



Legal requirements for the source, exploitation and use of forest resources

Information for our clients

The allocation of production forests, management of the resource, forest exploitation, transportation, processing and exploitation of forest products in Cameroon are governed by legislation and more specifically by forest sector legislation and are subject to obtaining and using the following legal documents :

A Forest Exploitation Permit is a document by which the administration legally allocates a forest for the harvesting of production timber : the surface area, the duration of validity and the Specifications (minimum felling diameter per species, social and environmental requirements) are defined therein. This document is issued by the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry (MINEF).

The Forest Management Unit (FMU or "UFA"), the Sale of Standing Volume (or "Vente de coupe"), the Community Forest and the Council Forest are all Forest Exploitation Permits that each have their specific characteristics : their allocation, management and exploitation are strictly governed by forest legislation, enforced and supervised by MINEF and by the Forest Revenue Enhancement Programme (PSRF) as concerns taxes. During each financial year, the administration issues an Attestation of compliance with Environmental (MINEF) and Fiscal (PSRF) requirements specific to each Forest Exploitation Permit.

Sustainable management of forest resources is ensured through the drafting of a technical document : a Forest Management Plan (FMU and Council Forest) or a Simple Management Plan (Community Forest) that especially defines exploitation guidelines to ensure the long-term sustainability of forest resources. The document is validated by a Notification issued by MINEF.

Tree harvesting within a Forest Exploitation Permit is only allowed to a company that holds a Forest Exploitation Authorisation (State Decree). Annual timber production derives from a forest cutblock (surface area depends on the type of forest permit). Forest exploitation inventory on the field is carried out by a company that holds a Forest Inventory Authorisation (MINEF) and enables to select each fellable tree, record its characteristics and produce harvest estimates (number and volume of trees) in order to compile a forest exploitation application file, depending on the type of permit (results of the inventory, administrative maps and attestations). The file is then submitted to the administration for approval after which an Annual Exploitation Certificate is issued by MINEF.

After Notification of Starting Activities by the local Government service (MINEF), exploitation is authorised with due respect of Forestry Norms (MINEF). Depending on the type of permit, the Felling Book (MINEF) allows for the allocation of a national number specific to each tree felled (stump and bole) and for the recording of the species, diameter and volume. Hauling (extraction of felled timber) and preparation at the logyard (cutting and marking) make it possible to package the timber for transportation. Each trip is authorised by a Lumber Waybill issued by MINEF depending on the type of forest exploitation permit. The end of exploitation activities is determined by a Certificate of Cessation of Activities (MINEF) and an Inspection Certificate (MINEF) specifying the exploited and residual volumes.

Timber (logs) processing is carried out by a company holding a Timber Processing Certificate (MINEF). Each log processed is recorded in the Sawmill Entry Register (MINEF). A Sawn Timber Waybill is issued by MINEF to authorise each trip made to transport sawn timber and other processed timber products. These two documents are issued to duly approved processing companies.

The exportation of logs and processed timber products is carried out by a company that holds a Certificate of Registration as Exporter of "Logs" / "Processed Timber" (MINEF). For species harvested in quotas, an Exceptional Exports Authorisation (MINEF) is required. A CITES is also required for species under international control.

Each document emanating from operation books issued by MINEF (felling, transportation, processing) is secured (unique national numbering) thus enabling the exploiter, the processing company and the exporter to establish their own management and documentation monitoring system. All these official, regulatory and compulsory documents testify to the legality of the activities of PALLISCO and CIFM companies.

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