC meetings were held and the draft rules of procedure developed	MINFOF/CCS	
68. Report of the Joint Monitoring Committee	Yes	Yes	Yes	The reports are available and accessible on MINFOF website	http://www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun/index.php/organes-de-mise-en-oeuvre/comite-conjoint-de-suivi/9-organes-de-mise-en-oeuvre/39-aides-memoires	reports downloadable on MINFOF website
69. Structure and functioning of the National Monitoring Committee (NMC)	Yes	Yes	Yes	The National Monitoring Committee (NMC) as well as its structure and operating procedures have been established by an Order of the Prime Minister	http://www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun/index.php/organes-de-mise-en-oeuvre/comite-national-de-suivi	Order downloadable on MINFOF website
70. Report of the National Monitoring Committee	Yes	Yes	Yes	The reports are available and accessible on MINFOF Site	http://www.minfof.cm/apvcameroun/index.php/2-non-categorise/41-comptes-rendus-cns	reports downloadable on MINFOF website
71. Structure and functioning of the inter ministerial Monitoring	Yes	Yes	Partial	Not yet formalized. The NMC incidentally plays a similar role		No change
72. Report of the Inter ministerial Monitoring Committee	Yes	No	No	N/A		No change
73. List of issuing authorities	No	No	No	N/A		No change
74. List of competent authorities	No	No	No	Not yet formalised		No change
75. Reports of competent authorities	No	No	No	Not yet formalised		No change



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