

“An inventory of the business opportunities to export community timber from South-western Cameroon”



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“An inventory of the business opportunities to export community timber from South-western Cameroon in compliance with the European timber regulations.”

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Preface

During this research I have met and spoken with a lot of interesting people who helped me to conduct my research. In particular I want to thank Dr. Peguy Tchouto of the PSMNR-SW and his team who helped me to conduct my research in Cameroon. A special thanks goes out to my friend the chief of post in Nguti Mr. Dadu Njong, who was my host in Nguti during the field visit. I would like to thank Chief Samuel Mbonya Forbe of the MBACOF community, Chief Nkongo Jacob Eben of the REPACIG community and Chief Samuel Ekoko of the NLORMAC community who allowed me to conduct my research in their communities. I would also like to thank the members of the three communities for their cooperation and hospitality. Finally I want to thank Robbert Wijers and Leonard Sprik for giving me the opportunity to conduct this research.

Summary

This research is conducted for Fair Tropical Timber which is a timber trading company in Utrecht, the Netherlands. This research explores the possibilities and the business opportunities for the legal purchase and export of tropical hardwood timber from community forests in the southwest region of Cameroon. Community forests are forests that are managed by common interest groups that are formed by villages in the forest areas. The goal of this research was to find out which opportunities are present in regard to buying timber from community forests in the Southwest region of Cameroon. In order to find out which legal requirements are set out by the government of Cameroon with regard to the export of timber produced by communities from community forests the Forest law of 1994 and the forest degree of 1995 were researched. This researched showed that it was not illegal for a community to export their timber. To find out how it would be possible for a community to become an exporter of their timber, and so be able to sell their timber to FTT, multiple legal procedures were researched. The conclusion of this was that if a community applies for 4 legal procedures, which would give them the right to transform and export and get registered as transformer and exporter, they would be able to sell their timber to FTT for export. The next step was to find out what the demands of the European Union are in regard to the European Timber Regulations (EUTR). This part of the research showed that FTT, as a trader, should be able to identify every actor in the supply chain of the timber. To get a clear view on this supply chain an overview of the Chain of Custody was made for timber from community forest in the Southwestern region of Cameroon. This was done with the help of findings from the field visit to 3 communities in the southwestern region of Cameroon. This field visit took place in June 2014. Prior to this field visit a checklist was made to use during the visit of these communities and their community forests. With the help of this checklist and other information that was acquired during the field visit an analysis of the communities and the community forests was made. This analysis helped to determine which community was the most suitable to start a business relationship with. During the field visit a meeting was arranged with an economic operator, to find out if he could be a potential partner who could facilitate the equipment that is needed for the timber exploitation by the communities. The outcome of this he might not be the most suitable partner for FTT but that he might be able to help with the getting FTT in contact with a transportation company. Furthermore the present difficulties concerning the export of community timber were researched. The outcome of this is that finding a suitable transportation company as well as the time that it takes to arrange legal documentation are the main difficulties concerning the export of timber. To help the communities meet the demand set out by the EUTR for the operators of timber, a track and trace manual was developed. This manual helps the communities to meet the obligations of traceability of the EUTR. The conclusion of this research is that there are possibilities for the (legal) purchase of timber from community forests in the southwestern region of Cameroon and FTT will be able to meet the demands set out by the government of Cameroon and the European Union with regard to the export of timber from community forests.

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Abbreviations used in this rapport

AEB	Autorisation d'exportation de bois
CAE	Certificat Annual d'Exploitation
CIG	Common Interest Group
COC	Chain of Custody
DBH	diameter breast height
EUTR	European Timber Regulations
ETH	Eerlijk Tropisch Hout (FTT)
FTT	Fair Tropical Timber (ETH)
FOB	Free on Board (incoterm)
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade
NLORMAC	Nloa River Management Common Initiative Group
MBACOF	MBA'AH Community Forest
MoP	Manual of Procedures
MINFOF	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (Cameroon)
OLB	Origine et Légalité des Bois
REPAGIC	Rural Environmental and Poverty Alleviation Common Initiative Group
SMP	Small Management Plan
VPA	Voluntary Partnership Agreement

1. Introduction

This research is done for Fair Tropical Timber. Fair Tropical Timber is a company from Utrecht, The Netherlands and is specialized in the import of tropical hardwood timber from community forests in Central West Africa, mainly from Cameroon. Fair Tropical Timber offers access to the export markets and trade opportunities for communities, cooperatives and small-scale community based forest enterprises. A part of the revenue from timber is invested directly in the local economy. This way the forest generates income for local communities. FTT is interested in buying timber from communities in the southwestern part of Cameroon. FTT wants to buy timber directly from these communities. This means that the communities themselves will have to become the exporter of their timber. Until the present day the communities in the Southwest region of Cameroon have not yet been able to sell their timber on markets other than the domestic market of Cameroon. This means that they have not been able to benefit to the fullest of their forest resources because the market value of this timber on the domestic market is very low compared to the value on the international timber market. This is partially caused by the complex legal system of Cameroon. The communities themselves have no experience with the legal procedures that have to be followed in order for them to get the rights to export timber. This research looks at the possibility for FTT to buy timber from community forests that is produced, transformed and exported by a community. By doing so FTT offers the communities an entrance to a foreign market, on which their timber can be sold for a higher price as the domestic market of Cameroon. This will result in a higher profit for the communities. This research will also look at the requirements of the EUTR (European Timber Regulation) that would apply on the exported timber which would be imported into the European Union. The other part of this research is to find out if there are (business) opportunities present for FTT to buy timber from the three communities that have been selected in the Southwest Region of Cameroon. These communities all take part in the program for the sustainable management of natural resources in the south west region of Cameroon (PSMNR-SW)

The main research question is: What are the possibilities/opportunities for the (legal) purchase and export of Tropical community timber from the Southwest Region of Cameroon?

The secondary research question is: What has to be done for legal compliance with the EUTR as well as the rules of the government of Cameroon concerning the export of tropical hardwood from community forests?

Community forestry in Cameroon has been practiced since 1994. Until the 1990s there was no legal basis to develop community-based efforts to manage local forests, but in 1994, the country enacted a new forestry law that introduced the category of community forestry. This made it possible for communities to gain economic benefits from their forests, for example by selling timber and non-timber products. Community forestry was first introduced in Cameroon in the forests near Limbé. Limbé is a coastal town in West Cameroon. Here the first implementation of the community forestry idea was realized and the Bimbia Bonadikombo community forest was started. After this many other communities picked up the idea and applied to become a community forest. The idea of community forestry is that the local villages/people will manage the forests and have the right to exploit its natural resources. Before 1994, those forests were managed by the ministry of forestry and exploitation of the forests was mainly done by big European companies. After a forest became a community forest, this responsibility shifted to the people of the community that the forest belonged to.

Map 1 shows the location of Nguti in Cameroon. All the communities in which the research was done are in the area around Nguti. The three communities that were selected in this area are: the Nloa River management Initiative Group (NLORMAC) community forest, the Rural Environmental and Poverty Alleviation Common Initiative Group (REPACIG) community forest and MBA'AH Community Forest (MBACOF). Together these three communities have a forest area of 10346 ha in which an enormous variety of plants and trees can be found. Some of the tree species that can be found in these forests are very interesting for the European timber market. Species like Padouk, Azobe, Iroko, Sapeli and Doussie are sold in Europe for their mechanical properties (Azobe) or for their high esthetic value (Padouk).



Map 1, the map of Cameroon showing the location of Nguti (Elizon.com)

2. Methods

How will the main and secondary research questions be answered?

The first part of the research is dedicated to the legal requirements that are applicable on timber that is produced from community forests. Although this actually is the secondary research question it is important to get a clear view on the legal requirements for community produced timber in order to answer the main research question.

To get an answer on the legal aspect of the secondary research question the following methods will be used:

- 1.) To define the specific requirements of the EUTR (European Timber Regulations) concerning import of timber from community forests, the Official Journal of the European Union which was issued in 12 November 2010 will be used and reviewed. This document contains the regulations that were made by the European Union in regard to the European Timber Regulations.
- 2.) To get a clear overview of the export rules concerning timber from community forests, the rapport of Pascal Cuny: *Legality of export of community timber and legal structure for FTT (group manager)* in Cameroon will be used. This rapport is a previous study on the legal issues concerning the export of community timber from Cameroon which was conducted for FTT in 2013.
- 3.) To find out which documents are needed for the export of timber from community forests information from FTT as well as the rapport of Pascal Cuny will be used.
- 4.) To get a clear description of the chain of custody (from stump till harbor/customs) findings of the field visit will be used. These findings will be combined with the steps that are taken in the production process (the way FTT wants to work with the communities) to get a clear view of the path that the timber travels from the stump till the harbor of Antwerp.

To answer the main research question and to find out which possibilities there are for the (legal) purchase and export of Tropical community timber from Southwest Region of Cameroon, the following methods will be used:

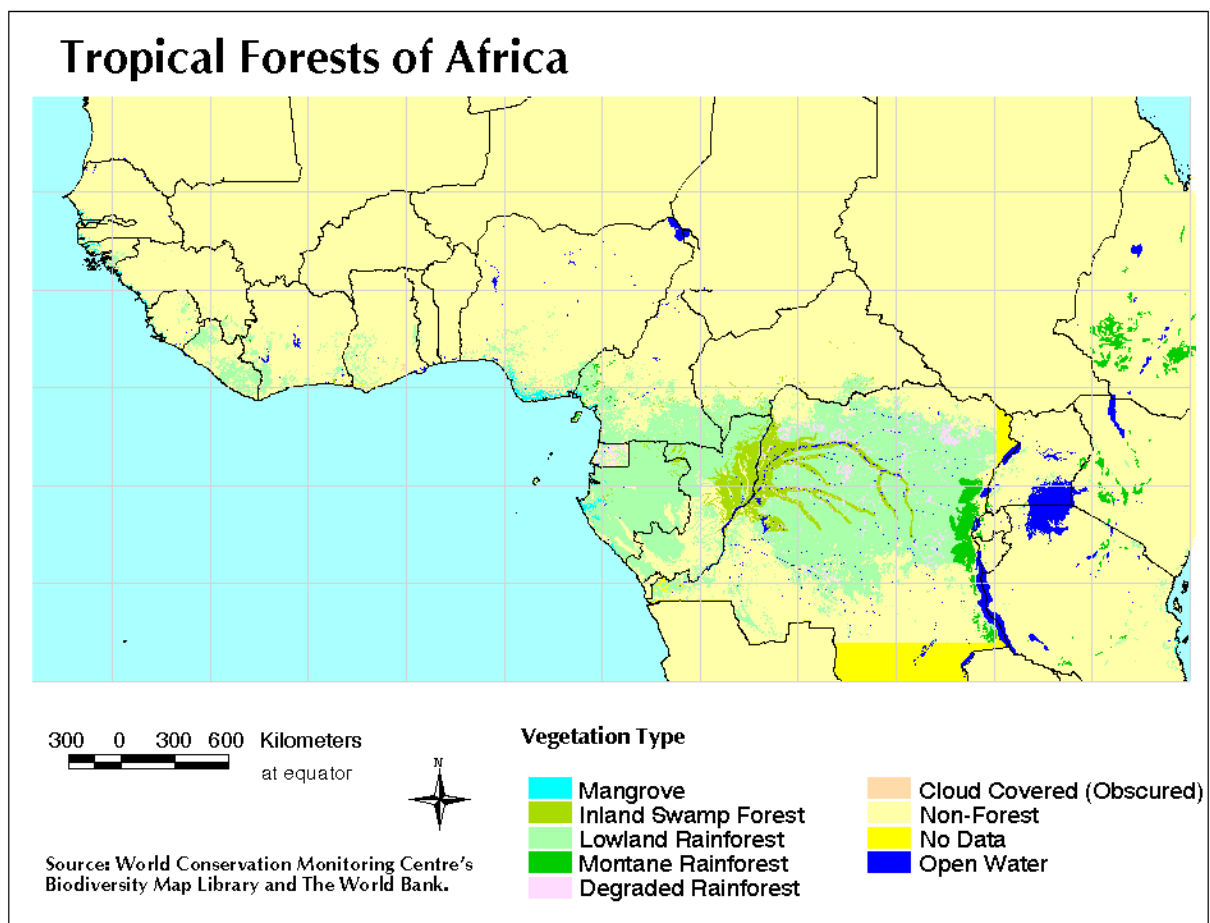
- 5.) To find out what the actual situation of the potential communities is (geographic, social, technical, infrastructural) a checklist was made prior to the field visit that was conducted in June 2014. Furthermore the information that was acquired from the MINFOF (Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife) during the field visit will be used. This information consists of the Small Management Plans of the visited communities and other relevant information such as the CAE's of the visited communities. This will help in determining if there are opportunities to start doing business with one or more of the communities.
- 6.) To make an analysis of the present difficulties concerning the export of timber from community forests the findings of the field visit will be used together with the experience of FTT from previous operations in Cameroon
- 7.) To find out who would be a possible partner to help with the timber extraction and transportation in the Southwestern Region of Cameroon a meeting with an (economic) operator was arranged during the field visit.

- 8.) A proposal for a track and trace system will be made. This will help to setup a system for the traceability of the community timber, which is a legal requirement. This track and trace system will be composed with regard to the regulations of the EUTR and will help FTT to meet the demands of the EUTR with regard to the issue of traceability.

3. Community Forestry and the legal aspects of community forestry

The management of forests in Africa has been under government control for a very long time. For most of modern history governments of African countries have legally owned the forests in their countries. These governments are in control of the forest management and the regulation of forest use and exploitation. The exploitation of timber in these forests generates a large source of income for the governments of these countries. Tropical hardwood timber has a high value on the international timber markets. The African forests in countries such as Cameroon, Nigeria, Ghana, the Central African Republic and Congo are populated by indigenous people who have lived in these forests for many generations. These communities depend on the forests as a source of food and also for timber that is used for making fire or for the construction of houses and other structures. But because the forests are controlled and managed by the government these communities are not or only partially allowed to profit or benefit from the natural resources that are so abundant in these forests. (White et al. 2002)

The map below shows the types of (tropical) forest in central Africa.



(Columbia.edu)

To give these communities a way of profiting from these forest resources, enable them to develop livelihood and reduce poverty, community forestry was created. This idea was first put into practice in the mid-1970s (Arnolds. 1992)

Community forestry is a type of forestry in which a community (formed by a village or a group of villages) has the responsibility to manage a section of forest and has the right to exploit the forest on behalf of their own benefits (Arnolds. 1992). This management is done with help of the government. The community has the right to exploit their forest for the production of food or the exploitation of timber and their government assists them with forest management. In other words, community forestry gives the control of the forest to the people that the most dependent on this forest for their livelihood. Community forestry also has advantages for the management of the forests. The following reasons can be considered justifications for community forestry (Brown. 1999):

1. The proximity to the resource: Those in closest contact with the forest are best placed to ensure effective caretaking of the forest.
2. Impact: Those whose livelihoods impact most on the forest should be involved in its management.
3. Equity: Forests should be managed in a way that ensures adequate resource flow to the rural populations.
4. Livelihoods: Single-purpose industrial management may be incompatible with the livelihood needs of the rural populations.
5. Capacity: Communities who live in the forests may have better forest managers than governments.
6. Biodiversity: Multiple purpose forest management of forests by communities is likely to lead to better conservation of biodiversity than industrial management.
7. Cost-effectiveness: Local involvement in management may be an important way of cutting costs to the state.
8. Governance: Community involvement introduces important checks and balances in relation to state services, which tend to be misplaced.
9. Development philosophy: Local participation, decentralization and subsidiarity may all, in themselves, be considered as important ends of development.

3.1. Community forestry in Cameroon

One of the triggers for the government of Cameroon to initiate community forestry was the concern of the international community that corruption and mismanagement in the forest sector was resulting in a loss of state revenue and the degradation of one of the world's richest remaining tropical forest resources. The focus of the international community was largely on the lowland tropical forest in the south. (Brown et. al. 2002)

With the adaptation of the "1994 Forest law" Cameroon radically overhauled its legislative framework as a mean of increasing the efficiency of the forest industry and promoting community participation (White et al. 2002). This law gave room for the involvement of new actors (communities) in the management of forest and wildlife resources. The adaptation of the 1994 forest law spawned "population-state" co-management of protected areas, the creation of and management of council forests and the transfer of forest taxes to councils and communities. This grants rural communities access to the forest resources of their villages. This access is based on a management agreement with the state. This management agreement includes a Simple management plan of the community forest, gives the communities the opportunity to manage and exploit the products of their community forest and realize opportunities for the development of the community and its livelihood, and contributes to the reduction of poverty (Oberndorf et. al. 2006).

3.2. What does the law of Cameroon say about timber exploitation in community forests?

The 1994 forest law (section 54) says that “Community forests shall exploit on behalf of the community concerned, under State management, by the sale of standing volume, by individual authorization to cut poles or by permit, in accordance with the management plan approved by forestry services” and (section 37 sub 5 English version or 37 lid 3 French version) “Forest products of all kinds resulting from the management of the community forests shall belong solely to the village communities concerned”

There are some importance differences between the English and the French version of the 1994 Forest Law. For example the French expression “en régie” which is translated in the English version of the law by “under State management” but in the French version means that the communities have ownership of the management of their forests. In the English version it is specified that the state plays a role in this management. Forest decree (1995) does specify; “each community shall decide on its own procedure for issuing operating licences” (article 95 lid 2). (Cuny, 2013)

3.3. The export of community timber

There is nothing mentioned about the exportation of timber produced by community forests in the Manual of Procedures for the attribution and norms for the management of community forests (MoP).

Section IX of this manual mentions that “during exploitation and access to products of the forest by the community itself, a community that chooses to exploits its community forest resources itself has to pay no taxes to have the right to carry out the exploitation” (article 921 and 9211). In the case of exploitation by a third party this manual states “if it is a third party that exploits and sells the products of the community forest, it is subjected to all taxes provided by regulations in force concerning trade” (article 9212). So if the community exploits “en régie” there are no taxes for logging and selling the products on the domestic market. The situation about exporting community timber is not clear. There is nothing stated about this (Cuny, 2013). Export of timber from a community forest by a community is therefore not illegal.

3.4. What is the advantage for a community to export their timber?

It would be in the communities’ benefit to export their timber to markets outside of Cameroon. The prices of timber on the domestic market are low compared to the prices on the European market. For example a m³ of sawn Azobe will sell for approximately CFA 100.000 (about EURO 195) on the domestic market. On the European market this m³ of Azobe will sell for approximately CFA 308.000 (about EURO 600 FOB) (EFKO, 2014). This shows that the possible income for the community could be much higher. This higher profit can be used for the communities’ development. Reaching out to markets outside the borders of Cameroon will also result in a higher supply demand because these markets are much bigger than the domestic or local market. This higher demand will enable the community to produce and sell more timber. Producing more timber equals a rise in the demand for labor. This will provide the community members working on the timber exploitation with more income. This income will eventual flow into the community and stimulate the local economy.

The actual problem with the community forest are the costs that are related to being a community forest. As an example the SMP that needs renewal every 5 years will cost approximately 2 million CFA (about EURO 3900) (FTT, 2014). For a community this is a huge amount of money that is very difficult to raise or pay in order to keep their community forest. The result of this is that the community might get involved with illegal logging and selling of their timber. Companies trading in illegal timber don't ask for documents that prove legality and often pay high prices for the timber. The danger of trading with these companies (apart from it being illegal) is that they are often not reliable partners. And because of the illegal activities the communities have no ground on fighting any acts like breach of contract or agreement. Another problem with the sales of illegal timber is the distribution of income from these activities. The money generated by the illegal sales of timber is usually divided into a very small group of people and the community does thus not benefit at all from these activities.

3.5. How should these rules be interpreted?

The law states that communities can exploit timber without permits and taxes. There is no information available about the export because initially the timber from the community forests was reserved for the domestic market. From the MINFOF point of view the timber that has been produced from a community forest is exclusively produced for the domestic and local markets. But there is no rule that prevents the export of timber that has been produced from a community forest. The circular letter (CL) 0354, dated 5 June 2007, specifies in the art I.1. that: *“les produits forestiers exploités par (petits) permis sont destinés à l’approvisionnement du marché local et ne doivent pas être exportés”* which translates as: “forest products that derive from exploitation under (small) permits are intended to supply the local(domestic) market and should not be exported”. The MINFOF relies on this article to defend their stance on the question if communities are allowed to export their timber. But the communities produce their timber “en régie” at the stump of the tree and not under (small) permits. This means that they should be able, with specific support and a special authorization by the minister, to export their sawn wood themselves. When this exportation starts the community GIC or association could become exporter (Cuny, 2013).

3.6. Steps to be taken by the community to become an exporter of their timber.

For a community forest area cutting license the community needs to have a Small management plan (SMP) for their community forest.

After this SMP is made they need to have an inventory made of the section in which exploitation would take place (the year block) done with GPS, showing tree species and diameters etc.)). After this inventarisation they need to get a certificate that validates the inventory results (*Certification de validation des resultats d’inventaires*) and a certificate that the section in which the inventory took place was the section that was marked as the year block (*Certificat de materialisation des limites*). They also need a notification about the startup of activities in the area (*Notifcation de demarage d’activites*) and an annual exploitation certificate (*Certificat Annual d’Exploitation*). Lastly, they need to obtain a waybill which gives them the right to move the timber (on this waybill the amount of timber leaving the community forest is documented) this is the *Lettre de Voitur*.

For a transformation license they need to follow the legal procedure 01/DTP/I (Attestation de Detention de Materiel de Transformation du Bois **(ADMTB)**). This legal procedure will give them the right to transform timber. The MINFOF will conduct a field visit to the community forest to check how things are going. They need a stamped application form of the procedure (Demande Timbree) and a copy of the file saying it is their legal property (*Titres legaux de propriete materiel*).

When the community obtains a transformation license they need to have that registered by following legal procedure 02/DTP/I (*Certificat d'enregistrement en qualite de Transformateur du Bois (CEQTB)*) and they need a stamped application form of this procedure. They also need to show that the ground on which they got the transformation license was legally justified (*justificatifs des sources des approvisionnement valide*). They then also need to set up fiscal files about their operations (*document administratif et fiscaux*) and a copy of the statutes.

The next step is to register the community as an exporter. For this the legal procedure 03/DTP/I (*Certificat d'enregistrement en qualite d'exportateur de bois transformer (CEQEBT)*) is needed. The community needs a stamped application form of this procedure. The community needs to show that the timber came from a legal supply source (a copy of the CAE) justificatifs des sources des approvisionnement valide de bois)) and a copy of the ADMTB (01/DTP/I) and CEQTB (02/DTP/I) as well as a copy of the administrative and fiscal files (*document administratif et fiscaux*). In case of renewal of the CEQEBT they need a copy of the CEQEBT and a rapport on the activities or a certificate stating there are no activities (*copie CEQEBT et rapport de activite ou certificat de non activite*).

3.7. Steps and procedures to be taken by the community to export their timber.

The last step for the community is to get an export authorization (AEB) This is done by the legal procedure 05/DTP/I (*Autorisation d'exportation de bois*). The community needs a stamped application form of this procedure. They need to be able to show a delivery note as well as a copy of the ADMTB (01/DTP/I) and a copy of the administrative and fiscal files (*document administratif et fiscaux*). They will also need an invoice of the company that buys the wood that they are exporting. This company should be known (to exist) by the MINFOF.

Overview of the procedures to follow for a community to become exporter.

If a community wants to become an exporter of their timber they have to get these licenses:

- 1- A community forest area cutting license (CAE)
 - 2- A transformation license for the community (ADMTB procedure 01/DTP/I)
- Furthermore the community needs to get registered that they are:
- 3- A transformer (CEQTB Procedure 02/DTP/I)
 - 4- An exporter (CEQEBT procedure 03/DTP/I)
 - 5- The community also needs to have an export authorization (AEB procedure 05/DPT/I)

Documents that need to be ready when export takes place.

When exporting takes place the community needs the following documents to be accompanied with the timber:

1. A certificate of origin (*Certificat d'origine*)
2. A phytosanitary certificate (*Certificat phytosanitaire*)
3. A certificate that the goods are put in circulation (*Certificat de circulation des marchandises*)
4. A specification about the timber that is being exported (*Specification des bois débités*)
5. A bill of lading
6. A *Marteau d'export*

4. The import of community timber into the European Union.

The European Union created a set of regulations that should help in banning the import of illegal timber from sources in and outside of Europe, these regulations are called the EUTR (European Timber Regulations). The EUTR was issued on March 3, 2013. Commercial parties importing timber into Europe have to prove that their timber product is obtained in a legal way, and should show the origin of the timber product.

The EUTR distinguishes 2 kinds of actors in their regulation.

- (1) Operators who bring timber from outside of Europe to the European market.
- (2) Traders who buy timber products from operators or other traders.

The operator extracts the timber in the country of origin or has control over the extraction (makes the extraction possible). He then exports the timber from the country of origin to the European Union. A trader buys timber from A: an operator in the country in the origin of the timber or B: a trader in or outside the country of origin. For both kinds of actors there is a set of rules that is mandatory when importing timber to or trading timber in the European Union.

(Official Journal of the European Union, 2010)

The obligations of an operator are:

1. Placing illegally harvested timber or timber products derived from such timber on the market is prohibited.
2. The operator has to operate according to a due diligence system. A due diligence system shall be exercised when placing timber or timber products on the market. Therefore, the operator shall use a framework of procedures and measures to guard legality, referred to as a due diligence system.
3. The operator shall maintain and regularly evaluate the due diligence system which it uses, except where the operator makes use of a due diligence established by a monitoring organization

Traders are subject to the obligations of traceability.

The obligations of traceability mean that in the entire supply chain, the trader is able to identify:

1. The operators or the traders who have supplied the timber and timber products
2. Where applicable, the trader to whom they have supplied timber and timber products

Traders must keep the information of point 1 for at least 5 years and shall be able to provide this information to competent authorities if asked to do so. (Official Journal of the European Union, 2010)

Explanation of The Due Diligence system.

A due diligence system is a set of measures or operations done by the operator that makes sure that a process (timber export/import) is checked, reviewed and examined from start to finish. The goal of a due diligence system is to make sure that every step in the process is done according to the needed requirements for reaching the end goal (legality). A due diligence system has to be seen as a process guard. A due diligence system helps to prove that all steps in the process are legal and verifiable. As to the EUTR a due diligence system is one of the obligations of the operator. (Official Journal of the European Union, 2010)

A due diligence system consists of:

1. Measures and procedures providing access to the information concerning the operator's supply of timber or timber products placed on the market.
this includes:
 - a) Description, including the trade name and type of product as well as the common name of tree species and, where applicable, its full scientific name.
 - b) Country of harvest, and where applicable a sub-national region where the timber was harvested and the concession of harvest.
 - c) Quantity (expressed in volume, weight or number of units).
 - d) Name and address of the supplier to the operator.
 - e) Name and address of the trader to whom the timber and timber products have been supplied.
 - f) Documents or other information indicating compliance of those timber and timber products with the applicable legislation.
- 2) Risk assessment procedures enabling the operator to analyze and evaluate the risk of illegally harvested timber or timber products derived from such timber being placed on the market. Such procedures shall take into account the information set out in point 1 as well as relevant risk assessment criteria, including:
 - a) Assurance of compliance with applicable legislation, which may include certification or other third-party- verified schemes which cover compliance with applicable legislation.
 - b) Prevalence of illegal harvesting of specific tree species.
 - c) Prevalence of illegal harvesting or practices in the country of harvest and/or sub-national region where the timber was harvested, including consideration of the prevalence of armed conflict.
 - d) Sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council or the Council of the European Union on timber imports or exports.
 - e) Complexity of the supply chain of timber and timber products.

- 3) Except when the risk identified in course of the risk assessment procedures referred to in point (b) is negligible, risk mitigation procedures have to be followed. These procedures consist of measures that are adequate and proportionate to effectively minimize the risk and which may include a requirement of additional information or documents and/or third party verification. (Official Journal of the European Union, 2010).

5. The Chain of custody

For FTT it is important that there is a clear view of the path the timber travels from the forest until the actual import into the European Union because as a trader of timber FTT is subjected to the obligation of traceability (EUTR). This path that the timber travels is called the chain of custody. What is a chain of custody? The chain of custody is described as the unbroken and traceable path that timber takes from the forest to the consumer, throughout the stages of harvesting, transformation and distribution (bmtrada.com). In this case the final stage for the community timber is the exportation from the port of Douala to Antwerp, Europe.

Chart 1 shows the chain of custody for community timber from Cameroon. The green sections (phase 1 till 3) in the chart beneath indicate that the action take place in the forest. The gray sections indicate that the product (the timber) is leaving (phase 4) or has already left (phase 5) the forest.

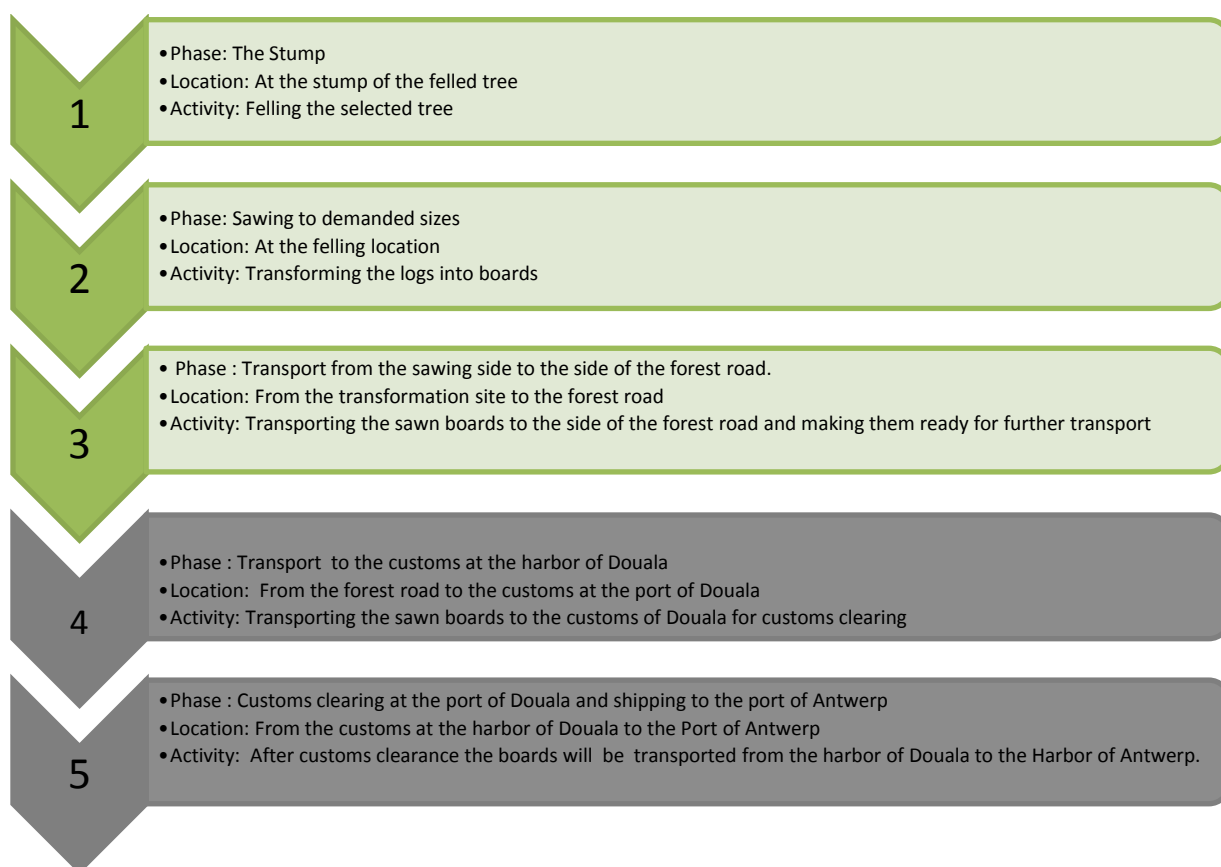


Chart 1. The chain of custody for community timber from Cameroon

Before extraction takes place there are steps taken that will later show the legality of the harvested timber. This comes in the form of an inventory of the community forest in which the economic activities will take place. This is done by the Community with help of the MINFOF. The inventory shows the species, location, sizes and volumes of the trees that are suitable for extraction. The information that is gathered is documented on the DF-10 Form (the carnet de chantier or field register) that is issued by the MINFOF. During the inventarisation a map of the annual block (year block) for harvesting is made that shows the location of the trees that have been documented. The year block can have a maximum size of 200 ha. The situation in the description of the chain of custody is one in which the inventarisation has been completed and verified and a CAE has been issued for the extraction of timber.

5.1. The stump

This is the first phase in the chain of custody of the timber and takes place at the stump of the tree that is felled. A tree will be selected for harvesting. A sawing team consisting of members of the community to which the community forest belongs will conduct the felling of the tree. The sawing team is supported with materials needed for the felling (chainsaws) by an economic operator. The felling is done in a directional way, this means that when the tree falls it lands in a direction in which it causes minimum damage to the surrounding vegetation. The tree is then sawn into logs of roughly 3 to 4 meters.

When the tree is laying on the ground the stump of the tree is marked with:

1. The number of the DF-10 form on which the tree is documented (top number in figure 2)
2. The date when the felling took place (middle number in figure 2)
3. The zone of the harvesting area (bottom number in figure 2)

The information of the tree is documented on form A of the track and trace manual as well as the time, date and the place where the activity took place. Furthermore the names of the community members that conducted the felling and the economic operator who provided the materials needed for the felling are documented. The forest managing officer of the community forest will also document the information about the tree that has been felled. He will keep his own administration about what was done in terms of timber exploitation.



Figure 2&3: marking of the stump and the stump in the community forest. (Photo: R.Dragt)

5.2. Sawing to the demanded sizes

When the tree is felled and the documentation is completed the second phase in the chain of custody is reached. This phase takes place next to the stump of the tree. Here the transformation from logs to boards will take place. The tree has been sawn into pieces (logs) of roughly 3 to 4 meters over which a frame for a Lucas Mill can be constructed. The construction of the frame and the installation of the sawing installation will be done by members of the sawing team. The Lucas Mill is provided by the economic operator. When necessary he will provide technical support for installing the Lucas Mill in the correct way. With 1 Lucas Mill the sawing team can produce about 4-5m³ of sawn boards in one day. Processing a tree might take up to several days due to the big volume of the trees. FTT will provide an overview of the demanded size for the boards that will be sawn.

The information about the transformation will be documented on form B of the track and trace manual. The output of the transformation (sizes and amounts of boards produced) will be documented on this form, as well as the people that were involved with the transformation. Also a reference to the previous form (form A) will be made to keep track of the timber. Figure 4 shows a Lucas Mill sawing boards from a tree log.



Figure 4: Operation of a Lucas Mill (photo: P.Cuny)

5.3. Transport from the sawing side to the side of the forest road

When the boards are sawn they are transported (carried) to the forest road by members of the team that have done the transformation of the timber. The timber is placed on top of each other as is shown in figure 5 and is prepared for transport.



Figure 5: Stacking of timber on the side of the forest road (photo: R.Dragt)

Note: during the visit to the extraction site of this year in the REPACIG community forest it was clear that the transport of the timber from the sawing side to the side of the road was done with the help of heavy machinery (Caterpillar).

5.4. Transport to the customs at the harbor of Douala.

The timber that is lying on the side of the forest road is loaded onto a flatbed truck and is prepared to be transported from the forest to the customs at the Harbor of Douala. The timber will be loaded with the help of the community members and the driver(s) of the truck.

The timber at the forest road is documented on the lettre de voiture which will accompany the timber during the transportation. On this form the following information is documented about the timber:

1. The nature of the product (sawn timber)
2. The tree species
3. The width, height and length of the boards
4. The number of boards
5. The volume of the boards in m³
6. The total volume of all the documented boards in m³
7. The date on which the transportation took place
8. The name of the company carrying out the transportation
9. The destination of the timber

The name of the community and the community forest and its location are also documented. The lettre de voiture will be checked and signed (if approved) by the MINFOF delegate of the area who is the chief of post from Nguti. Then the driver of the transport company places his signature and the timber is ready to be transported to the customs at the port of Douala.

Other documents that accompany the timber during the transportation are:

1. A copy of DF-10 form
2. The filled in form C from the track and trace manual
3. The bill of lading (Lettre de voiture)

Form C from the track and trace manual contains information about:

1. The date and time of the transport
2. The transportation company and its driver(s)
3. The sizes and amount (volume) of timber that's being transported
4. Information about the tree species
5. Information about the people who loaded the timber on the truck
6. References to previous forms A and B
7. Information about the origin (community name etc.)

5.5. Customs clearing at the port of Douala and shipping to the port of Antwerp

When the timber reaches the port of Douala it will be checked by the customs personnel. The customs personnel will check for the following documentation:

1. Documentation that accompanies the timber during the transportation:

1. A certificate of origin (*Certificat d'origine*)
2. A phytosanitary certificate (*Certificat phytosanitaire*)
3. A certificate that the goods are put in circulation (*Certificat de circulation des marchandises*)
4. A specification about the timber that is being exported (*Specification des bois débités*)
5. A Bill of lading (lettre de voiture)
6. A Marteau d'export
7. Copy of the DF-10 form.

When all the documentation is correct and present the customs will clear the timber. The timber is then stored in the port of Douala and prepared for shipping to the port of Antwerp.

5.6 Schematic overview of the chain of custody

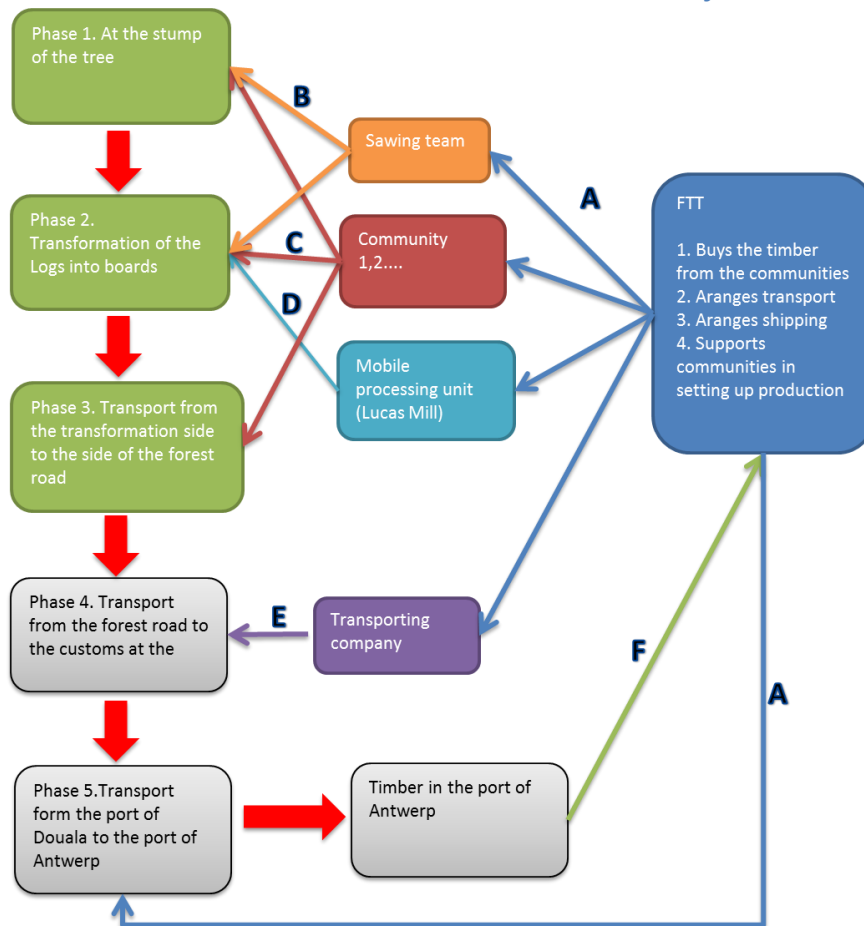


Chart 2, schematic overview of the chain of custody.

The above chart shows the chain of custody in a schematic way. The letters A to F describe the activities in the chain of custody from the actors that are involved.

A. The blue arrows show the information flow that is sent from FTT to the actors in the chain of custody. This involves the communication between the sawing team, communities, the processing unit (Lucas Mill) or economic operator and the transportation company. It also shows that FTT arranges the shipping from Douala to Antwerp.

B. The orange arrows show the activity of the sawing team. This team is formed by members of the community to which the community forest belongs to.

C. The red arrows show the involvement of the community in the first 3 phases of the chain of custody: Felling, transformation and transportation to the side of the forest road.

D. The light blue arrow shows the involvement of the processing unit (Lucas Mill) or economic operator in the 2nd phase of the chain of custody.

E. The purple arrow shows the activity of the transportation company that FTT arranged for transport of the boards.

F. The green arrow shows that the boards are transported from the harbor of Antwerp to the premises of FTT in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

6. Analysis of the communities visited during field visit.

During the field visit to Cameroon the three selected communities were visited. These communities consist of a total of nine villages. The villages are all located near Nguti, which is the largest village in this area. Nguti is the center town in which facilities like a hospital, shops and a big market are located. People who want to travel to Kumba will find their ways of transportation in the town of Nguti. The regional office of the MINFOF is also located in Nguti. Map 2 on (p.27) shows the location of the research area near Nguti. These are the communities that have been visited and the villages that together form these communities:

The REPACIG community

The community forest of REPACIG is the biggest of the three visited communities.

This community is formed by four villages; Mayemen, Betock, Ebanga and Osirayib.

The community of REPACIG has a total number of 1551 inhabitants. The population composition is as follows: 251 men, 136 women and 1164 children (MINFOF, 2005)

The REPACIG community forest has a total area of 5000 ha.

SMP approved in: 2005

The MBACOF community

This community is formed by four villages: Ekenbe, Ofrikpabi, Ediengo and Mboka. The community of MBACOF has a total number of 772 inhabitants. The population composition is as follows: 129 men, 43 women, 600 children. (MINFOF, 2010)

The community forest of MBACOF has a forest area of 3155 ha.

SMP approved in: 2010

The NLORMAC community

This community is formed by the village Mounjo Ndoi and has the smallest forest area of the three visited communities. The community of NLORMAC has a total number of 727 inhabitants. The documentation about the population composition varies from that of REPACIG and MBACOF and is documented as follows: male and female 5 years and above: 77, male and female 15 years and above: 650. (MINFOF, 2013)

The forest area of this community is 2191 ha.

SMP approved in: 2013

The communities are analyzed by using the community review checklist which can be found attached as annex 1. This checklist was composed prior to visiting Cameroon. The checklist reviews factors that are related to:

1. The geography of area in which a community is based.
2. The terrain conditions of the area in which the community and the community forest are based.
3. The language spoken and communication.
4. Technology available in the communities.
5. Social factors of the communities.
6. General and technical forestry factors.
7. Information about the community forest



Map 2, the research area near Nguti (PSMNR-SWP, 2007)

How is a community organized?

Every community has a chief. The chief is the most important person of the community and has a seat at the chair of the community board. This community board is formed by 1.) the forest managing officer 2.) a treasurer 3.) the delegate chief and 4.) the economic officer. The chief makes the important decisions (after consulting with the community board). If a company or a person wants to do business with a community he has to consult the chief and get his permission to do so. Every visit to a community starts out with meeting the chief of that community. The chief does not always live in one of the villages that form the community. In 2 out of the 3 visits the chief of the community was living elsewhere. After consulting the chiefs of the 3 selected communities, access was granted to start researching the area and the villages as well as looking at the business opportunities in the selected communities.

6.1. The REPACIG Community

General information about the REPACIG community.

This community is formed by four villages; Mayemen, Betock, Ebanga and Osirayib. The villages together have a total population of 1551 people which makes it the largest of the three visited communities (MINFOF, 2005). All these villages are located on the N8 which is the road that connects Kumba with Nguti. The main village of the REPACIG community is Mayemen. The town hall in which meetings of the community board takes place is also situated in Mayemen. The distance of the REPACIG community and the harbor of Douala is approximately 195 km. Getting to the harbor of Douala will take around 5 hours when the weather conditions are good.

The main spoken and written language in the community is English. All the members that were met during the field visit seem to manage this well. There were no difficulties in communicating with the community members. Non-direct communication takes place with mobile phone (or by letter). The mobile phone is the only available form of modern long distance communication. There are no computers available in this community.

At the moment the main source of income for the community members comes from agriculture. The main crops are fruits (bananas), cocoa and coca nuts. There are also some rubber plantations to be found in the community area. Timber exploitation has taken place in the past, but is not being practiced at this moment.

Social factors of the REPACIG community.

During the visit to the REPACIG community (especially during the community board meeting) it became clear that the community is not functioning as well as the other two visited communities. The members of the different villages did not seem to agree with each other on subjects like timber exploitation (the most bespoke subject during the interviews). There is a conflict with a group of people in this community that is against the exploitation of timber. This group of people has tried to prevent the extraction of timber in the past. The attended board meetings seemed to go in an unstructured way and were not very constructive. This could be caused by the absence of the chief, who is currently staying in Limbe for treatment of his health problems. A key point of discussion was the conflict between the community and the economic operator who was involved in the last extraction of timber. The community has no forest managing officer at this moment. The last forest manager was deemed to resign because he was also working as an economic operator for his own company.

Most of the community members of REPACIG did react positive to the fact that FTT is looking for timber producing communities in the southwest region of Cameroon, and were honored that their community was selected for this project. They are very eager to continue with the exploitation of the timber which grows in their community forest. The benefits that they would gain from the timber exploitation could help them in improving the water supply and power supply for the villages, improving the infrastructure, improving healthcare and realizing more educational facilities.

Forestry in the community of REPACIG.

The community of REPACIG has experience with the exploitation of timber. This is the only community in which timber exploitation has taken place. There are about 10 skilled foresters in this community. Their experience ranges from felling trees to setting and operating a Lucas Mill. The foresters also have some experience with GPS systems. As mentioned before this community does not have a forest managing officer and they are still searching for a new one.

The REPACIG community forest.

The REPACIG community forest covers a total area of 5000 ha and is the biggest forest of the three communities that were visited. The SMP for the REPACIG community forest was approved in 2005, so this will soon need to be renewed.

The community forest is located at about 1.5 to 2 km from the village of Mayemen. Getting to the community forest was quite hard due to a partially eroded road which can be seen in figure 6. At the time of the visit the forest was only reachable by foot or motorbike. The general condition of the soil was wet and muddy due to heavy rains. The terrain of the community forest has some variation in height but is moderately flat in general. The community forest seems to be very rich in biodiversity and is densely vegetated. Azobe is the dominant tree species in this forest. Information about the standing stock that would be interesting for FTT can be found in annex 1, the community review checklist.

During the visit to the community forest we came across (illegal) plantations. Their presence can be a result of the lack of supervision because there presently is no forest managing officer.



Figure 6: The road to the community forest (photo: R.Dragt)

6.2. The MBACOF Community

General information about the MBACOF community.

This community is formed by four villages: Ekenbe, Ofrikpabi, Ediengo and Mboka. The villages together have a total population of 772 inhabitants (MINFOF, 2010). All these villages are located on the N8 which is the road that connects Kumba with Nguti. The main village of the MBACOF community is Ekenbe. In this village the meeting between the community members and its board took place. The distance from the MBACOF community to the port of Douala is approximately 200 km. Getting to the harbor of Douala will take around 5 hours when the weather conditions are good.

Just like in the other communities that were visited the main spoken and written language in the community is English. All the members that were met during the field visit seem to manage this well. There were no difficulties in communicating with the community members. Non direct communication takes place with mobile phone (or by letter). The mobile phone is the only available form of modern long distance communication. There are no computers available in this community.

At the moment the main source of income for the community members comes from agriculture. The main crops are fruits (bananas), cocoa and coca nuts. Timber exploitation has not yet taken place in this community.

Social factors of the MBACOF community.

During the visit to the MBACOF community it became clear that this community was functioning very well. The attended meeting with the board of the community went in a clear and organized manner. The community members attending this meeting seemed to be very one minded about the subjects that were handled. The community is very interested about the possibilities of timber exploitation in their community forest. The community would use the benefits from timber exploitation for the improvement of their water and power supply and in setting up a facility in which healthcare can be provided.

Forestry in the MBACOF community

The community of MBACOF does not have experience with the exploitation of timber, but they are really interested in starting the exploitation. They do have some people in the community that have experience with operating a Lucas Mill, working with chainsaws and forest inventory (also with GPS systems). These people have mainly been working for big companies such as Wijma. The forest managing officer seems like a very capable man. He is very aware of what is going on in and around the community forest of MBACOF and is highly involved with the community. He could be of high value when FTT decides to work with this community. The community of MBACOF has a group of young forest guards who regularly check the community forest for illegal activities. This is the only community that does this in such a way.

The MBACOF community forest

The Community of MBACOF has the second largest forest area of the three selected communities, it has a total area of 3155 ha. The SMP for the MBACOF community forest was approved in 2010, so in one year it will need to be renewed. The community forest of MBACOF was easier to access than that of REPACIG. The forest marked as community forest is located at about 500 to 750 meter from the main road from Kumba to Nguti(N8).The community forest cannot be reached other than by foot due to absence of a road. The terrain of the forest is flatter than that of the REPACIG community forest or the NLORMAC forest and the vegetation is less dense than in the REPACIG community forest. Inside the forest a couple of streams are found (figure 7). Those streams cause flooding in the rain season which is generally from the beginning of May until the beginning of November. These floods will make timber extraction impossible at that time. In the dry seasons these streams will not pose a problem. Inside the community forest there are a lot of small banana and cacao plantations. The farmers of these plantations need to know that as soon as the extraction of timber begins they will have to stop their activities, since only one kind of economic activity is allowed at a time. Information about the standing stock that would be interesting for FTT can be found in annex 1, the community review checklist.



Figure 7, a stream inside the community forest. (photo R.Dragt)

6.2. The NLORMAC community

General information about the NLORMAC community.

This community consists of one village: Moungo Ndoi. The community has a total of 727 inhabitants (MINFOF, 2013). Moungo Ndoi is located at about 7 km from the main road that connects Kumba with Nguti (N8) and to reach the N8 it will take a truck or motorbike about 1 to 1.5 hour. To get from the village of Moungo Ndoi to the harbor of Douala will take approximately 6 to 7.5 hours in good weather conditions. The dirt road that connects Moungo Ndoi with the N8 is in a bad shape and can be difficult to pass after rain has fallen due to the bad and slippery condition of the road.

Just like the other communities that were visited the main spoken and written language in the community is English. All the members that were met during the field visit seem to manage this well. There were no difficulties in communicating with the community members. Non-direct communication takes place with mobile phone (or by letter). The mobile phone is the only available form of modern long distance communication. There are no computers available in this community.

At the moment the main source of income for the community members is coming from agriculture. The main crops are fruits (bananas), cocoa, coca nuts and the production of rubber. Timber exploitation has not yet taken place in this community.

Social factors of the NLORMAC community.

This community also seems to be functioning very well. The meeting with the members of the community board was very organized and structural. This community was the smallest of the 3 visited communities.

The community members are very eager to start with the exploitation of timber. This community is more isolated than the other 2 visited communities because of its distance from Nguti and the state of the road that connects the village of Moungo Ndoi. With the benefits of timber exploitation they would be able to improve that road and make it easier to travel to Nguti. This means that farmers would have less difficulty to get their products to the market of Nguti and community members would have better access to healthcare (the hospital in Nguti). The community would also be able to realize the construction of a town hall which will be used for multiple purposes. The community is there for very interested in doing business with FTT.

Forestry in the NLORMAC community.

There is not yet any experience with the exploitation of timber in this community. There are some members of the community that have worked in timber exploitation for big companies such as Wijma. Those people have got the basic skills of chain milling or the operation of a Lucas Mill. Compared to the other communities the number of people who worked for these companies is lower, due to the distance of this community from Nguti (where Wijma is based). The forest manager of the NLORMAC community appears to be very skilled. He is very aware of what is going on in the forest.

The NLORMAC community forest.

The NLORMAC community forest is the smallest of the 3 visited community forests. The community forest has a size of 2155 ha. The SMP for the NLORMAC community forest was approved in 2013. The community forest is located at about 1.5 kilometers from the village of Mounjo Ndoi which takes about 45 minutes walking to reach. There is no road that leads to the community forest so it can only be reached by foot. The community forest is located at a higher altitude than the other community forests that were visited. Due to its higher altitude the soil of the forest is much dryer than in the other community forests. The terrain in the forest is very flat and this makes it easy to access. There are a lot of banana and cocoa plantations to be found in the community forest. The vegetation in this community forest is not as dense as in the other 2 community forests. The size of the trees that are interesting for exploitation are bigger compared to the trees in the other community forests. A CAE for this community forest was not available at the time of the visit. A total inventarisation can be found in the SMP.

7. Business opportunities for the export of community timber from southwest Cameroon

To get a clear view on how to define the business opportunities to export community timber from southwest Cameroon the definition of a business opportunity has to be explained.

A business opportunity involves the sale or lease of any product, service or equipment that will enable the purchaser to begin or expand a business. The seller of a business opportunity usually declares that it will secure or assist the buyer in finding a suitable location or provide the product to the purchaser (en.wikipedia.org, 2014).

A business opportunity consists of four integrated elements, all of which are to be present within the same timeframe (window of opportunity) and most often within the same domain or geographical location, before it can be claimed as a business opportunity. These four elements are:

1. There is a need.
2. There are the means to fulfill the need.
3. There is a method to apply the means to fulfill the need.
4. There is a method to benefit.

These four elements together determine if there is business opportunity (en.wikipedia.org).

In this case the need comes from the seller (the communities) itself. The communities have access to a large source of (possible) very valuable natural resources: timber. The communities are aware of the fact that they are missing out on potential income that could be generated by selling this timber. The communities have not been able to exploit their timber due to the lack of resources and the absence of buyers outside the domestic market of Cameroon. This value of the timber species that could be harvested from the community forests is determined by the market on which it is sold. The price at which a m³ of timber can be sold on the domestic market of Cameroon is much lower than the price at which a 1 m³ of timber could be sold on the European market.

For example; the selling price of 1m³ of Azobe on the domestic market of Cameroon is around CFA 100.000 which is about € 195,- but when sold on the European market the price of this 1 m³ is around CFA 308.000 which is about € 600,- (FOB price) (EFKO, 2014). This shows that the communities could generate a much larger profit from the products they could sell.

Step by step overview of the 4 elements.

Element one: there is a need. As mentioned above there is a great need for the communities to sell their product on a market other as the domestic market of Cameroon. The other need can be found on the European (Dutch) market. The Netherlands is a small country in terms of production but is a big importer of swan tropical timber (globalwoods.org). Therefore it can be concluded that there is a clear need: The need for the communities to find an exporter to an international market and the need of the Dutch market for sustainable sawn tropical timber.

Element two: there are the means to fulfill the need. FTT has the means to fulfill the need(s). FTT has already got experience with exporting timber from Cameroon and selling this timber on the Dutch market. As a timber trading company in the Netherlands FTT has the means to supply timber to consumers on the Dutch market and has knowledge about the demand of the Dutch market. This knowledge can be applied or translated in such a way that the communities will be able to fulfill their need in a better way. In this case translated knowledge means that FTT knows the demand of the market in terms of timber species and preferable sizes of sawn timber. Another very important factor is that FTT has the financial resources to buy the timber from the communities and to help them realize the production of the timber.

Element three: the method to apply the means to fulfill the needs. FTT can apply its means to fulfill the need of the communities and the consumers on the Dutch market. To fulfill the need of the communities FTT can apply its means to:

1. Offer a reliable partnership between a community and FTT.
2. Offer entrance to a foreign market, resulting in a greater benefit from the sales of timber from the community forest for the community.
3. Offer support in the form of knowledge that is needed for timber production (which species to harvest, which sizes to produce) and arrange 3rd party involvement which is needed in the production process (contract an economic operator that provides the material needed for exploitation and contract a transporting company for the transportation of the timber.)

To fulfill the need of the Dutch consumer of sawn tropical timber FTT can apply his means to:

1. Offer interesting and high quality sawn timber of tropical timber species.
2. Offer sawn tropical timber from a sustainable sources
3. Offer the consumer a chance to (indirectly) support development for community in a third world country.

Element four: There is a method to benefit: For FTT a method to benefit means that it has the opportunity to sell high quality tropical timber from a sustainable source on the Dutch market. FTT also benefits from the fact that it has a direct supplier of tropical timber in Cameroon which is the community that produces the timber. This means that the supply chain is very short because there is only one producer (the community) and one buyer of the product (FTT).

This short supply chain will result in a higher margin on the product for FTT. Another benefit for FTT is that they can market their product with the promise that it helps in the development (poverty reduction) of communities in a third world country which is definitely a unique selling point on the Dutch market.

For the community that produces and sells the timber a method to benefit means that they have access to a foreign market. This access enables them to get a higher value per m³ for their product than they would get on the domestic market. This higher value results in a bigger profit for their timber. This profit will be used for the development of their community. Another benefit for the community is that the exploitation of timber offers new jobs for the community members which will be employed in the exploitation. The effect of this job creation is that the earnings of the people employed in the exploitation will most likely be spent in the community which creates a flow of money inside the community.

7.1. Findings from the field visit that that could contribute in setting up a successful export of community timber from southwest Cameroon.

Although it is clear that there is opportunity for doing business with one or more of the communities that were visited in the southwest region of Cameroon there are still multiple factors that could have a direct or indirect effect on the success factor for trading with the communities in this region.

Why would it be interesting for FTT to start a business with one or more of the visited communities?

There is a large standing stock of timber species that would be interesting for FTT to export. As shown in the community review checklist (checklist, 8.2) the community of REPACIG and MBACOF have an interesting stock of timber in their annual year blocks. For the community of NLORMAC there is no CAE available at this moment but the inventory in the SMP shows that this community also has access to a large standing stock of interesting timber species. A 100% inventory of the complete community forests of the three communities can be found in the SMP's of these communities. Copies of the SMP's are available for FTT as hardcopy.

The communities are all fairly easy to reach by truck. The community forests of REPACIG and MBACOF are located near the road that connects Nguti with Kumba (the N8). From Kumba the harbor of Douala can be reached within 3 hours driving. This makes the transportation of the sawn timber from these community forests to the harbor of Douala relatively easy (checklist 1.A). The community forest of NLORMAC is located at about 1 to 1.5 hours driving by truck from the N8 which means that getting to the harbor of Douala will take more time, but still also this community forest can be reached by truck quite easy. It is also important to mention that the N8 will be greatly improved in the coming years. Work on the road has started in December 2014.

Communicating with the community members is not a problem because they all speak, write and read English at a decent level (checklist 3.1). This means that it will not be a difficulty for FTT to set out demands regarding the timber they want to buy from the communities. Communication between the community members involved in the timber exploitation process and FTT will take place by mobile phone or letter, since this is the only way of communicating due to the absence of computers in the communities (checklist 4.1).

In each of the visited communities there are community members who could participate in the exploitation of the timber. Although the general experience with timber exploitation varies between the communities there is in general a potential group of people per community who can work in timber exploitation (checklist 6.3). The technical experience with regard to the operation of a Lucas Mill or chainsaw also varies per community but in general every community has members who have experience with this (checklist 7.1&7.2). Of the visited communities the community of REPACIG is the only community that has already exploited timber (checklist 6.1).

In regard to the social aspect of the visited communities the communities of NLORMAC and MBACOF seem to be functioning very well. There were no signs of conflicts between community members and the attended meetings with the community boards when in an organized and good way. The community of REPACIG does seem to have an ongoing internal and external conflict. The community of REPACIG has a conflict with the economic operator that was involved in the last timber exploitation. Inside the community of REPACIG there is a group of people who are against the exploitation of timber from the community forest. This is a source of problems that could also be noticed during the meeting with the community board. These internal problems could pose a threat when doing business with this community. In regard to the communities of NLORMAC and MBACOF there seem to be no conflicts which could pose a threat to possible future operations (checklist 5.2).

8. Possible partner in Cameroon

The company that was found in the Southwest Region of Cameroon which has the capacity to facilitate the needed machinery that would enable the communities to harvest and process timber is EFCO. EFCO is also the company that was working with the community of REPACIG from 2008 until the beginning of 2014. EFCO is established in 1999. The owner and director of EFCO is Mr. Tayo Beltus Tekwayang. Important to mention is that Mr. Beltus used to be the forest managing officer of the REPACIG community

EFCO has also been working with Wijma, which has logging operations in the near regions.

EFCO owns all the equipment that is needed for timber extraction. EFCO's inventory of available equipment consists of:

- 2 Lucas Mills

- 2 big Caterpillars (one is functional and the other is out of service due to maintenance)

- 6 chainsaws (of which 2 can be used with regard to the OLB license)

- GPS tracking devices

- Safety clothing for the people who work in timber extraction

With the two Lucas Mills 10 m³ of sawn timber can be produced per day (4-5m³ per Lucas Mill per day). The cost of producing 1m³ of sawn timber is (excluding labor): CFA 45,000 for fuel and CFA 20,000 for maintenance (approximately Euro 83,- and EURO 37,-).

EFCO is in possession of an OLB license and thus is very aware in regard to legality and sustainability of timber exploitation. An OLB license is issued by bureau Veritas and is a widely used certification that proves timber origin and legality.

EFCO has connections with a transportation company that could facilitate the transport of the timber from the community forest to the harbor of Douala. To transport a m³ of sawn timber from the village of Mayemen to the harbor of Douala the cost will be CFA 30,000 a m³ (approximately EURO 55,-) (EFCO. 2014)

EFCO is the only economic operator in the Nguti area. It is important to say that EFCO has an ongoing conflict with the REPACIG community. Although this problem seems to be partially solved it remains the question if EFCO should be involved in the project.

9. Present difficulties concerning the export of community timber

One of the major difficulties in the process of production until the actual export of the community timber is the time it takes to arrange all the needed documentation and licenses. The governmental system of Cameroon is one with a high level of bureaucracy which means that every application for a permit or license will have to be validated and approved by different departments of the government/ ministry of Cameroon. The application for a license or permit is done by hard copy because the governmental system in Cameroon is not yet fully automated (working with computers). This means that the documentation for an application has to be sent by mail to every department/ ministry involved in the acceptance process. This is a very time consuming process especially when the number of applications is taken into account. The whole process of getting all the needed permits and licenses for the community before they can start the exploitation of their timber can take up for more than a year. For example getting a CAE for the community can easily take up to several months.

Another difficulty is that it is generally very hard to find a company that can arrange the transportation of the timber from the forest to the harbor of Douala. This is one of the main problems that FTT experienced during the activities that are taking place in the east part of Cameroon. During the meeting with Mr. Tayo Beltus Tekwayang from EFCO it became clear that there is a company in the southwestern region who could be contracted for the transportation of the timber.

Also the lack of experience of the community members with the exploitation of timber could be a difficulty in the timber production process. In general the overall experience with the production of timber is low which could result in basic errors during the (first) exploitation of the timber. The low level of experience could also result in a slower production process. This means that more time will be needed for the exploitation which results in a higher cost of the process.

10. Proposal for the track and trace system

The EUTR demands traders that they are able to show where their product originated from. The trader has to be able to show who handled the product and when this was done. The trader should also be able to show where the product originated from (the stump in this case). This means that FTT should have a system to help them show where their product originated from. To avoid the risk of illegal logging, the disappearing of timber during production, the contamination during transport and processing and having mistakes in cutting dimensions and volumes, a simple track and trace procedure is developed. The procedure is based on inspections by the actors who take part in the timber exploitation (the (economic) operator who is involved, foreman of the sawing team, driver of the transport company and the director of the processing unit).

In each phase of the chain of custody the responsible operators together inspect the following:

- 5.1. Which tree is felled
- 5.2. The quantity and quality of the goods which are ready, transported or processed

When the quality and quantity of inspected goods meet the requirements, both the economic operator and the responsible operator sign the form and take a copy. The forms will be used as evidence for the delivered services and payments of the different actors.

The whole process from stump to harbor can be divided into 3 steps.

Step 1. The felling of the tree in the forest

Step 2. The processing of the tree in the forest

Step 3. The transportation of the timber

Each of these steps contains data that relate to the traceability of the timber product.

For the first step the following data must be gathered:

When a tree is felled the first steps in recording the process is documenting following information:

The time and date of when the tree was felled
The section number(year block number)
The GPS coordinates (if possible) or location (number) on the inventory map as well as the reference to the DF-10 document on which the tree is documented.
The name of the community forest in which the felling was done.
The names of the persons who operated in the felling process
The tree species (trade name and botanic name)
The tree diameter at DBH
The diameter and length of the log
The name of the buyer of the timber

For the second step the following data must be gathered:

When a log is processed the second step in recording the process is documenting the following information:

The reference to the first step (documentation about origin of the tree)
The tree species (trade name and botanic name) and the name of the community forest of which the tree originated
Time and date of the processing operation
Who operated in the processing process
Who did the final inspection of the boards
The dimensions of the boards and the board numbers (each board needs to be numbered)
The sizes and total volume of the boards that were extracted from the log and remarks concerning quality of the boards
The name of the buyer of the boards

For the third step the following data must be gathered:

When the processed boards are being transported the third step in recording the process is documenting the following information:

The reference to the second step (documentation about the origin and the processing of the tree)
The tree species (trade name and botanic name) and the name of the community forest of which the tree originated
Time and date of the transportation
Amount of boards and the specifications of the boards
The board numbers
Name of the transportation company
The name of the truck driver(s)
The destination (port of shipping)
The name of the buyer of the timber

A form has been made for every step (these forms can be found in Annex 2, the Field manual for the usage of traceability forms). This form can be used by the people involved in the process. Each time a form is filled out with the needed information a copy will have to be made. The main actors in each step will receive a copy and a copy will be send to FTT. It is important to say that the forms will be very simple to use so that everyone can use them. Only one timber species can be documented on one form so when there is production involving different timber species multiple forms will be used. This will help to keep the documents clear and make the traceability easier. For use of the forms a field manual was designed. The Field manual for the usage of traceability forms can be found in Annex 2, the field manual for the correct usage of the traceability forms. This manual will be given to the people involved in the exploitation process in Cameroon. The manual explains step by step how the forms should be filled out and how the documentation should take place. The manual is very simple to use. This will ensure that it can be clearly understood by all people using it.

11. Discussion

For this research I investigated which business opportunities for the legal export of timber from community forests in the southwest region of Cameroon could be interesting for Fair Tropical Timber B.V. To get a good answer on this question I have looked at the legal requirements for the export of timber from community forests in regard to the European Timber Regulations and the legislation of Cameroon, and conducted a field research in Cameroon to see if and what the potential for doing business with the communities that have been selected for this research are. At the beginning of this research I expected that it would be easy to find an answer on my research questions, but when looking back it turned out to be more difficult than expected. For the legal aspect of this research I came across the fact that especially the legislation of Cameroon sometimes was vague and unclear due to the bilingual interpretation of these rules. The requirements of the European Timber Regulations were, on the other hand much easier to understand and apply on this research. The field research that was conducted in Cameroon was very interesting and gave a good view of the present situation of the three potential communities and made clear that there are opportunities for doing business with these communities.

During this research it became clear that the legislation of Cameroon, the forest law of 1994 and the forest degree of 1995 with regard to the export of timber from community forest does not provide a concrete yes or no on the question if the communities can export their timber to a market outside of Cameroon (Cuny, 2013). The law states that communities can exploit timber without permit and taxes. There is no information available about the export because initially the timber from the community forests was reserved for the domestic market.

The MINFOF point of view on this subject is that the timber that has been produced from a community forest is exclusively produced for the domestic and local markets. But there is no rule that prevents the export of timber that has been produced from a community forest.

This research showed that it would be possible for FTT to buy and export timber from community forests as long as this timber is produced by the community itself.

In order for a community to be legally allowed to exploit (produce), transform and export timber from their community forest they will have to get certain licenses and permits (p.15 &16). The first step in this process is to get a SMP for their community forest. This step has already been completed for all three communities. After this there an inventory must be made of the area in which the economic activities would take place. After this inventory they need a certificate that validates the inventory results and a certificate that the section in which the inventory took place was the section that was marked as the year block. They also need a notification about the startup of activities in the area and a CAE. When this is done the community has to apply for a transformation license. This can be done by following the legal procedure 01/DTP/I which is called the "Attestation de Detention de Materiel de Transformation du Bois". After this the community has to get registered that they have a transformation license. This is called the "Certificat d' enregistrement en qualite de Transformateur du Bois" and can be acquired by following the legal procedure 02/DTP/I .When this is completed the community is official registered as a transformer of timber. The next step for the community is to get registered as an exporter of timber. For this they need the "Certificat d' enregistrement en qualite d' exportateur de bois transformer" which can be acquired by following legal procedure 03/DTP/I.

The next and last step for the community is to get an export authorization (AEB). This can be done by following legal procedure 05/DTP/I. When all these procedures have been successfully completed a community will be able to exploit (produce), transform and export the timber from their community forest. **The answers the main research question about the possibilities/opportunities for the (legal) purchase and export of Tropical community timber from the Southwest Region of Cameroon.** FTT will be able to purchase and export legally produced timber from community forests if the communities of who FTT buys timber are in the possession of the licenses and permits that are required. FTT can support the communities to get these licenses and permits by giving them information about how to apply for this and so create the opportunity to buy timber from community forests in the Southwest region of Cameroon.

This also answers the part of the secondary research question about what has to be done for the legal compliance with the rules of the government of Cameroon.

In regard to the part of the secondary research question about what has to be done for the legal compliance with the EUTR is that FTT, as a trader should be able to identify the operators or the traders who have supplied the timber and timber products and where applicable, the trader to whom they have supplied timber and timber products. FTT should be able to, when demanded to do so, provide this information to competent authorities and should keep this information for at least 5 years (Official Journal of the European Union, 2010). The communities who in this case are the operator are obligated to practice a due diligence system. Since the communities have no experience with this due diligence system that is demanded by the European Union a proposal and a manual for a track and trace system was developed. This proposal can be found in chapter 10 and annex 2. The manual and the forms are made as easy as possible to use, so that the members of the communities who would use these forms can clearly understand how to fill them out. When the community which exploits timber uses these forms they will comply with point one and three of this due diligence system, which demands that there should be measures and procedures that provide access to the information concerning the operator's supply of timber. And that there should be a procedure that enables the operator to analyze and evaluate the risk of illegally harvested timber being placed on the market. With the help of the manual for traceability FTT will be able to identify all operators who took part in the process of the timber exploitation, and so meet the EUTR demands for traders. Point 2 of the due diligence system is met because there will only be timber exploitation and exportation if all the needed legal permits and licenses are obtained. But for the communities it will be necessary to frequently check their community forest for any signs of illegal activities. If there are any illegal activities taking place the community should act directly and make sure that those activities are stopped. If all this is done the communities will meet the demands of the EUTR set out for operators.

There is one (future) legal factor that is not researched in this report which is the issue of the FLEGT license for Cameroon. In first instance it was the idea to also include this in this report, but after research of this subject it was decided not to include this. The decision not to include FLEGT in this research was based on the following. Although the idea of FLEGT is clear there is not yet actually a FLEGT license issued to any country who took part in the VPA process. This results in the fact that nobody is exactly able to say what the implementation of the FLEGT license would mean for the parties involved. The impact of a FLEGT license on a timber producing country such as Cameroon is therefore unclear. Also the granting of the FLEGT license has still been postponed so it is not possible

to say when this would actually happen. The only thing that can be said is that it is very advisable for FTT to keep this under close attention.

The Communities of REPACIG, MBACOF and NLORMAC that were visited during the field visit all are very eager to find a partner that could buy and export the timber from their community forests, because until now they have not yet been able to do so. They know that their timber will have a higher value when it is sold to an exporter, but are not aware of the exact difference in price of timber between the local and international market. This has mainly got to do with the fact that they have got no experience with their timber being exported or in the case of NLORMAC and MBACOF no experience with the exploitation of timber at all. The communities are very interested in the possibility to sell to and work with FTT, also because of the way FTT would work with them. The communities would benefit significantly from selling to FTT because the intention of FTT, as the name already states, is to buy tropical timber in a fair way. Fair for FTT means that the community gets paid a high price for their timber so that they in turn can pay good wages to the people involved in the timber exploitation and as a community can benefit to the fullest from the product of their forest. It is important for FTT to find a way of checking that this income for the community is divided and invested in an acceptable way because otherwise the whole idea of FTT would go to waste. This could maybe be done with help of the MINFOF. The MINFOF has good contact with the communities and generally knows what is going on. Maybe Dr. Peguy could help with this since his relationship with and the respect of the community he has is at a very good/high level.

It was very hard to find a good definition on how to determine a business opportunity. The most suitable determination I found for this research was found on Wikipedia. I think that this definition by Wikipedia is the clearest about how to determine a business opportunity. A business opportunity consists of four integrated elements all of which are to be present within the same timeframe (window of opportunity) and most often within the same domain or geographical location, before it can be claimed as a business opportunity. The elements are 1: there has to be a need 2: There are the means to fulfill the need 3: there is a method to apply the means to fulfill the need and 4: there is a method to benefit (en.wikipedia.com). I found that all the elements are present in the regard to the business opportunities FTT to legally export of timber from communities forests in the southwest region of Cameroon. There is a clear need from the communities to sell their timber. They have access to large amounts of interesting timber species which could be sold on the Dutch market. FTT has the means to fulfill this need because FTT has experience with the export of this timber and the experience with the sales of this timber in the Netherlands. FTT can apply its means to fulfill the need of the communities and the consumers on the Dutch market. FTT can offer the communities a reliable partnership and give them entrance to a foreign market. For the communities this means that they could have greater benefit from the sales of timber from the community forest. FTT can also offer support in the form of knowledge that is needed for timber production such as which species to harvest, which sizes to produce and arrange 3th party involvement which is needed in the production process. The benefit For FTT Is that it has the opportunity to sell high quality tropical timber from a sustainable source on the Dutch market. FTT also benefits from the fact that it has a direct supplier of tropical timber in Cameroon which is the community that produces the timber. This means that the supply chain is very short because there is only a producer (the community) and a buyer of the product (FTT). This short supply chain will result in a higher margin on the product for FTT. Another benefit for FTT is that they can market their product with the promise that it helps in the development (poverty reduction) of communities in a third world country which is definitely a

unique selling point on the Dutch market.

Therefore it can be said that there is an interesting opportunity for doing business with one or more of the visited communities.

In regard to the 3 communities I think that the community of MBACOF is the most interesting to start working with. The community is located on the N8 (the road from Nguti to Kumba) and the community forest is easy to reach from the villages that form this community. This is very interesting from a logistical point of view. The forest managing officer Mr. Paddy seems to be a very capable person to work with and I think that he will be able to direct the process of the timber exploitation. This community is also the only one of the three communities that has a group of forest guards. These forest guards are young people who frequently, often for periods of days, patrol the forest. During these patrols they look for illegal activities such as hunting and illegal timber exploitation. There is a big standing stock of timber in the community forest with species like Padouk, Dabema, Zingana and Movingui. The community itself seemed to be functioning very well. There are no signs of any conflicts that could pose a threat to future operations like there are in the community of REPACIG. Important to take into account that in one year their SMP will need to be renewed in 2015 because the SMP dates from April 2010.

FTT should make it very clear to the community that the process of transporting the timber from the forest to the premises of the forest should be done without the use of heavy machinery. At this moment the community members think that this will be done with heavy machinery like a caterpillar. When setting up a contract with the community FTT should clearly state that this should not be done in that way, because it is legally prohibited in community forests.

A possible partner in the southwestern region of Cameroon could be EFCO. This company could facilitate the machinery that is needed for the exploitation of the timber in the community forest. EFCO can also get FTT in contact with a transportation company. It is important to say that EFCO has an ongoing conflict with the community of REPACIG. Therefore it is hard to say if this company would be suitable for a partnership with FTT due to this conflict. It is advisable for FTT to conduct more research on this issue.

There are no timber prices mentioned in this rapport of the timber species FTT wants to buy. The reason for this is that the price of the timber will be established after negotiation with the community that would produce the timber. The price of 1m³ of Azobe that is mentioned in this rapport is used to demonstrate the difference of the market value of timber on the domestic market of Cameroon and the Dutch timber market.

12. Conclusion

In this research it became clear that there are certainly possibilities/opportunities for the (legal) purchase and export of tropical timber from community forests in the southwest region of Cameroon. The communities that were visited during the field research all have access to rich community forests with large standing volumes of timber. The timber species in these forests are interesting for FTT to export because they are in demand on the Dutch timber market. FTT can buy the timber directly from the communities if those communities get the needed permits and licenses for exploitation/ transformation and exportation. If a community wants to be an exporter of their timber (and so be able to sell their timber to FTT) they need to first get a community forest cutting license (CAE). After that they will need to get a transformation license which can be obtained by following the legal procedure 01/DTP/I (Attestation de Detention de Matériel de Transformation du Bois). After this the community has to get registered that they are a transformer of their timber. It is very important to mention that transformation should be done at the stump of the tree and that during the process no heavy machinery can be used in the process. Getting registered as a transformer can be done by following the legal procedure 02/DTP/I (Certificat d' enregistrement en qualité de Transformateur du Bois) if this is done the community needs to get registered as an exporter. This is done by following legal procedure 03/DTP/I (Certificat d' enregistrement en qualité d' exportateur de bois transformé). The final step for the community is to get an export authorization (AEB) this is done by following legal procedure 05/DTP/I. After completing this process the community will be legally allowed to cut/transform and export the timber from their community forest and FTT will be able to buy this timber from the community.

This shows that it is possible for FTT to (legally) buy and export tropical timber from community forests in the southwest region of Cameroon if the communities have these licenses and permits. This answers the main research question about what the possibilities are for FTT to buy and export (legal) tropical timber from community forests in the Southwest region of Cameroon.

This also partially answers the secondary research question about what has to be done for legal compliance with the rules of the government of Cameroon concerning the export of tropical hardwood. The other part of the secondary research question, what has to be done for legal compliance with the EUTR can be answered as follows: traders (in this case FTT) should be able to identify the operators or the traders who have supplied the timber. FTT will be able to comply with this demand of the EUTR with the field manual for traceability that was developed for the communities to use during timber exploitation. This field manual contains 3 forms on which all the important information, such as who did the felling/transformation and transportation of a tree, is documented. With the detailed information on these forms FTT will be able to identify all the operators who took part in the timber exploitation. When the community which exploits timber (therefore seen by the EUTR as an operator) uses these forms they will comply with point one and three of the required due diligence system, which demands that there should be measures and procedures that provide access to the information concerning the operator's supply of timber. And that there should be a procedure that enables the operator to analyze and evaluate the risk of illegally harvested timber being placed on the market.

Point two of the due diligence system is met because timber exploitation will only take place if all the needed legal procedures required for the exploitation and exportation of timber are completed. Communities should conduct frequent check of their forests for activities such as illegal timber exploitation to make sure that there not taking place. If all this is done the communities will meet the demands of the EUTR set out for operators.

Of the three visited communities MBACOF seems to be the most interesting community for FTT to work with. This community is very well organized and has a very capable forest managing officer. The MBACOF community forest has an interesting standing stock of timber and can be reached easily from the villages of this community. The MBACOF community forest is frequently patrolled by the team of forest guards of this community. These guards control the forest in order to prevent illegal activities taking place. At this moment MBACOF is the only community of the three where such a system is used. This system greatly reduces the chance of illegal timber exploitation in the community forest and will help the MBACOF community to meet the demand of the EUTR in regard to the obligation prevalence of illegal harvesting or practices in the region where the timber was harvested.

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Annex 1. The community review checklist

1. Geography			
Community name	MBACOF	REPAGIC	NLORMAC
1. Distance from the village(s) to the harbor of Douala	Approximately 200 km over hardened and partially hardened road. To get from the villages to the harbor of Douala takes at least 5 hours with good weather and road conditions, but can also be more than a day when the conditions are bad.	Approximately 195 km over hardened and partially hardened road. To get from the villages to the harbor of Douala takes at least 5 hours with good weather and road conditions, but can also be more than a day when the conditions are bad.	Approximately 190 km over hardened and partially hardened road. To get from the villages to the harbor of Douala takes at least 6 till 7.5 hours with good weather and road conditions, but can also be more than a day when the conditions are bad.
1.A What is the quality of this road?	The road that passes thru (the N8) the villages that make up MBACOF community is of good quality it is hardened and asphalted and has been reasonably good maintained. The quality changes when going in the direction of Kumba. At about half way from Nguti to Kumba the road changes from hardened to semi-hardened (dirt).	The same situation as in the villages of the MBACOF community. This is the same road that passes thru the villages.	The quality of the road leading to the village of Moungo Ndoi is not very good. It has can be very slippery when it is wet and to good driving skills are needed to pass it safely. There are plans to improve the road by using a caterpillar (which will flatten it out and make it much better) but this still has to be financed.
1.B. Additional information about the road condition	November /December 2014 work will start to improve the road that connects Nguti to Kumba (the N8). The semi-hardened sections of this road will be hardened and asphalted. When completed this will drastically decrease travel time between Nguti and Kumba.	idem	idem

2. What is the distance from the annual harvesting compartment to the nearest hardened road?	The distance is about 15 minutes walking; this is about 500 till 750 meters from the villages.	The distance is about 1 hour walking from the village of Mayemen this about 1.5 to 2 kilometers. The road leading to the community forest is in a bad shape and can be dangerous to pass!	The distance is about .45 till 1 hour walking from the village of Moungo Ndoi which is about 1.5 km kilometers.
3. The distance Of the village(s) i.c.t. the nearest big road where trucks can reach the harbor of Douala	All the villages are at the side of the asphalt road that connect Kumba whit Nguti (N8). This road is partially asphalt and partially unhardened (dirt road).	All the villages are at the side of the asphalt road that connects Kumba with Nguti (N8). This road is partially asphalt and partially unhardened (dirt road).	To get to the asphalt road that connects Kumba (N8) to Nguti take about 1 till 1.5 hour by car which is about 7 km. This road is unhardened but is accessible for trucks. The road can be very slippery in the rain season. To improve the accessibility of this road a caterpillar will need to be used to flatten the road.
4. How easily can a truck reach the pickup spot in the community forest?	At this moment it is not yet possible for a truck to enter the community forest because there is no road the leads to the community forest. There will have to be a road constructed when exploitation starts.	At this moment it is difficult for a lorry to reach the pickup spot in the forest due to the bad condition of the road in the community forest. This road has been partially eroded due to heavy rains.	At this moment it is not possible for a truck to reach the pickup spot because there is no road leading to the community forest that is accessible by truck.
4.B Which kind of truck could reach the community forest (if possible)	Not possible yet.	At this moment it is only possible for a small truck to reach the community forest.	Not possible yet.
2. Terrain conditions			
1. What is the state of the terrain in the concession (dry/wet/mud/rivers/floods)	At the time of the visit the terrain was quite wet and muddy, but this was because the visit	At the time of the visit to the community forest the terrain was very	The community forest was quite dry compared to the other community

	was done during the raining season. There are numerous streams running thru the terrain which will flood when there is heavy rain.	wet. There was a lot of mud and there where allot of puddles which made moving in the terrain difficult. There are some rivers that cross the community forest but they are on a lower level as the forest floor.	forests. This has to do with the fact that this forest is situated at a higher altitude than the other community forests. (Rain) water will flow away to the lower points.
1.B The geographical elements of the community forest (hills or flat etc.)	The community forest is quite flat with only some minor changes in altitude.	The community forest is situated in an area with some minor changes in altitude.	This community forest is very flat and easily accessible.
Community name	MBACOF	REPAGIC	NLORMAC
3. Languages and communicating			
1. Do the community member understand proper English or French	It is very easy to communicate with the community member. All people speak English and understand very clearly what one is saying.	It is very easy to communicate with the community member. All people speak English and understand very clearly what one is saying.	It is very easy to communicate with the community member. All people speak English and understand very clearly what one is saying.
1.B At what level can people read and write? And what is the spoken language?	Reading and writing is at a decent level in this community. The spoken language is English. Some community members can speak French as well.	Reading and writing is at a decent level in this community. The spoken language is English. Some community members can speak French as well.	Reading and writing is at a decent level in this community. The spoken language is English. Some community members can speak French as well.
Community name	MBACOF	REPAGIC	NLORMAC
4. Technological factors			
1. what kind of technology is available (pc/laptop/mobile phones)	The only available technology are mobile phones, some people have a smartphone.	The only available technology are mobile phones, some people have a smartphone.	The only available technology are mobile phones, some people have a smartphone.
2. What is the coverage of the mobile phone network (full/some/no range)	There is a good signal for mobile phones, even mobile internet is available.	The coverage of mobile phone signal is reasonable in the villages but bad in the community	It is very hard to get a signal for the mobile phone. There are only a few spots in the

		forest.	forest near the village from which a phone call can be made.
2.B. Additional information about the mobile phone network	In December 2014 it will be able to use a 3G connection in this area due to upgrading of the mobile phone network.	idem	idem
Community name	MBACOF	REPAGIC	NLORMAC
5. Social factors			
5.1. General			
1. The number of inhabitants of the community	Total population: 772 (survey conducted in 2010) Men: 129 Women: 43 Children: 600	Total population: 1551 (survey conducted in march 2004) Men: 251 Women: 136 Children: 1164	Total population: 727 (date of survey unknown) Male 5-15 years: 34 Female 5-15 years: 43 Male above 15 years: 281 Female above 15 years: 369
2. How well is the community functioning (are there any conflicts)?	This community seems to function very well; everyone has the same ideas and view about the exploitation of timber. There seem to be no conflicts in this community. The meeting with the board of the community was very organized and went very smooth.	Of the 3 visited communities this seems to be the least functioning community. The meeting with the board made a messy and unstructured impression. This could be because of the fact that the chief of this community (Chief Ebben) became very ill recently and was rushed to a hospital outside the village. He has not been able to do any work since. There are also villagers of this community that are against the exploitation of timber from the community forest and they have been troubling the board of the community in	This community seems to be functioning very well. People seem to be highly involved which each other and seem to take care for each other. The meeting with the board of the community was very organized and went very smooth.

		various ways. These villagers have also tried to stop the timber exploitation by setting up roadblocks and sabotaging the process of timber extraction. (see p.27)	
3. What is the biggest source of income of the community members at this moment?	The biggest source of income at this moment is agriculture, with the cash crops being bananas, rubber and cocoa.	The same as in the MBACOF community, agriculture.	The same as in the communities of MBACOF and REPAGIC, agriculture.
4. What are the expectations of the community members of working with FTT?	The community member has high expectations of working with FTT. They are looking forward to start earning money from their community forest.	Most of the community members of REPACIG are eager to start exploiting timber again. They really want to continue because they know what benefits can be gained from this. They think that FTT would be a very suitable partner because of the way that FTT is planning work (clear contracts etc.).	This community has also got high expectations of working with FTT. They are very eager to start the exploitation of timber from their community forest.
5. What does the community expect to do with the gained benefits of the timber exploitation?	If timber exploitation would start then the community wants invest the money they earn for setting up a medical facility, build a school and improve the water supply of the villages.	If timber exploitation would start then the community wants invest the money they earn for improving their water supply, finishing the school they started building and realize better healthcare facilities for the villages	If timber exploitation would start then the community wants invest the money they earn to improve many basic things in their village. They also would like to construct a town hall in which the community can have meetings. They also use it to maintain the road that connects them

			with the other villages.
6. Forestry general			
1. Do the community members have experience with the exploitation of timber?	Timber exploitation has not yet taken place in this community. There are people who can operate a chainsaw and a Lucas mill.	This community is the only one of the 3 visited communities in which timber exploitation has already taken place. They have a high level of experience with exploitation but due to a conflict with the economic operator they have stopped with timber exploitation in the beginning of 2014.	The community has not yet had any experience with timber exploitation.
2. How many people could work in timber exploitation	The exact number of people that could work with the project is unclear, but there are a lot of young people that are eager to help and earn some money by helping with the timber exploitation.	There are around 10 skilled foresters in this community, and also a lot of young people that could be employed in the timber exploitation process.	Although the exact number is not clear, there are people available to help with timber extraction.
3. What is the overall experience with timber production of this community	The overall experience of the community is low; they have only harvested timber for their private use.	The overall experience of this community is high since they already have been commercially exploiting timber	The overall experience of the community is low; they have only harvested timber for their private use.
7. Forestry Technical			
1. Do the community members involved in forestry have experience with a GPS tracker?	The forest managing officer has some experience with the use of a GPS tracking device, but has not practiced this for some time.	Yes, the people who worked with the economic operator in the process of timber exploitation have got experience with the use of GPS tracking device.	Yes there are some members of this community who have worked with a GPS tracking device.
2. Do the people that work	There are people who	The people that	There are some

in forestry have experience with setting up and working with a Lucas mill?	previously worked with other companies who are able to set up and work with a Lucas Mill.	have worked with the economic operator that conducted the timber exploitation are skilled in setting up and operating a Lucas Mill.	community members who have previously worked with a Lucas Mill, but this has been some time ago.																																								
8. Community forest data																																											
	MBACOF	REPAGIC	NLORMAC																																								
1. What is the size of the concession of the community?	The community forest has a size of 3155 ha	The community forest has a size of 5000 ha	The size of the community forest is 2191 ha.																																								
	the MBACOF community forest (CAE 2014)																																										
2.A What could be expected in forms of volume and production ? Volume of timber in the annual year block 2014	<table> <tr> <th>Tree species</th><th>No. stems</th><th>Standing volume m3</th><th>Volume sawn timber m3</th></tr> <tr> <td>Dabema</td><td>52</td><td>428.17</td><td>171.26</td></tr> <tr> <td>Movingui</td><td>9</td><td>58.57</td><td>23.42</td></tr> <tr> <td>Padouk Rouge</td><td>4</td><td>34.13</td><td>13.65</td></tr> <tr> <td>Zingana</td><td>6</td><td>58.36</td><td>23.34</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total</td><td>71</td><td>579.23 m3</td><td>231.49 m3</td></tr> </table>	Tree species	No. stems	Standing volume m3	Volume sawn timber m3	Dabema	52	428.17	171.26	Movingui	9	58.57	23.42	Padouk Rouge	4	34.13	13.65	Zingana	6	58.36	23.34	Total	71	579.23 m3	231.49 m3																		
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	The NLORMAC community forest																																										
	At this moment there is no data available of the possible year block for 2014. Data of the total amount of timber can be found in the SMP. A hardcopy of this SMP is in my possession and is available for FTT when requested.																																										
Community name	MBACOF	REPAGIC	NLORMAC																																								
9. Environmental factors																																											

1. Is waste management practiced in the community forest?	Waste management is a widely practiced in this community. Since they rely on the forest to provide them with food and water they are very keen on keeping the forest and the soil unpolluted.	Waste management is a widely practiced in this community. Since they rely on the forest to provide them with food and water they are very keen on keeping the forest and the soil unpolluted.	Waste management is a widely practiced in this community. Since they rely on the forest to provide them with food and water they are very keen on keeping the forest and the soil unpolluted.
2. What is view of the forest manager on the environmental impact of timber exploitation?	The forest manager thinks that due to the use of rotational exploitation system of year blocks and the use of directional felling the impact of timber exploitation will be minimal. The forest gets enough time to recover (minimal 25 years) and by taking out the biggest trees the smaller trees will get more chance to grow and develop.	At the moment of the visit there was no active forest manager. So this question cannot be answered.	The view of the forest managing officer is the same as the view of the forest managing officer of the MBACOF community. Because of the rotation system of the year blocks the forest gets enough time to recover after exploitation has taken place. And by practicing directional felling the damage that is done to smaller and younger trees will be kept at a minimum.
3. What is the state of the community forest (are there any signs of pollution)?	There were no signs of pollution found during the visit, this is the result of the strict waste management that is practiced.	There were no signs found of pollution during the visit, but the site of the last timber extraction seemed a bit messy with piles of unused timber scattered around the site.	There were no signs of pollution found during the visit, this is the result of the strict waste management that is practiced.
List of persons spoken with on field visit	MBACOF	REPAGIC	NLORMAC
Chiefs	Chief Samuel Mbonya Forbe 06-2014	Chief Nkongo Jacob Eben 06-2014	Chief Samuel Ekoko 06-2014
Community Board meeting	Attendance list was lost during traveling in Cameroon. Chief Samuel Mbonya Forbe and DR. Peguy Tchouto can give	06-2014 Of Manyemen: Honorary deputy Mr. Tabi Langason (+237)74434370	06-2014 of Mungo Ndoi: Mr. Nkoh Jospeh Akime Mr. Okie Emmanuel

	a conformation of the community visit.	<p>Mr. Simon Ayuk (+237)96250252</p> <p>Mr. Abraham Tabison (+237) 78663407</p> <p>Miss. Agines Besong</p> <p>Mr. Ayuk Nsuh (+237) 75107879</p> <p>Mr. John Besong</p> <p>Miss. Ayuk Elizabeth (+237) 47104371</p> <p>Mr. Eben Divine (+237) 94307768</p> <p>Mbork Benson (+237) 73231757</p> <p>Miss. Bisong Mary</p> <p>Mr. Bisong John (+237) 76431614</p> <p>Of Betock</p> <p>Mr. Maurice Mbelle (+237) 77713463</p> <p>Mr. Akwo Samuel (+237) 53751415</p> <p>Unclear</p> <p>Mr. Ekomje</p>	<p>Mr. Etumbe Young</p> <p>Of New Konye: Mr. Justice Epuli Mr. Ebe Ben Ebel Robinson</p> <p>Of Ntale: mr. Mbole Wilson mr. Esongo Henry Chief Ebong Chief Ajang</p>
Forest manager	Forest manager Paddy (+237) 9383290/7016363	Not appointed at this moment. Previous F.M.O. Tayo Beltus Tekwayang. (spoken 23-06-2014)	Pa Kang (forest Manager) (+237)77965039
MINFOF/GFA For the southwestern region of Cameroon	Name	Function	Tel. nr
	Frank Stenmanns	GFA team leader	(+237) 33322679/ 75508835
	Dr. Peguy Tchouto	Head of PSMNR-SW	(+237) 99579820/ 79830700
	Dadu Njong	Chief of post, forestry deligate Nguti Area	(+237)77286252

Annex 2. Field manual for the usage of the traceability forms

Field manual for the use of the traceability forms



A guideline for the proper use of the forms that enable traceability of timber products.

Author: Remco Dragt

Company: Fair Tropical Timber B.V.

Summary

This document is an instruction on how to use the forms that have been made to trace timber that is harvested in community forests in Cameroon. This document can be used as a step by step guideline for the usage of form A, B and C. These forms can be found attached in this document.

1. Why have these forms been designed?

The forms have been designed to enable to track timber that has been harvested in community forests. This timber has been harvested in community forests in the Southwest Region of Cameroon and will be sold on the Dutch timber market. Because of European regulations, the buyers of this community timber must be able to show where the timber was harvested and who was involved in the process of harvesting, transformation and transportation. By using the forms, the buyers of the community timber are able to do this.

2. What is important when using these forms?

When using Form A, B or C it is important that the form should be filled out clearly and readable. It is also very important that the forms are filled out at the moment of felling, transformation or transport. This will make sure that no facts are missed!

Please read this manual with great care, it will help you with the proper use of the forms.

Remember that every filled out form needs to be copied at least one time, and one copy should be sent to FTT. So it is important that all forms are stored in a proper manner and with the person in charge of the communication with FTT.

3. Form A, the form to use at the felling location.

FORM A	FELLING	form code A:
<u>General information</u>		
Time and date		
Name of the community forest		
Year block number		
<u>Location of the tree</u>		
GPS location		
Location on the map incl. number on the map		
Documented on DF-10 form no.		
<u>Information about the tree</u>		
Trade name and botanic name of the tree		
Tree diameter at DBH		
Length of the logs		
Diameter of the logs		
<u>Responsible for the operation</u>		
Head of the sawing team:	signature:	
Name of people involved:		
Name 1	Signature:	
Name 2	Signature:	
Name 3	Signature:	
Name 4	Signature:	
Name 5	Signature:	
Name 6	Signature:	
(Economic) Operator:	Signature:	
Buyer of the timber:	Fair Tropical Timber BV, Utrecht, The Netherlands.	

For Instructions check the next page!

3.1. Explanation on how to use form A

Form A is used at the location at which the tree is felled. This form is the first one that is used in the process of timber extraction.

3.2 Explanation of the form:

Form code A -> this refers to the number of the document (form). Is this the first tree that is harvested in the annual year block? Then the code will be 1. When for example this is the 10th tree that is felled the form code will be 10.

General information

Time and date-> Write down the date and time at which the tree was felt. The date should be written in day-month-year, for example: 21-08-2014.

Name of the community forest->to which community does the forest belong? For example: the community of REPACIG.

Year block-> in which year block does the felling taking place? For example: the number of the block for year one.

Location of the tree

GPS Location-> if possible write down the GPS coordinates at the base of the tree (in the forest).

Location on the map incl. number on the map-> Ask the forest managing officer to write down the location of the tree (section of the map as well as the number the tree has on that map.)

Documented on the DF-10 form no. -> Write down the number of the tree as it is documented on the DF- 10 form. Also write down the number of the DF-10 form

Information about the tree

Trade name and botanic name of the tree-> Please write down the British trade name of the tree, as well as the botanic name.

Tree diameter at DBH-> Write down the diameter that the tree has at breast height.

Length of the log-> Write down the length of the logs the tree has been cut to.

Diameter of the logs-> Write down the diameter of the logs in the same order as you written down the lengths.

Responsible for the operation

Head of the sawing team-> Let the head of the sawing team write down his name and place a signature.

Name of the people involved-> Please write down the name of the persons involved in the felling process and let them place a signature.

(Economic) operator-> Write down the name of the (economic) operator and let him place a signature.

4. Form B, the form to use when processing the timber.

FORM B	Processing		form code B:
<u>General information</u>			
Time and date			
Form code of form A		A:	
Name of the community forest			
<u>Information about the tree</u>			
Trade name and botanic name of the tree			
<u>Production</u>			
Board number	width mm	Thickness mm	Length mm
total number of boards		total volume of boards processed	
number of boards:		Total volume m ³ :	
<u>Responsible for the operation</u>			
Head of the processing team:		signature:	
Name of people involved:			
Name 1		signature	
Name 2		signature	
name 3		signature	
name 4		signature	
name of person responsible for final inspection and date/time of final inspection			
name :	signature		date/time:
(Economic) Operator:			signature:
Buyer of the timber:		Fair Tropical Timber BV, Utrecht, The Netherlands.	

For Instructions check the next page!

4.1 Explanation on how to use form B

Form B is used at the location at which the tree is processed. This form is the second one that is used in the process of timber extraction.

4.2 Explanation of the form.

Form code B -> This refers to the number of the document (form). Is this the first tree that is felled in this annual year block? Then the code will be 1. When for example this is the 10th tree that is felled the form code will be 10. Form code B should be the same as the form code A of the tree you are going to process. This is because form B describes what happens to the tree described in form A.

General information

Time and date-> Write down the time at which the tree was felled and the date. The date should be written in day-month-year. For example: 21-08-2014.

Form code of form A-> This is the code that has been given to form A of the tree you are going to process. If you are processing a tree that has been documented on form A1 the code for form B will thus be B1.

Name of the community forest-> to which community does the forest belong? For example: The community of MBACOF.

Information about the tree

Trade name and botanic name of the tree-> Please write down the British trade name of the tree, as well as the botanic name.

Production

Board number-> every board you saw from a log has to be numbered starting at 1 and ending at the last board you saw from the log. Write down the board numbers and their specifications (sizes) .For example board number 1 till 15 have a size of 100 x 50 x 2500 mm. If you run out of writing space please continue on the back of the form.

Number of boards-> Count all the boards you have numbered.

Total volume of m³-> calculate the volume of the boards in m³.

To get from millimeter (mm) to meters divide by 1000.

Width in meters x length in meters= m²

m² x thickness in meters= m³ (cubic meters)

Responsible for the operation

Head of the processing team-> Let the head of the sawing team write down his name and place a signature.

Name of the people involved-> Please write down the name of the persons involved in the felling process and let them place a signature.

Name of person responsible for final inspection and date/time of final inspection-> Write down the name of the person in charge with the final inspection and let him place a signature. Also write down the date and the time as you did in the beginning of the form.

(Economic)Operator-> Write down the name of the (economic) operator and let him place a signature.

5. Form C, the form to use when the timber is transported.

FORM C	Transportation		form code C:
<u>General information</u>			
time and date			
Form code of form A and B		A:	B:
Name of the community forest(origin)			
<u>Information about the tree</u>			
Trade name and botanic name of the tree			
<u>What is being transported (specifications)</u>			
Board number	width mm	thickness mm	Length mm
total number of boards		total volume of boards transported	
number of boards:		Total volume m ³ :	
<u>Responsible for the operation</u>			
Name of the transport company			
<u>Destination of the transported timber</u>			
destination:			
<u>Name of the truck driver</u>			
Name driver 1		signature:	
Name driver 2		signature:	
name of driver responsible for final inspection and date/time of final inspection			
name :	signature		date/time:
Number of the Waybill:			Date:
Buyer of the timber:		Fair Tropical Timber BV, Utrecht, The Netherlands.	

For Instructions check the next page!

5.1. Explanation of form C.

Form C is used at the location at which the tree is transported. This form is the third one that is used in the process of timber extraction.

5.2 Explanation of the form.

Form code C -> This refers to the number of the document (form). Is this the first tree that is harvested in the annual year block? Then the code will be 1. When for example this is the 10th tree that is felt the form code will be 10. Form code C should be the same as the form code A and B of the tree you are going to transport. This is because form C describes what happens to the tree described in form A and B.

General information

Time and date-> Write down the time at which the tree was felt and the date. The date should be written in day-month-year. For example: 21-08-2014.

Form code of form A and B-> This is the code that has been given to form A and B of the tree you are going to transport. If you are transporting a tree that has been documented on form A1 and B1 the code for form C will thus be C1.

Name of the community forest (origin)-> To which community does the forest belong? For example: The community of REPACIG.

Information about the tree

Trade name and botanic name of the tree-> Please write down the British trade name of the tree, as well as the botanic name.

What is being transported (specifications)

Board number-> Every board you transport has been numbered. Write down the board numbers and their specifications (sizes). For example board number 1 till 15 have a size of 100 x 50 x 2500 mm. If you run out of writing space please continue on the back of the form.

Number of boards-> Count all the boards you have numbered.

Total volume of m³-> calculate the volume of the boards in m³.

To get from millimeter (mm) to meters divide by 1000.

Width in meters x length in meters = m²

m² x thickness in meters = m³ (cubic meters)

Responsible for the operation:

Name of the transport company-> Write down the name of the company that is transporting the wood.

Destination of the transported timber

Destination-> Write down the destination of the timber.

Name of the truck driver

Name driver 1 and 2-> Write down the name of the driver(s) of the truck and place a signature. If there is only one driver then he only has to write his name down and place a signature.

Name of driver responsible for final inspection and date/time of final inspection

Name of driver responsible for final inspection and date/time of final inspection-> Write down the name of the driver in charge with the final inspection and let him place a signature. Also write down the date and the time as you did in the beginning of the form.

Number of the waybill (lettre de voiture)

Please write down the number of the waybill as well as the date written on the waybill.

This is the end of this Manual. We hope that this Manual helped you with the filling out of the needed forms. If you have any questions about the forms you can always ask the forest managing officer or the person in charge of the operation to clarify what you don't understand.

Have a nice working day!