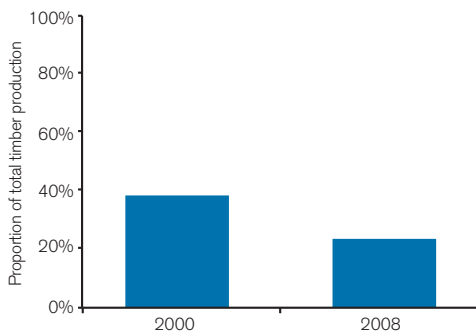


# Cameroon

## Chatham House illegal logging indicators country report card

Wood-balance estimates of illegal log production, 2000 and 2008



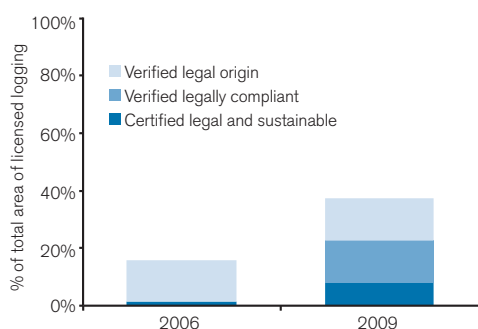
### Policy Assessment Results

(green = relatively good / red = poor)

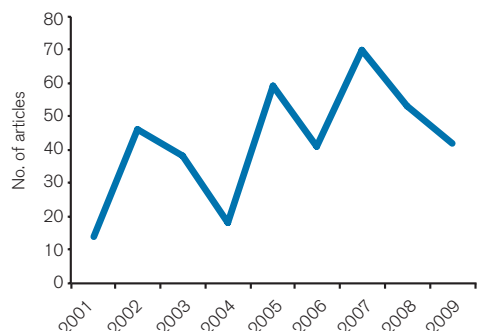
High-level policy	Orange
Legislative framework	Yellow
Checks and balances	Yellow
International trade cooperation*	Red
Supply and demand	Red
Tenure and use rights*	Yellow
Timber tracking	Yellow
Transparency	Yellow
Resource allocation*	Green
Law enforcement	Orange
Information management	Orange
Financial management	Green

\*Because of the nature of the scoring method, the results for international cooperation give a more negative impression and those for tenure and resource allocation a more positive impression than they should.

### Independently verified log production



### International media coverage trend



### Levels of Illegal Logging

- Illegal logging in Cameroon has declined by around 50% since 1999. Most of the reduction occurred in the first part of the 2000s, and all is related to industrial production for export – small-scale illegal logging for domestic markets appears to have increased.
- The majority of experts surveyed thought that illegal logging had been reduced.
- Key factors have been the work of the donor-supported Independent Observer of Forest Law Enforcement and Governance and demands from European buyers.
- Experts believed that on average around 35% of production continues to be sourced illegally, a considerably lower figure than in Brazil, Ghana or Indonesia.

### Government Response

- Cameroon is the only one of the five producer countries studied which has a national-level independent monitor in place, and this has led to some improvements in government response. Both the area inspected each year and the revenue collection rate have increased.
- Although there have been some improvements, relevant laws, policies and regulations in Cameroon remain quite weak in a number of areas, however.
- The country scored particularly poorly in the review of institutional and operational factors in law enforcement and of information management. Coordination of different agencies involved in enforcement is poor, fines are often insufficiently dissuasive and less than half are collected.
- However, a number of additional improvements to policies and regulations are under way, partly in response to the voluntary partnership agreement (VPA) with the European Union.

### Private-sector Response

- The area of production forest independently verified for legality or sustainability in Cameroon doubled between 2006 and 2009 – 37% of production forest is now verified, second only to Malaysia among the five producer countries studied.
- Demands from buyers in Europe have been a key driver of verification.
- Much of the production not yet verified is destined for less sensitive markets – the majority of experts surveyed believe that companies supplying such markets are not yet under pressure to act.

### Media Attention

- Although international media attention to illegal logging in Cameroon has shown a general increase over the last ten years, there is much less attention to the problem than in Brazil, Indonesia and Malaysia. Domestic coverage increased dramatically in 2008.

### Areas for Improvement

- Both the timber-tracking system and the forest information management system (SIGIF) urgently need to be improved and better implemented. This is expected under the VPA with the EU.
- Penalties need to be increased and fully implemented if they are to provide a sufficient deterrent. Enforcement coordination needs to be improved, as does the use by government agencies of more sophisticated methodologies and technologies for detecting illegal logging.
- Greater effort is needed in addressing artisanal logging for the domestic market, which now represents the bulk of illegal logging.