

NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2025/056

Geneva, 15 April 2025

CONCERNING:

CAMEROON, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CONGO,
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, EQUATORIAL GUINEA AND GABON

Non-detriment findings (NDFs)
for timber species in Central Africa

1. The Notification is published at the request of the States of the Central African subregion, namely Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea.
2. At the invitation of the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC), the CITES Authorities of the abovementioned countries, as well as technical, financial and scientific partners (ATIBT, CIRAD, FRMi, GIZ, KFW/PPECF, the University of Helsinki), including the private sector (ALPICAM, IFCO, SEFECCAM, IFO, CIB-OLAM, SYNEFOR, GFBC, UNICONGO, Likouala Timber, CUF, GSEZ) met in Douala from 17 to 20 March 2025. The meeting was aimed at discussing the formulation and implementation of non-detriment findings (NDFs) for CITES Appendix II-listed tree species in Central Africa.

Preamble

- Recalling that the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) seeks to ensure that international trade in species included in its Appendices does not threaten their survival through three key pillars: regulation of trade, enforcement and international cooperation;
- Stressing that the implementation of CITES is based on a system of permits and certificates that ensures the control of trade depending on the level of threat of species included in Appendices I, II and III of the Convention;
- Considering the continuous increase in the number of African tree species listed in CITES Appendix II, which imposes additional obligations on Central African countries regarding sustainable trade in these species;
- Recognizing the efforts made by the States of the subregion to comply with the regulatory provisions of CITES, including the building of their technical capacities for making non-detriment findings;

Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

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- Welcoming the efforts of the CITES Secretariat to build the capacity of its Parties for making NDFs, in particular through the production of guidance documents on NDFs, such as those developed at the international expert workshop held in Nairobi in December 2023;
- Noting the persistent disparities between CITES Parties in the making of NDFs, which complicates the uniform implementation of CITES requirements and slows down the legal export of the species concerned under the provisions of Article XIV of the Convention;
- Recognizing that the speed and efficiency of administrative procedures are essential to ensure legal, sustainable and traceable trade in the species concerned;
- Noting that some Parties apply excessively long delays in processing applications for CITES permits, which constitutes a major obstacle to the legal trade in specimens and contravenes the provisions of Article VIII of the Convention;

The participants agreed to inform CITES Parties of the following conclusions:

- The outline presented in the annex to this Notification has been **adopted as the common framework** for the making of NDFs for Central African timber tree species listed in Appendix II, on the basis of Module 10 resulting from the expert workshop held in Nairobi in December 2023;
- **The NDF** will be **the main management document** to be considered for Central African timber tree species listed in CITES Appendix II, in accordance with the provisions of Article IV of the Convention;
- **Validated NDFs complete the legal and regulatory framework of Central African countries;** in this context, the content of NDFs will be binding at national level;
- The basic data and information used to make NDFs will be appended to them **to guarantee the transparency of the methodologies used and the results obtained**. These elements will include: (i) a stand table derived from the management inventory; (ii) the total number of stems and the exploitable volume above the minimum exploitable diameter under management for logging areas; and (iii) the parameters used to set quotas;
- **Internal measures taken by States in accordance with the provisions of CITES Article XIV should not undermine the principles of regulating international trade.**

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***Common outline for non-detriment findings (NDFs)
for timber species in Central Africa***

Preamble

Executive summary

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 General information on the country and international commitments
- 1.1.2 Background to the listing of the species
- 1.1.3 Identification of the species concerned

1.2 Process for the making of NDFs

- 1.2.1 Objectives of the NDF
- 1.2.2 Organization of the making of the NDF
- 1.2.3 Methodological procedures and choices for making the NDF
- 1.2.4 Data used
- 1.2.5 Parameters for analysing the risks to the species

1.3 The country and CITES

2 Forest management

2.1 Conservation measures and precautionary principles

2.2 Forest management objectives

2.3 Legal forest titles for forest production

- 2.3.1 Long-term forest titles (permanent production forests)
- 2.3.2 Short- and medium-term forest titles (non-permanent forests and temporary logging areas)

2.4 International regulations

2.5 National management regulations in force

- 2.5.1 Rotation length
- 2.5.2 Minimum exploitable diameters (MED)
- 2.5.3 Annual logging unit (*assiette annuelle de coupe*, AAC, in French)
- 2.5.4 Recovery rate

2.6 Sustainable management efforts

2.7 Threat assessment

- 2.7.1 Threats to habitats: deforestation and degradation
- 2.7.2 Illegal logging
- 2.7.3 Vulnerability of the species

2.8 Management measures at concession level

- 2.8.1 List and mapping of forest titles
- 2.8.2 Progress in the management of forest concessions
- 2.8.3 Method for calculating recovery rates
- 2.8.4 Recovery rates, minimum diameters, rotation lengths and harvesting limits

2.9 Evaluation of the implementation of previous NDFs

- 2.9.1 Use of quotas
- 2.9.2 Implementation review
- 2.9.3 Final recommendations

3 Description of the species

3.1 General description of the species

- 3.1.1 Taxonomy of the species
- 3.1.2 Biological characteristics

3.2 IUCN conservation status

3.3 Area of distribution of XX

3.3.1 Area of distribution of XX in Africa

3.3.2 Area of distribution of XX in country X

3.4 Ecology of XX

3.4.1 Phenology

3.4.2 Dispersal strategy

3.4.3 Germination and natural regeneration

3.4.4 Specific habitats and vulnerabilities

3.5 Key management parameters

3.5.1 Annual increments

3.5.2 Annual mortality and damages caused by logging

3.5.3 Population structure

4 Use and trade of the species

4.1 Commercial use

4.2 Annotation

4.3 Contribution of the sector to the national economy

5 Methodology for setting national export quotas and results

5.1 Methodology for setting national export quotas

5.1.1 Principle for setting quotas

5.1.2 Inventory data in the annual logging units

5.1.3 Harvest rates

5.1.4 Marketing coefficient

5.1.5 Industrial material yields and conversion rates

5.1.6 Volumes not harvested in annual logging units remaining open to exploitation

5.1.7 Timber stockpiles

5.1.8 Local sales

5.2 Quota

6 Monitoring and control of logging and exports

6.1 Monitoring and control of logging by the competent authorities (national provision)

6.2 Traceability

6.3 Procedures in force for the management of xx in the framework of CITES

6.3.1 CITES regulations

6.3.2 Other regulations

6.4 Treatment of infringements

6.5 Scientific research

7 Prospects and recommendations

7.1 Strengthening scientific and technical knowledge

7.2 Improving monitoring and control mechanisms

7.3 Adapting to regulatory changes and market requirements

7.4 Prospects for continuous improvement of NDFs

8 References

9 Annex(es)

9.1 Annex 1. Stand table resulting from the management inventory for each FMU;

9.2 Annex 2. Total number of stems and exploitable volume above the minimum exploitable diameter (MED) for areas logged annually;

9.3. Annex 3. Parameters used to set quotas.