



Forum des Nations Unies sur les Forêts

**STUDY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL
FRAMEWORK OF MONITORING AND EVALUATION
OF THE PROGRESS OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST
MANAGEMENT IN CAMEROON**

FINAL REPORT

Yaounde, February 28, 2022

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ANAFOR: National Forestry Development Support Agency

ASYCUDA: Automated Computerised Customs System

BIS: Biodiversity Information System

CENADEFOR: National Centre for Forestry Development

CHM: Clearing House Mechanism

CONCAM: Cameroon Forestry Marketing

EIS: Energy Information System

FMU: Forest Management Unit

FNFP: National Forest and Fish Fund

FRSP: Forestry Revenue Securement Programme

FSDF: Special Forestry Development Fund

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

GESP: Growth and Employment Strategy Paper

ICT: Information and Communication Technologies

IRIS: Institute of International and Strategic Relations

ITTO: International Tropical Timber Organisation

MINEF: Ministry of the Environment and Forests

MINEP: Ministry of the Environment and Nature Protection

MINEPAT: Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development

MINEPDED: Ministry of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development

MINFI: Ministry of Finance

MINFOF: Ministry of Forests and Wildlife

NDS30: National Development Strategy 2020-2030

NIS: National Institute of Statistics

NTFP: Non-timber forest products

OCAF: Observatory of Central African Forests

ONADEF: National Forestry Development Office

ONAREF: National Office of Forest Regeneration

PIB: Public Investment Budget

SDG: Sustainable Development Goals

SFM: Sustainable Forest Management

SIGIF: Computerised Forest Information Management System

TIAMA: Inventory Processing Applied to Development Modelling

UNFAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

UNFF: United Nations Forum on Forests

UNIF: United Nations Instrument on Forests

UNSPF: United Nations Strategic Plan 2017-2030 on Forests

WRI: World Resources Institute

ZIC: Zones of Hunting Interest

ZICGC: Zone of Hunting Interest with Community Management

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is not possible to measure progress towards sustainable forest management in a country if the country does not have a national system for monitoring forest management indicators. A robust national system for measuring, collecting, managing and analysing forest-related data is needed to produce and make available all the information necessary to monitor progress in sustainable forest management.

The adoption of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) in 2017, following the adoption of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on all types of forests, 2007, specifically required UN member countries to make progress towards the achievement of its six global forest-related goals and twenty-six (26) objectives, as well as the forest-related sustainable development goals. However, many developing countries, like Cameroon, face many challenges in collecting, managing and processing data for monitoring and assessing progress towards sustainable forest management. Very often, even if relevant data are available in the countries, they are often scattered among different government agencies and private organisations.

Recognising this situation, the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) decided to assist countries in the process of developing comprehensive and effective national systems for monitoring progress towards sustainable forest management, with national indicators to adequately and appropriately cover all aspects of sustainable forest management as enshrined in the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF), the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests, and the forest-related Sustainable Development Goals.

To achieve this, it is necessary to make an inventory and review of existing forest-related databases, the type of data they generate, the mapping of gaps in data collection, management and processing, the best ways to address these gaps and the proposal of appropriate national indicators for monitoring progress towards sustainable forest management.

It is within this framework that a study was carried out in Cameroon. This report presents the main results of the study. It shows that the country has significant forestry databases with indicators to measure progress towards sustainable forest management. However, these forestry databases have gaps in the production and uses of forestry data, particularly in relation to the aspects of sustainable forest management enshrined in the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF), the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on all types of forests, and the forest-related Sustainable Development Goals.

Finally, the report makes recommendations to address these gaps, including, inter alia, the need to (1) clearly define the matrix of indicators for monitoring progress towards sustainable forest management and share it with other key actors in sustainable forest management; (2) ensure better integration of the six (6) Global Forest Objectives and the twenty-six (26) associated targets and their indicators approved and adopted by the United Nations Strategic Plan on Forests 2017-2030, as well as the regional indicators in the forestry databases in Cameroon; and (3) ensure the functioning of the Operational Unit for the Management of Forest and Wildlife Statistics of the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF).

I. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The last two decades have been marked by intense global efforts to develop a consensus on common approaches to reporting on the sustainable management of the world's forest resources. Since its inception, the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) has encouraged the submission of voluntary national reports by Member States.

The work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, in accordance with UN Resolution 4/3, has guided many countries in developing and implementing national-level programmes for monitoring, assessing and reporting on progress towards sustainable forest management. The criteria and indicators for these country programmes were drawn from various collaborative regional processes. These include, according to UNFF (2016), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Montreal Process, the Taraputo Process of low forest cover countries and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Sustainable forest management, defined by the United Nations General Assembly as "...a dynamic and evolving concept aimed at maintaining and enhancing the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests for the benefit of present and future generations"

(UN A/RES/62/98), varies over time between countries. Consensus has been developed by Member States on seven major thematic elements of sustainable forest management:

- The extent of forest resources
- Forest biological diversity; and
- Forest health and vitality; - Productive functions of forests
- Productive functions of forests;
- Protective functions of forest resources
- Socio-economic functions of forest resources;
- Policy, legal and institutional framework (UN A/RES/62/98, 2008).

However, it was not until 2007 that the UN General Assembly agreed on a global framework for the UN Forest Instrument, in accordance with UN A/RES/62/98 (2008). Subsequently, the UN General Assembly, in January 2017, approved and adopted the UN Strategic Plan on Forests for the period 2017-2030 focusing on six (6) Global Forest Goals and twenty-six (26) associated targets as well as the UN Instrument on Forests.

The 12th session of the UN Forum on Forests recommended a further revision of the proposed new format for voluntary national reports to the Forum on the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan on Forests, including the UN Forest Instrument and voluntary national contributions, based on a consultation with stakeholders in selected member countries. This was to enable key stakeholders to familiarise themselves with the requirements of the new national reporting format and to help improve the clarity of the objectives and indicators needed.

At the national level, countries generally have traditional forest inventory systems to collect biophysical data on their forest resources. The growing recognition of the role of forests in social, economic and environmental issues has expanded the need to collect new types of forest-related data and monitor changes, including on climate change, biodiversity conservation, land degradation, economic development, social inclusion and poverty eradication.

The implementation of any programme or policy therefore requires periodic monitoring and evaluation of its results and impact. To this end, a robust and credible national system of data measurement, collection, management and analysis is essential for reporting on sustainable forest management (SFM) efforts, national forest policy development, planning and programming to enable countries to provide an accurate and data-driven assessment to meet international commitments to sustainable forest management, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

However, many developing countries, including Cameroon, face numerous challenges in collecting, managing and processing data for monitoring and assessing progress in sustainable forest management (SFM). Even when relevant data is available, it is often dispersed among different government agencies and private organisations.

In view of these many challenges, there is a need to:

- i) Develop a better reporting system to adequately and appropriately cover all aspects of sustainable forest management (SFM) as enshrined in the UN Forest Instrument (UNFI) and the UN Strategic Plan on Forests (UNSPF);
- ii) Streamline data collection and reporting requirements, in order to reduce the reporting burden on countries to multiple international and regional processes.

The main objective of this study is to support and assist Cameroon in developing a comprehensive and effective system for monitoring progress towards sustainable forest management (SFM). This will be achieved through a progressive, step-by-step approach, which will include the development of a national monitoring and evaluation framework for conducting inventories of existing forest-related data, mapping data gaps, resolving these gaps, and selecting appropriate national indicators for monitoring progress towards sustainable forest management (SFM).

This report, which is the first output of this process, presents the results of the mapping of existing basic forestry data, including forest-related socio-economic data, the mapping of existing gaps and the identification of tools to fill these gaps, national and international forestry reporting requirements, and indicators that can be used as a basis for assessing progress towards sustainable forest management.

The Consultant reviewed the main policies and programmes in the forestry sector that have an impact on sustainable forest management. Subsequently, a survey was carried out among resource persons within the public administrations and structures responsible for the production of forestry data in Cameroon (MINFOF, MINEPDED, MINFI, etc.). The survey questionnaire focused on examining the level of knowledge of databases, identifying existing forestry databases in Cameroon, identifying indicators for measuring progress towards sustainable forest management in Cameroon, assessing the level of knowledge of indicators for measuring progress towards sustainable forest management, mapping existing gaps in the production and use of forestry data in Cameroon, and collecting proposals for filling these gaps (see Annex I).

The data collected during the survey was analysed and processed to produce this report. This report is divided into three (03) main parts:

- The part on the overview of the forestry sector in Cameroon: the Cameroonian forestry sector is reviewed by briefly describing the institutional and strategic framework of the sector;
- The section on the results of the study;
- The part on the general conclusion and recommendations of the study

II. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE FORESTRY SECTOR IN CAMEROON

II.1 THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

From independence to the 1990s, the exploitation of Cameroon's forests was carried out by means of cutting permits, cutting sales and licences. At that time, a single forest exploiter could benefit from several cutting areas at the same time in one year. The development of forests was the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture. From 1979, the State successively set up the FNFP, ONAREF, CENADEFOR and ONADEF to deal with reforestation and forestry development issues. With the support of the Canadian cooperation, these structures will carry out national inventories on about 14 million hectares.

Under the impetus of the World Bank and in line with international guidelines on biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of forest resources, the Cameroonian government undertook, in the early 1990s, far-reaching reforms of its forestry policy in order to create an institutional framework favourable to sustainable forest management.

These reforms were marked in particular by:

- the creation in 1992 of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MINEF), which was split into MINFOF and MINEP at the end of 2004;
- the development of Cameroon's forestry policy in 1993;
- the adoption of a new forestry law on 20 January 1994, supplemented by an implementation decree of 23 August 1995;
- the development and adoption by the country of a basic instrument essential for the sustainable management of its forest heritage: the Forest-Environment Sector Programme (FESP).

The 1994 law on the forest, wildlife and fisheries regime and the 1996 law on the framework law for environmental management establish a political and strategic framework based on the following axes:

- Sustainable forest management ;
- Contribution to economic growth and poverty alleviation.
- Participatory management;
- The conservation of biodiversity through a national network of protected areas;
- Strengthening the public sector in its core functions;
- The establishment of a regulatory framework favourable to the development of the private sector;
- Making the land-use planning system coherent through a zoning plan for Southern Cameroon's forests
- Improving governance.

The general orientation of Cameroon's forestry policy aims at 'the perpetuation and development of the economic, ecological and social functions of forests, within the framework of integrated management, ensuring the conservation and use of forest resources and ecosystems in a sustained and sustainable manner'. This is reflected in its strategic framework.

II.2 THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

For its economic and social development, Cameroon adopted a long-term development vision in 2009, which aims to make Cameroon "an emerging country, democratic and united in its diversity by 2035". This proactive Vision has as its specific objectives: (i) to achieve economic growth close to double digits; (ii) to reach the threshold of 25% as a share of manufacturing production in the GDP; (iii) to reduce poverty by bringing its incidence to less than 10% in 2035; (iv) to consolidate the democratic process and strengthen national unity while respecting the diversity that characterises the country. The first phase of implementation of this Vision was implemented by the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP), which thus constituted the reference framework for the 2010-2019 period.

As the DSCE expires on 31 December 2019, the National Development Strategy for the 2030 horizon (SND30) constitutes the new reference framework for the 2020-2030 period.

It is based on three (03) fundamental orientations, namely (i) a mix of import/substitution and export promotion based on the comparative advantages of the national economy; (ii) a strategic and pragmatic State which puts in place facilities for the emergence of the private sector as the main engine of economic growth and carries out targeted interventions in highly strategic sectors; and (iii) an articulation between indicative and imperative planning combining the rather restrictive format of five-year planning and the indicative format of strategic planning. The overall objectives pursued by the NDS30 are:

- i. To create the conditions for economic growth and accumulation of national wealth and to ensure that the structural changes necessary for the industrialisation of the country are achieved;
- ii. Improve the living conditions of the population and their access to basic social services by ensuring a significant reduction in poverty and underemployment
- iii. Strengthen climate change adaptation and mitigation measures and environmental management to ensure sustainable and inclusive economic growth and social development;
- iv. Improve governance to strengthen the performance of public action in order to achieve development objectives.

MINFOF's strategy

The Ministry of Forests and Wildlife now has a new Strategic Performance Framework (SPF) adopted in april 2021. It is based on four (4) ministerial programmes linked to the orientations of the National Development Strategy for the period 2020-2030 (NDS 30).

MINFOF's strategy is broken down into four (04) programmes, including three (03) operational programmes and one (01) support programme. All these programmes, together with their objectives and indicators, are presented as follows :

Table 1: Presentation of MINFOF Programmes

Programme number and title		Objective(s)	Indicator(s)
054	Management and renewal of the forest resource	Sustainable forest management	Tax and para-fiscal revenues generated by sustainable forest management
056	Security and development of wildlife resources and protected areas	Sustainable management and development of wildlife and protected areas	Specific tax revenues from wildlife sub-sector management
058	Development of timber and non-timber forest resources	Optimise the use of timber and non-timber resources	Number of direct jobs in the timber and non-timber forest products (NTFP) sectors
060	Governance and institutional support in the forest and wildlife sub-sector	Improve coordination of services and ensure effective implementation of programmes	Rate of return on implementation of sub-sector activities

Source: Annual Statistics report MINFOF, 2020.

The programme entitled **Management and Renewal of Forest Resources** is structured around four actions listed in the table above.

Table 2: Programme 054: Management and renewal of forest resources

Actions		Objectives	Indicators
1	Forest management	Maintain forestry potential	Area under management
2	Legal supply of markets	Stabilise legal timber production	Volume of legal timber placed on the market
3	Participatory forest resource management	Support communes and communities in forest management	Area of communal and community forests in production
4	Reforestation and regeneration of forest resources	Increase the area of forest plantations	Area reforested through financial support to reforestation actors and ANAFOR

Source: Annual Statistic Report MINFOF, 2020.

The objective of forest management is to maintain forest potential, with the area under management as an indicator. As for the action relating to reforestation and regeneration of forest resources, the objective is to increase the surface area of forest plantations, with the indicator being the area reforested thanks to the financial support granted to reforestation actors and ANAFOR.

Table 3 shows the cumulative number and area of planned and classified FMUs between 2016 and 2020, while Table 4 shows the amounts of reforestation subsidies by funding source according to the type of activity between 2016 and 2020.

Table 3: Cumulative number and area (in ha) of planned and classified FMUs between 2016 and 2020

Year	Planned		Classified	
	Number of planned FMUs	Area of planned FMUs	Number of FMUs classified	Area of FMUs classified
2016	115	6 801 456	94	5 617 575
2017	117	6 854 635	103	6 151 385
2018	117	6 854 635	103	6 151 385
2019	120	7 073 056	105	6 377 905
2020	120	7 073 056	106	6 429 247

Source: Annual Statistic Report MINFOF, 2020

Table 4: Reforestation subsidy amounts by funding source by type of activity between 2016 and 2020 (in FCFA)

Year	Sources of funding	Total
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	FSDF		PIB		
	Planting	Maintenance	Planting	Maintenance	
2016	750 000 000	60 000 000	114 000 000	0	924 000 000
2017	538 000 000	30 000 000	120 000 000	0	688 000 000
2018	263 400 000	50 000 000	120 000 000	0	433 400 000
2019	220 000 000	30 000 000	120 000 000	0	370 000 000
2020	0	0	300 000 000	0	300 000 000

Source: Annual Statistic Report MINFOF, 2020

Programme 962 entitled 'Securing and Valorising Wildlife Resources and Protected Areas' is the result of the government's long-term development policy contained in the vision of emergence by 2035 through compliance with the DSCE directives.

Table 5: Programme 056: Security and development of wildlife resources and protected areas

Actions		Objectives	Indicators
1	Management of hunting areas (ZIC, ZICGC)	Manage and sustainably exploit hunting areas	Number of hunting tourists/year
2	Development of wildlife resources	Increase the contribution of the wildlife sector to the national economy	Revenue generated by the wildlife sub-sector (CFA Francs)
3	Securing and developing protected areas	Increase the surface area of protected areas under management	Area of protected areas under development
4	Valuation and promotion of protected areas	Improve the attractiveness of protected areas	Number of visitors to protected areas
5	Institutional development and sustainable financing of protected areas	Ensure sustainable funding for the operation of the wildlife and protected areas management body	Amount of funding mobilised (cumulative)

Source: Annual Statistic Report MINFOF, 2020

Programme 963, entitled "Enhancement of wood and non-wood forest resources", aims to encourage further processing of wood, including wood energy, and the development of non-wood forest product sectors. It is structured around five actions listed in the table above.

Table 6: Programme 058 : Valorisation of wood and non-wood forest resources

Actions		Objectives	Indicators
1	Promotion of species and marketing of wood	Promote little known species	Volume of processed and promoted timber marketed
2	Encourage the intensification of wood processing	Improve the competitiveness of wood craftsmen and industrialists in order to increase the material yield	Number of artisans and industrialists strengthened
3	Development of the wood-energy sector	Increase the supply of legal wood energy on the market	Quantity of wood energy marketed in metric tons
4	Development of the non-timber forest products (NTFP) sector	Promote the development of NTFP processing	Value of NTFPs marketed per year
5	Programme management	Improve the performance of the Programme	Number of management dialogues held

Source: Annual Statistic Report MINFOF, 2020

Programme 960 entitled 'Governance and institutional support in the forestry and wildlife sub-sector' is the support programme. It is responsible for guidance, coordination, institutional resource management and improved governance in the forestry and wildlife sub-sector.

Table 7: Programme 060: Governance and Institutional Support in the Forestry and Wildlife sub-sector

Actions	Objectives	Indicators

1	Coordination and monitoring of the subsector's activities	To ensure the proper functioning of all structures	Level of implementation of the performance-based steering system
2	Strategic studies and planning of the subsector's activities	Improve the quality and efficiency of spending	Planning and programming documents produced annually on time
3	Financial and budgetary management	Ensure proper financial execution of programmes	Budgetary and financial documents produced annually within the deadlines
4	Development of the statistical information system	Set up a functional system for the transmission and dissemination of statistical information	Statistical yearbook produced annually
5	Improvement of the working environment at MINFOF	Provide services with adequate infrastructure and equipment	Proportion of staff with a permanent workstation
6	Development of human resources	Increase the quality of human resources	Rate of implementation of the organic framework
7	ICT development	Optimise administrative exchanges between different MINFOF structures	Rate of implementation of the information technology master plan
8	Internal control and audit	Improve the functioning and performance of services	Number of audit missions conducted
9	Legal advice	Ensure that rights and regulations are respected	Proportion of conventions/agreements and draft legal texts analysed and/or prepared within the deadlines
10	Communication and public relations	Increase the visibility of actions carried out in the forest and wildlife sub-sector	Number of activities covered by the media
11	Documentary resources management	Improve the management of documentary resources	Proportion of services with a functional archiving system
12	Partnership and Programme Monitoring	Develop and diversify partnerships and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms	Volume of funding mobilised

Source: Annual Statistic Report MINFOF, 2020

The forest and wildlife sub-sector is clearly addressed in Cameroon's strategic orientation documents. Indeed, the National Development Strategy 2020-2030 (NDS30) aims to promote:

(i) the development of forest and wildlife resources; (ii) the promotion of new species; (iii) the structuring of the domestic timber market to ensure better supply of local wood processing industries. It sets the sub-sector the objective of increasing its average growth to 4.5% per year between 2021 and 2030.

The forest and wildlife sub-sector has a dual economic and ecological function. On the one hand, it has the essential economic function of contributing to the growth of national wealth and improving the competitiveness of the Cameroonian economy, and on the other hand, it has an important ecological function for the protection of the environment and the preservation of biodiversity.

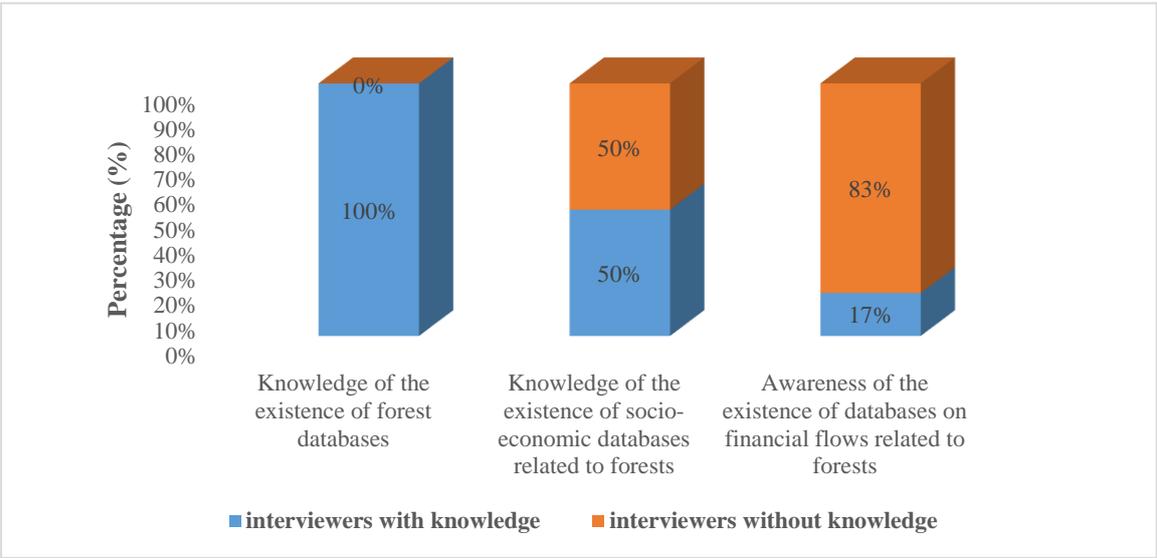
III. STUDY RESULTS

III.1. LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE OF DATABASES

As can be seen in Figure 1, the analysis of the administered questionnaire revealed that:

- 100% of interviewers are aware of the existence of forestry databases in Cameroon;
- 50% of interviewers are aware of the existence of socio-economic databases related to forests while 50% are not aware of them;
- On the question of the existence of databases on financial flows related to forests, only 50% of the interviewers answered this question. All the answers indicate that the interviewers have no knowledge of the existence of these databases.

Figure 1: Level of knowledge of databases by interviewers (Source: Analysis of the questionnaire)



Source: Questionnaire Survey

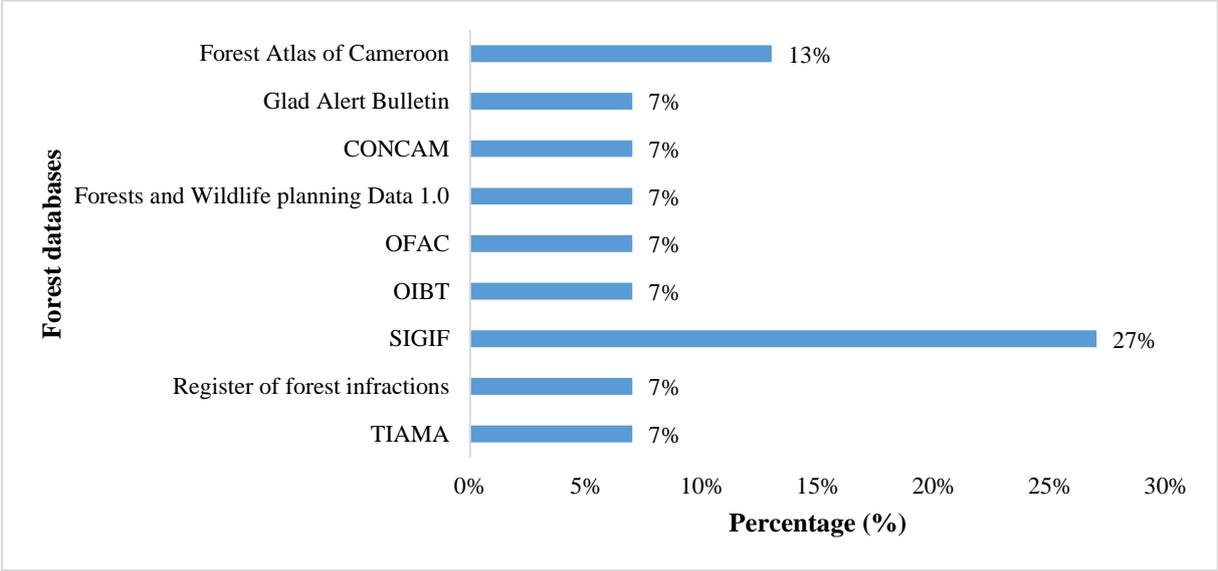
III.2. CENSUS OF EXISTING FOREST DATABASES IN CAMEROON

The results presented come from the synthesis of the answers to the questionnaires.

III.2.1. Forest databases with indicators of sustainable forest management

There are many forest databases with indicators on the progress made in terms of sustainable forest management in Cameroon. The best known, with regard to the frequency of designation (in percentage) by the interviewers are: the SIGIF database (27%), and the Forest atlas of Cameroon (13%) as shown in Figure 2

Figure 2: Forest data bases with indicators of sustainable forest management

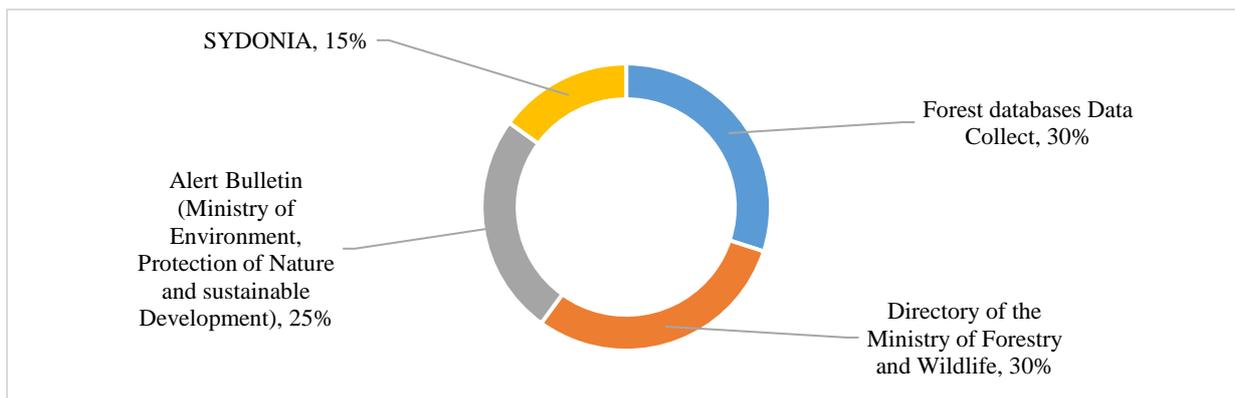


Source: Analysis of the questionnaire

III.2.2. Forest databases with indicators on poverty reduction and improvement of the living conditions of populations.

There are a good number of forestry databases with indicators on the progress made in terms of the contribution of forests to poverty reduction and the improvement of the living conditions of populations in Cameroon. With regard to the answers of the interviewers, these are in particular: MINFOF Data Collect (30%), the Statistical Yearbook of MINFOF (30%), the Glad warning bulletin (25%) and Sydonia (15%) as shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Forest databases with indicators on poverty reduction and improvement of the living conditions of populations

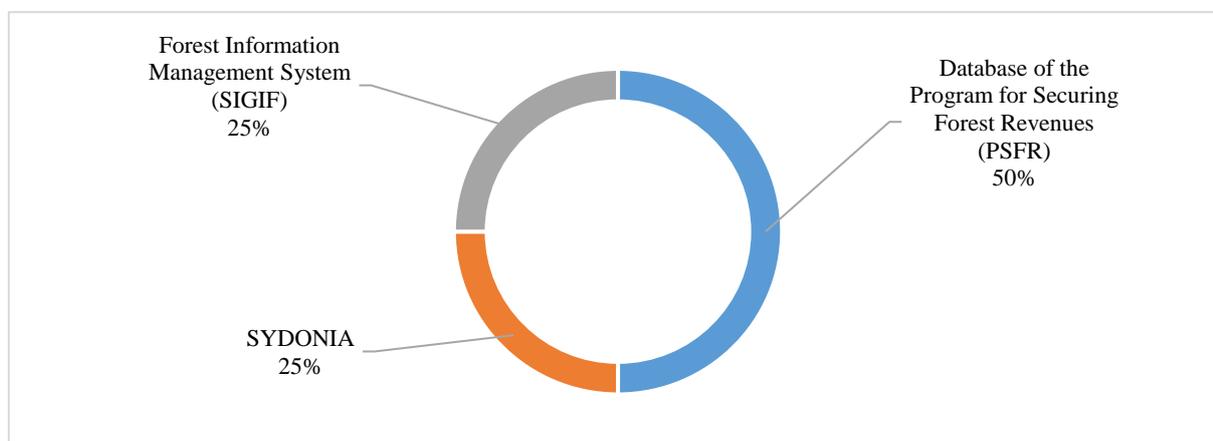


Source: Analysis of the questionnaire

III.2.3. Forestry databases presenting financial flows on forests

Three forestry databases mainly present financial flows on forests in Cameroon. As can be seen in Figure 4 and with regard to the frequency of designation by interviewers, the most important is that of the Forest Revenue Securing Program (PSRF) (50%), followed by Sydonia (25%) and SIGIF (25%).

Figure 4: Forestry databases showing financial flows to forests.



Source: Analysis of the questionnaire

There are many existing databases in other public administrations that have a link with forests.

III.2.4. Existing forestry databases in other public administrations

In total, we were able to count 13 existing forest databases in other administrations, including three (03) at MINFI, nine (09) at MINEPDED and one (01) at MINEPAT. Table 8 below presents these databases by administration.

Table 8: Existing forestry databases in other public administrations

Source: Analysis of the questionnaire

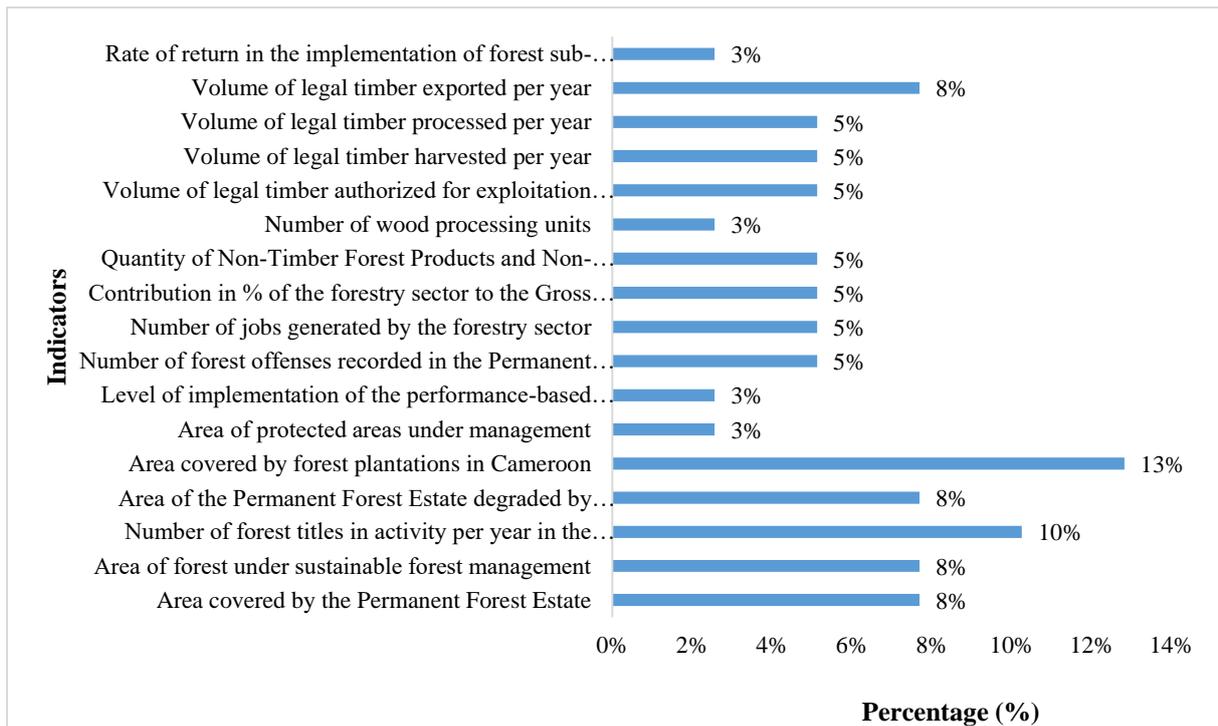
	Databases	Administration
1	MESURE	MINFI
2	Database of the Program for Securing Forest Revenues (PSFR)	MINFI
3	Sydonia	MINFI
4	Alert Bulletin GLAD	MINEPDED
5	Cameroon National Biosecurity Information System	MINEPDED
6	Biodiversity Information Clearinghouse (BIC)	MINEPDED
7	Data Reporting Tools (DART)	MINEPDED
8	GBIF-Cameroun	MINEPDED
9	Indicator Reporting Information System (IRIS)	MINEPDED
10	Environmental Information System (EIS)	MINEPDED
11	Biodiversity Information System (BIS)	MINEPDED
12	Information System on the monitoring of Environmental and Social Management Plans	MINEPDED
13	National Institute of Statistics database	MINEPAT

III.3. IDENTIFICATION OF INDICATORS FOR MEASURING PROGRESS IN SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN CAMEROON

III.3.1. Indicators for measuring progress in sustainable forest management by MINFOF

The results of the analysis of the questionnaires show that the main indicators contained in the forest databases under MINFOF to measure the progress made in sustainable forest management in Cameroon are numerous. As can be seen in Figure 5, these include the area covered by forest plantations (13%), the number of active forest titles per year in the Permanent Forest Estate (10%), the volume of wood legally transformed (8%), the area of the permanent forest estate degraded per year (8%), the area of forests under sustainable forest management (8%), the area covered by the permanent forest estate (8%).

Figure 5: Main indicators (MINFOF) of sustainable forest management in Cameroon

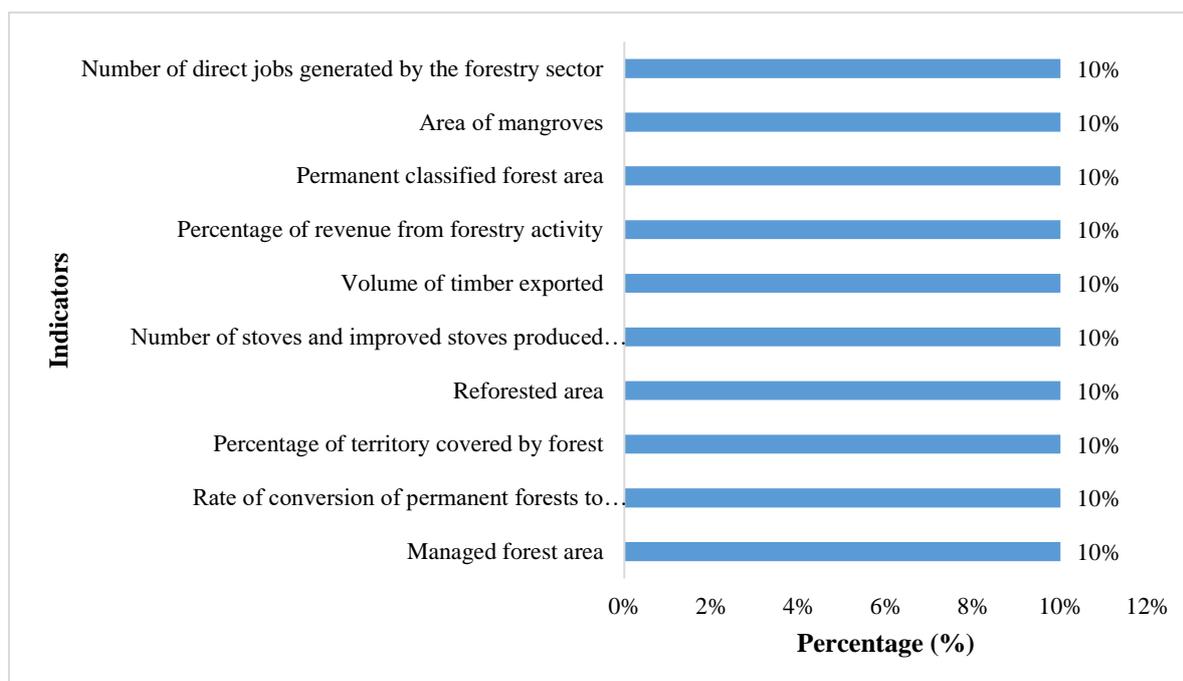


Source: Investigation.

III.3.2. Indicators for measuring progress in sustainable forest management by MINEPDED

The results show that the existing forest-related databases under the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development contain ten main indicators that measure progress in sustainable forest management in Cameroon as shown in Figure 6.

Figure 6: Main indicators (Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development) of sustainable forest management in Cameroon.

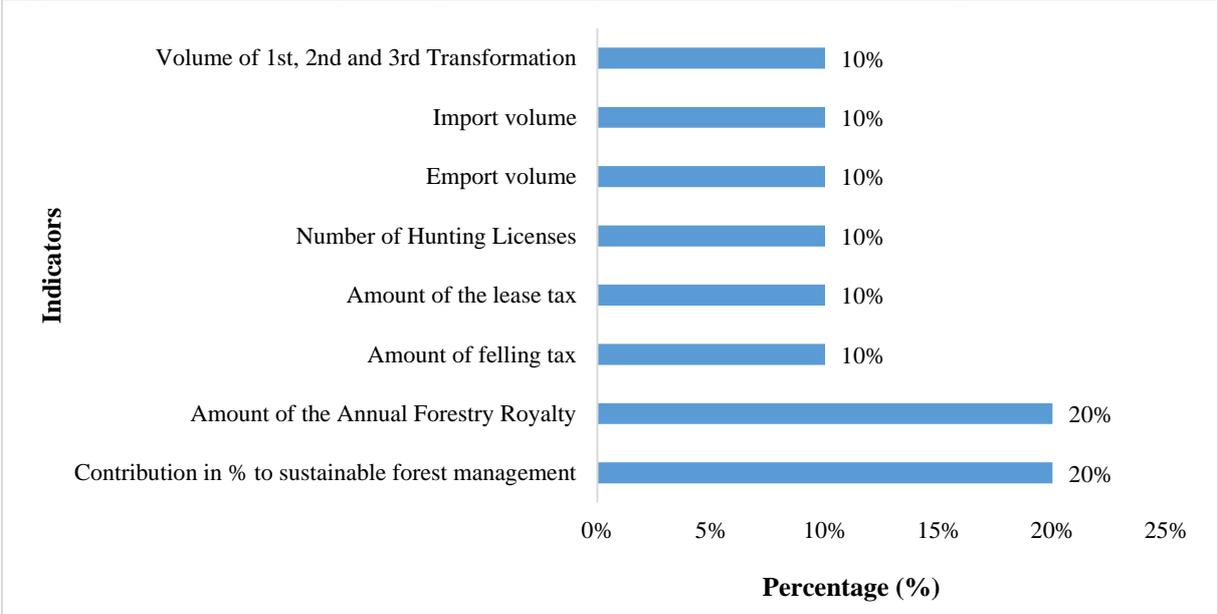


Source: Investigation.

III.3.3. Indicators for measuring sustainable forest management by the Ministry of Finance

The main indicators contained in the existing databases related to forests, under the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance and which make it possible to measure the progress made in terms of sustainable forest management in Cameroon are just as numerous. Among the eight indicators identified, two are particularly targeted by the interviewers: the Contribution in % to the GDP and the amount of the Annual Forest Royalties (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Main indicators (Ministry of Finance) for sustainable forest management in Cameroon



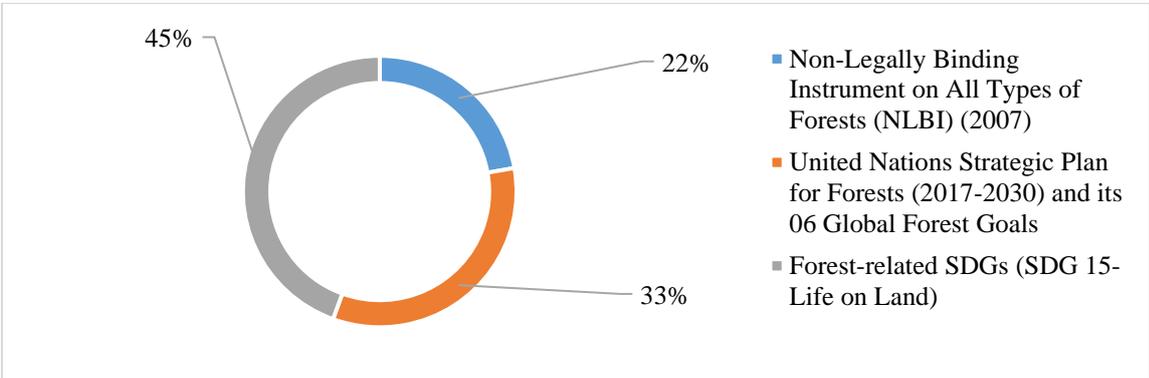
Source: Investigation.

III.4. ASSESSMENT OF THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE OF INDICATORS FOR MEASURING PROGRESS IN SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS FORESTRY INSTRUMENTS

III.4.1. Assessment of the level of knowledge of the United Nations Forest Instruments

With regard to the level of knowledge of international indicators for measuring progress made in sustainable forest management, the analysis of the questionnaires shows that the interviewers are aware of three main United Nations forestry instruments, including the forest-related SDGs, the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests. Figure 8 shows the baseline percentage levels or frequencies of these indicators.

Figure 8: Main international forest instruments that the UNFF is working to implement

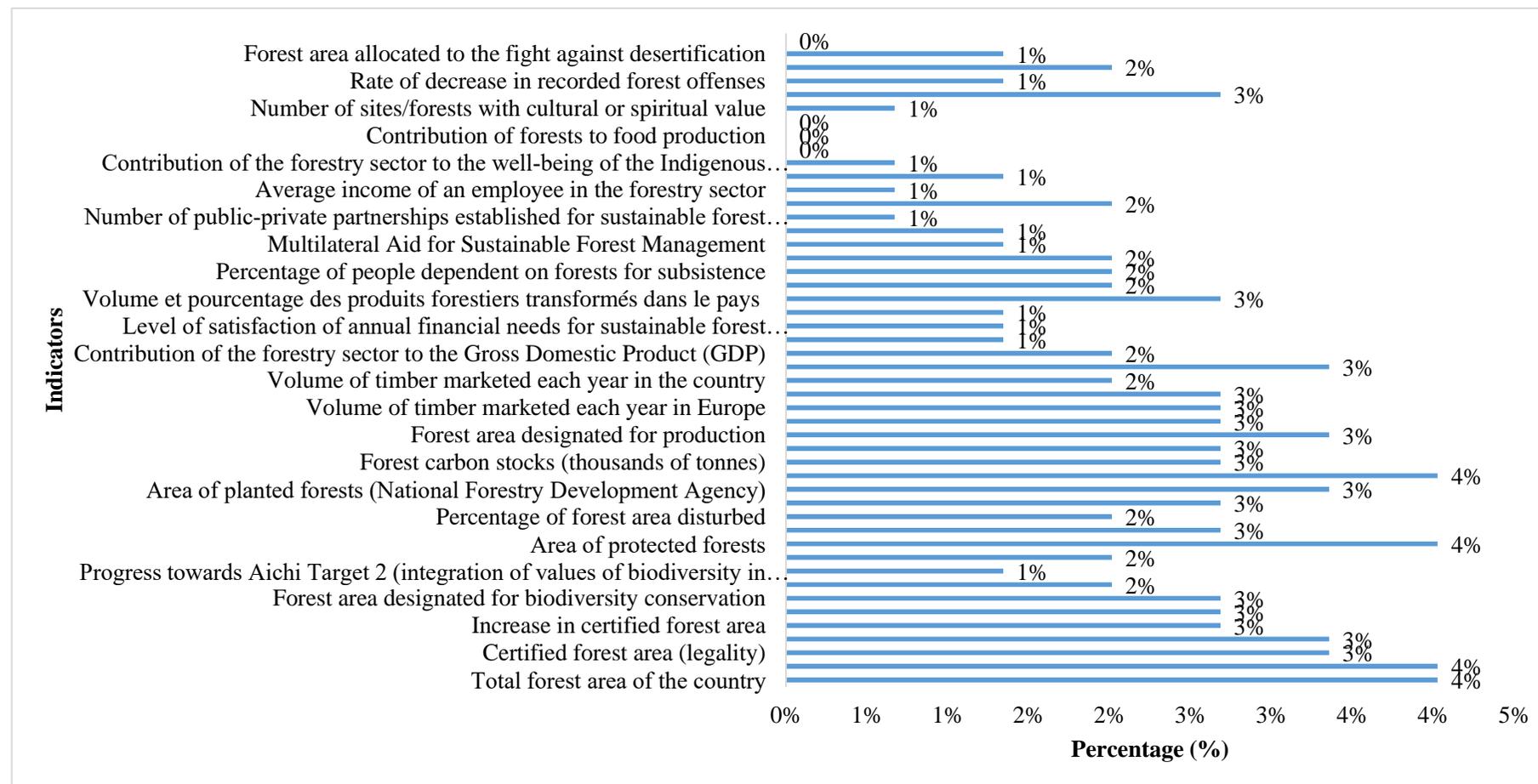


Source: Investigation.

III.4.2. Indicators of United Nations Forest Instruments integrated into Cameroon's forestry databases

Overall, the interviewees did not demonstrate a good knowledge of the main indicators for measuring progress made in sustainable forest management from the United Nations forestry instruments, as taken into account in the databases. Existing forest data in Cameroon. Indeed, the low percentages of citation frequencies in Figure 9 confirm this assertion.

Figure 9: Main indicators from United Nations forestry instruments taken into account in existing forestry databases in Cameroon



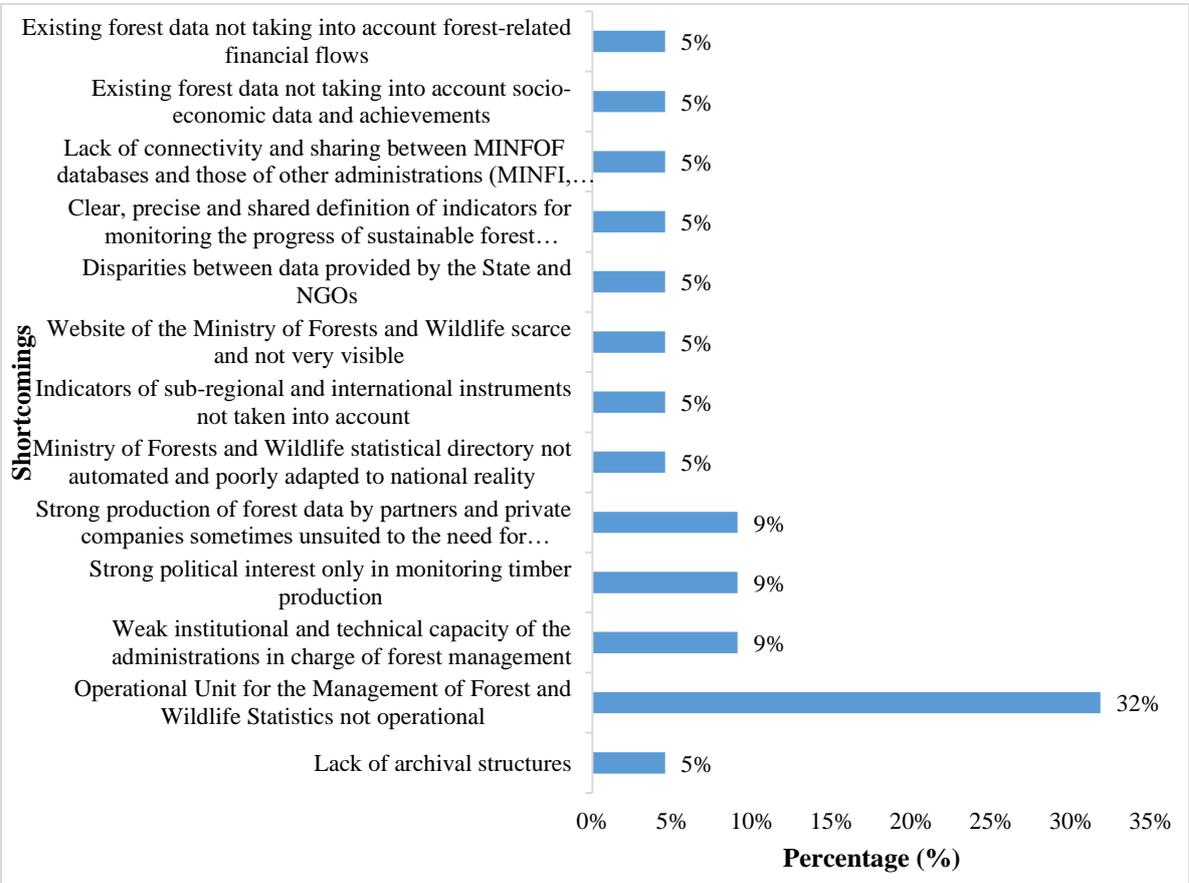
Source: Investigation.

III.5. MAPPING OF EXISTING GAPS SHORTCOMINGS AND PROPOSALS TO FILLING THESE GAPS

III.5.1. Shortcomings in the production and valuation of forest data in Cameroon

The gaps identified in the production and use of forestry data in Cameroon are many. According to the responses, the main gap is the poor operationalisation of the Operational Unit for the Management of Forestry and Wildlife Statistics (32% of responses), which was defined at its creation in 2016 as a structure for the collection, processing, dissemination and prospective analysis of information from the 'Forestry and Wildlife' sub-sector and also for the harmonisation of all existing databases of the said sub-sector.

Figure 10: Shortcomings in the production and use of forest data in Cameroon



Source: Analysis of the questionnaire

The Operational Unit for the Management of Forestry and Wildlife Statistics (UOGSFF) is still weak in terms of the use of data produced by ministerial programmes. Indeed, the UOGSFF is functional through :

- its inclusion in MINFOF's Annual Work Plan (AWP), in terms of operating funds;
- its main activity of producing six (6) MINFOF Statistical Yearbooks, since its creation in 2016.

However, the UOGSFF has not yet really taken off due to the implementation of the missions assigned to it since its creation, which was defined as a structure for collecting, processing and disseminating information on the 'Forests and Wildlife' sub-sector and also for harmonising all the databases relating to this sub-sector in a single database and above all for prospective analysis. The major difficulties hindering this operationalisation are linked to the lack of funding for the major articulations that would allow the UOGSFF to be deployed effectively (setting up a digital database including documentary archives, development of a computerised statistical application, adoption of a manual of procedures organising the collection, processing, validation and publication of information, etc.).

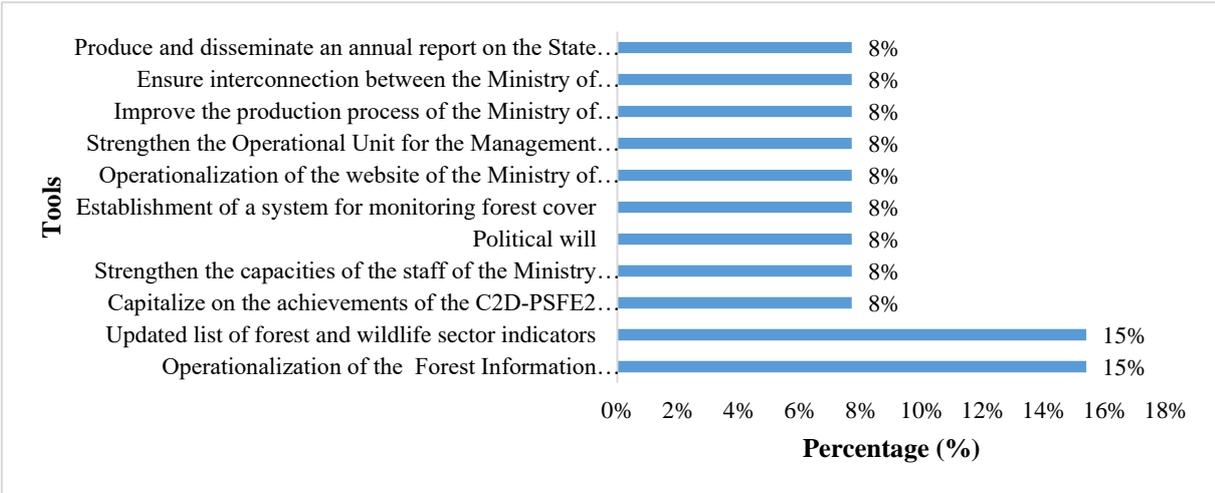
With regard to the gap in existing forestry data that does not take into account forestry-related financial flows, such data does exist. However, some of the data related to forestry taxation, for example, are still limited to the databases of the Ministry of Finance (MINFI) or the Decentralised Territorial Communities (CTD). Better collaboration is needed between the Ministry of Forests and Fauna (MINFOF) and the Ministry of Finance (MINFI).

Finally, with regard to the shortcoming relating to the "statistical yearbook that is not automated and not well adapted to national realities", it is necessary to automate the collection and transmission of data from the bottom to the top in order to ensure better fluidity in the transmission of data for their rapid availability to the Administrations, partners and the general public. The data presented in the yearbook are derived from the activities of MINFOF's ministerial programmes.

III.5.2. Tools to be put in place to fill gaps in forest data in Cameroon

We recommend the implementation of several tools to fill the gaps mentioned above. In particular, the operationalization of SIGIF II and the updating of the list of forest and wildlife sector indicators are among the main measures suggested. Beyond these two measures, a dozen other tools are also available as can be seen in Figure 11.

Figure 11: Tools to implement

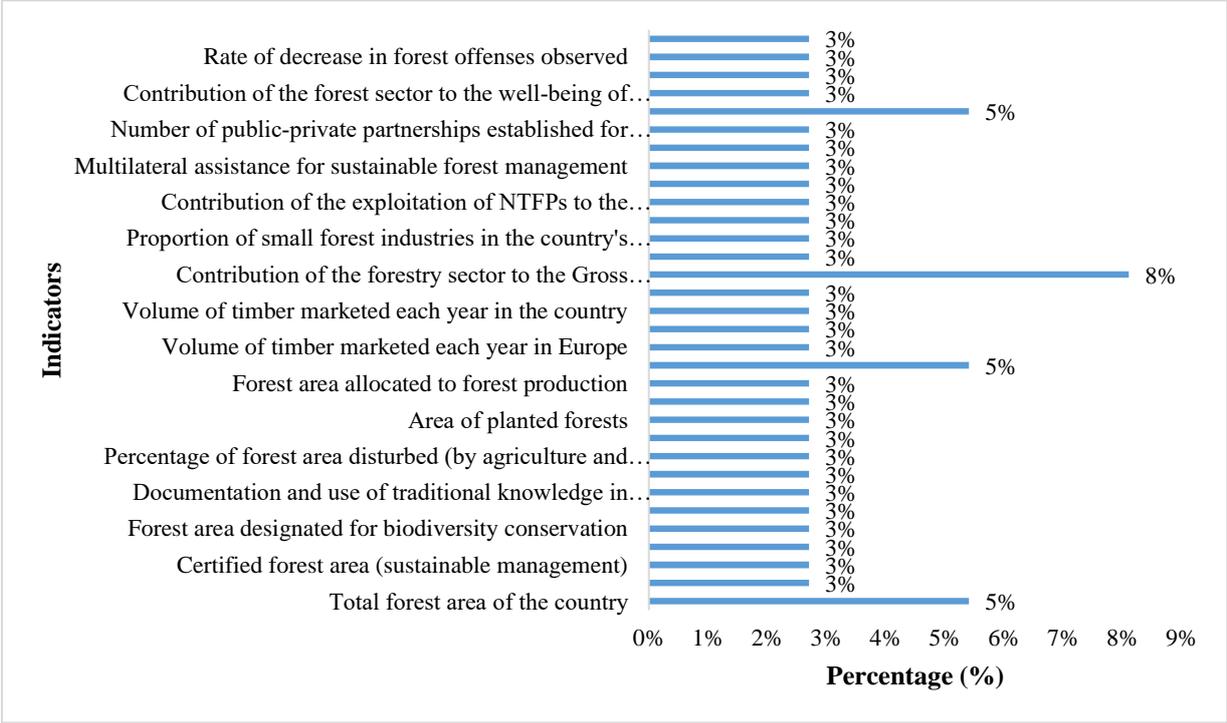


Source: Investigation.

III.5.3. Proposed indicators for measuring progress in sustainable forest management in Cameroon

There are more than thirty appropriate national indicators to measure progress in sustainable forest management in Cameroon (Figure 12). Interviewers refer in particular to the contribution of the forest sector to GDP, the proportion of people employed in the forest sector and the total forest area of the country.

Figure 12: National indicators for measuring progress in sustainable forest management



Source: Investigation.

III.6. PROPOSED FORMAT FOR REPORTING PROGRESS ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN CAMEROON

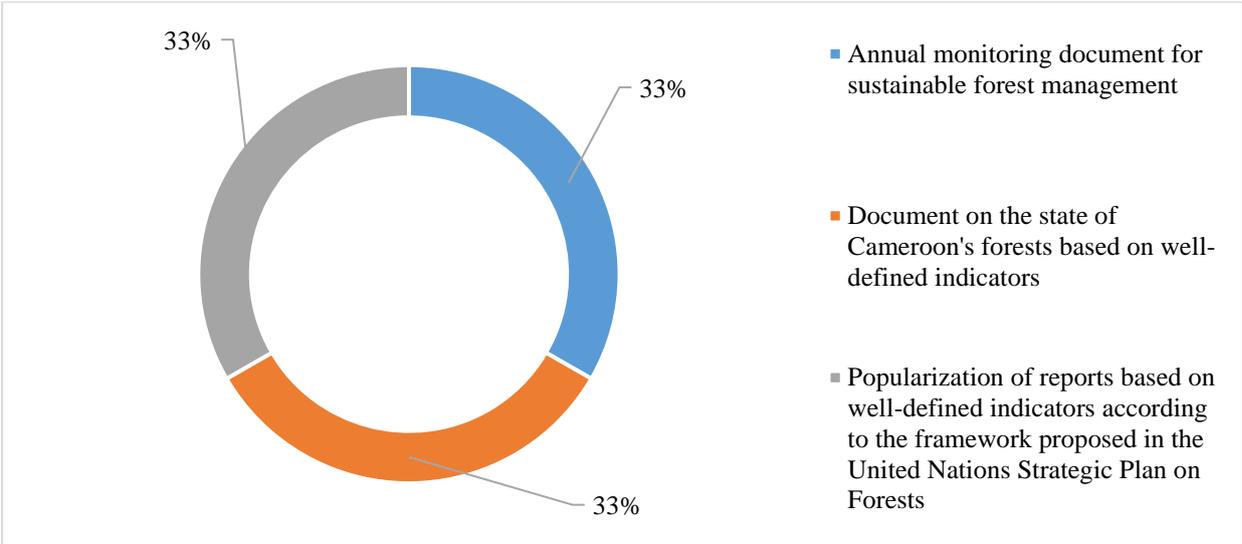
III.6.1. Proposed formats for reporting progress on sustainable forest management in Cameroon

After analysing the questionnaires, the resource persons propose a format for reporting progress on sustainable forest management in Cameroon based on three documents:

- An annual Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) monitoring report;
- A document on the State of Cameroon's Forests based on validated national indicators;
- A process for popularizing reports based on well-defined indicators following the framework proposed in the United Nations Strategic Plan on Forests.

The different formats proposed to ensure the reporting of progress in sustainable forest management in Cameroon are as follows: the annual SFM monitoring document (33%), the document on the state of Cameroon's forests based on well-defined indicators defined (33%), the dissemination of reports based on well-defined indicators following the framework proposed in the United Nations Strategic Plan on Forests (Figure 13).

Figure 13: Formats offered



IV. GENERAL CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to support and assist Cameroon in developing a comprehensive and effective system for monitoring progress towards sustainable forest management, this study first provided an overview of the forest sector in Cameroon. To this end, the institutional framework for the implementation of forestry policy was first reviewed, with particular emphasis on the reforms that took place in the early 1990s under the impetus of the World Bank and in relation to international guidelines on biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management. The presentation of the strategic framework made it possible to highlight that the strategic plan of the Ministry in charge of forests (MINFOF), is broken down into four (04) programmes, three (03) of which are operational programmes and one (01) support programme as follows :

- Programme 054 : Development and renewal of forest resources;
- Programme 056 : Security and development of wildlife resources and protected areas;
- Programme 058 : Development of timber and non-timber forest resources;

- Programme 060: Governance and institutional support in the forest and wildlife sub-sector.

In terms of methodology, our study was based on documentary analysis, personal interviews and the administration of a questionnaire to certain key actors in the implementation of forestry policy in Cameroon. Statistical analysis of the questionnaires allowed relevant conclusions to be drawn on the following points:

- The level of knowledge of the different forestry databases by the interviewers;
- The existing forestry databases in Cameroon;
- Indicators for measuring progress in sustainable forest management;
- Indicators for measuring progress in sustainable forest management from the United Nations forestry instruments;
- Mapping of existing gaps in the production and use of forestry data in Cameroon and proposals for filling these gaps.

At the same time, our study made it possible to collect proposals for a reporting format on the progress of sustainable forest management in Cameroon.

In total, the major challenge of this study was to allow for a better monitoring/evaluation of the efforts made by the Cameroonian government in terms of sustainable forest management. To this end, and as recommendations, it is appropriate to focus on a few key orientations, namely

1. Clearly define the matrix of indicators for monitoring progress in sustainable forest management and validate and share it with other key actors in forest management;
2. Ensure that indicators related to the six (6) Global Forest Objectives and the twenty-six (26) associated targets of the United Nations Strategic Plan on Forests 2017-2030, as well as the regional indicators of sustainable forest management in Central Africa, are better taken into account in the forestry databases in Cameroon;
3. Ensure the effective operationalisation of the Operational Unit for the Management of Forest and Wildlife Statistics of the Ministry of Forests and Fauna (MINFOF). In this regard, UNFF support would be an opportunity for the forest and wildlife sub-sector in Cameroon;
4. Improve the level of knowledge of actors on existing forestry databases;
5. Ensure that socio-economic data and data on financial flows linked to forests are taken into account in the forestry databases ;
6. Facilitate communication and ensure connectivity between the Operational Unit for the Management of Forestry and Wildlife Statistics of the Ministry of Forestry and the different poles or administrations responsible for the collection, processing and management of forestry data (MINFI, MINEPDED, MINADER, MINTOUR, etc.);
7. Organize workshops on the methodology for collecting, processing and managing forestry data, bringing together all actors in order to avoid disparities between the data provided by the State, NGOs and forestry companies;

8. Feed, update and make more visible the MINFOF website and the icons dealing with forestry data;
9. Improve the institutional and technical capacities for archiving forestry data in the administrations in charge of collecting, processing and managing forestry data;
10. Integrate data related to non-timber forest products into forestry databases (NTFPs, etc.);
11. Institutionalise the automatic annual production and dissemination of the MINFOF Statistical Yearbook as a tool for centralising forestry data in Cameroon.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE



Forum des Nations Unies sur les Forêts rêts

FORUM OF NATIONS ON FORESTS
 STUDY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK
 OF MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE PROGRESS OF
 SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN CAMEROON

Preamble: The purpose of this questionnaire is to assist in the collection of data for the study on the development of a national system for monitoring and evaluating the progress of sustainable forest management in Cameroon.

SECTION 0: PERSONAL INFORMATION OF THE RESPONDENT(S)

S0Q00	Date of entry of the questionnaire: _____	_ _ _ _
S0Q01	Ministry / Department : _____	_ _ _ _ _ _
S0Q02	Name(s) and surname(s) of the Contact Person: _____	_

SECTION 1: INVENTORY OF EXISTING FORESTRY DATABASES IN CAMEROON (INCLUDING SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA RELATED TO FORESTS AND FINANCIAL FLOWS FINANCIAL FLOWS ON FORESTS)

S1Q01	To your knowledge, are there any forestry databases in Cameroon? 1=Yes 2=No	_
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S1Q02	<p>To your knowledge, are there any forest-related socio-economic databases?</p> <p>1 = Yes 2 = No</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
S1Q03	<p>To your knowledge, are there any databases on forest-related financial flows?</p> <p>1 = Yes 2 = No <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
S1Q04	<p>List, in order of importance, existing forestry databases with indicators on progress towards sustainable forest management in Cameroon.</p> <p>1 =</p> <p>2 =</p> <p>3 =</p> <p>4 =</p> <p>5 =</p> <p>6 =</p> <p>7 =</p> <p>8 =</p> <p>9 =</p> <p>10 =</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
S1Q05	<p>List, in order of importance, existing forest-related databases with indicators on the progress made in terms of the contribution of forests to reducing poverty and improving people's living conditions in Cameroon.</p> <p>1 =</p> <p>2 =</p> <p>3 =</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	4 =	<input type="checkbox"/>
	5 =	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
S1Q06	List, in order of importance, existing forest-related databases with indicators on the progress of forests contribution to food security in Cameroon. 1 = 2 = 3 = 4 = 5 =	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
S1Q07	List, in order of importance, the forestry databases that present financial flows on forests in Cameroon. 1 = 2 = 3 = 4 = 5 =	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
S1Q08	List the existing databases in other public institutions that are related to forests and indicate the institutions that manage these databases and the existing links with the forestry databases. 1 = 2 =	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

	3 =	<input type="checkbox"/>
	4 =	<input type="checkbox"/>
	5 =	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<hr/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<hr/>	

SECTION 2: IDENTIFICATION OF INDICATORS FOR MEASURING PROGRESS IN SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN CAMEROON

S2Q01	With regard to the existing forest-related databases under the responsibility of MINFOF, list, in order of importance, the 10 main indicators that they contain and that make it possible to measure the progress made in sustainable forest management in Cameroon.	
	1 =	
	2 =	
	3 =	<input type="checkbox"/>
	4 =	<input type="checkbox"/>
	5 =	<input type="checkbox"/>
	6 =	<input type="checkbox"/>

	<p>7 =</p> <p>8 =</p> <p>9 =</p> <p>10 =</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
S2Q02	<p>With regard to the existing forest-related databases under the responsibility of MINEPDED, list, in order of importance, the 10 main indicators they contain that make it possible to measure the progress made in sustainable forest management in Cameroon.</p> <p>1 =</p> <p>2 =</p> <p>3 =</p> <p>4 =</p> <p>5 =</p> <p>6 =</p> <p>7 =</p> <p>8 =</p> <p>9 =</p> <p>10 =</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
S2Q03	<p>With regard to the existing forest-related databases under the responsibility of MINFI, list, in order of importance, the 10 main indicators they contain that make it possible to measure the progress made in sustainable forest management in Cameroon.</p> <p>1 =</p>	

	2 = 3 = 4 = 5 = 6 = 7 = 8 = 9 = 10=	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
S2Q04	<p>With regard to the existing forest-related databases under the responsibility of MINAS, list, in order of importance, the 10 main indicators they contain that make it possible to measure the progress made in sustainable forest management in Cameroon.</p> 1 = 2 = 3 = 4 = 5 = 6 = 7 = 8 = 9 = 10=	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION 3: ASSESSMENT OF THE LEVEL OF AWARENESS OF INDICATORS FOR MEASURING PROGRESS IN SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS FOREST INSTRUMENTS (The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on Forests, the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and its 06 Global Forest Targets, and the forest-related SDGs)

S3Q01	<p>Are you aware of the United Nations Forum on Forests?</p> <p>1= Yes</p> <p>2= No</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
S3Q02	<p>Are you aware of the three main international forest instruments that the UNFF advocates for its implementation at the international level?</p> <p>1 = Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (NLBI) (2007).</p> <p>2 = United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (2017-2030) and its 06 Global Forest Objectives.</p> <p>3 = Forest-related SDGs (SDG 15-Terrestrial Life)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
S3Q03	<p>Are you aware of the following key indicators for measuring progress towards sustainable forest management from the UN forest instruments?</p> <p>1 = Total area of forest in the country</p> <p>2 = Area of forest under management</p> <p>3 = Certified forest area (legal)</p> <p>4 = Certified forest area (sustainable management)</p> <p>5 = Increase in certified forest area</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>

6 = Progress achieved towards sustainable forest management	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 = Forest area reserved to biodiversity conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 = Proportion of sites designated for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 = Progress towards Aichi Target 2 (integration of biodiversity values into national and local development plans and strategies)	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 = Documentation and use of traditional knowledge in biodiversity conservation.	<input type="checkbox"/>
11 = Area of protected forests (Permanent Forests)	<input type="checkbox"/>
12 = Area of degraded forest	<input type="checkbox"/>
13 = Percentage of forest area disturbed (by agriculture and mining)	<input type="checkbox"/>
14 = Annual rate of change of forest area (%/year)	<input type="checkbox"/>
15 = Area of planted forest	<input type="checkbox"/>
16 = Area of forest from reforestation	<input type="checkbox"/>
17 = Forest used in the storage of Carbon (in thousands of tonnes).	<input type="checkbox"/>
18 = Changes in carbon stocks in forest land	<input type="checkbox"/>
<hr/>	
19 = Area of forest used for forest production	<input type="checkbox"/>
20 = Volume of wood produced annually in the country	<input type="checkbox"/>
21 = Volume of wood marketed annually in Europe	<input type="checkbox"/>
22 = Volume of wood traded annually in Asia	<input type="checkbox"/>
23 = Volume of wood marketed annually in the country	<input type="checkbox"/>
24 = Percentage of marketed forest products from SFM	<input type="checkbox"/>
25 = Contribution of the forestry sector to Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	<input type="checkbox"/>
26 = Percentage of national budget allocated to SFM	<input type="checkbox"/>

27 = Level of satisfaction of annual financial needs of SFM	<input type="checkbox"/>
28 = Proportion of small-scale forest industries in the country's GDP	<input type="checkbox"/>
29 = Volume and percentage of forest products processed in the country	<input type="checkbox"/>
30 = Contribution of NTFP exploitation to the country's GDP	<input type="checkbox"/>
31 = Percentage of people dependent on forests for their livelihoods	<input type="checkbox"/>
32 = Bilateral support for sustainable forest management	<input type="checkbox"/>
33 = Multilateral support for sustainable forest management	<input type="checkbox"/>
34 = Volume of private investment in SFM	<input type="checkbox"/>
35 = Number of public-private partnerships established in SFM	<input type="checkbox"/>
36 = Proportion of people employed in the forestry sector	<input type="checkbox"/>
37 = Average income of an employee in the forestry sector	<input type="checkbox"/>
38 = Forest area allocated to people	<input type="checkbox"/>
39 = Contribution of the forest sector to the well-being of LACs	<input type="checkbox"/>
40 = Availability and access to land for forest foods	<input type="checkbox"/>
41 = Contribution of forests to food production	<input type="checkbox"/>
42 = Income from forests providing access to food	<input type="checkbox"/>
43 = Number of sites/forests with cultural or spiritual value	<input type="checkbox"/>
<hr/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
44 = Number of forest crimes recorded and punished per year	<input type="checkbox"/>
45 = Rate of decrease in recorded forest infractions	<input type="checkbox"/>
46 = The organisation of forest litigation is known and respected	<input type="checkbox"/>
47 = Area of forest in the national land use plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
48 = Forest area allocated to combating desertification	<input type="checkbox"/>

	49 = Area of forest managed to protect soil and water	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
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SECTION 4: MAPPING OF EXISTING GAPS IN THE PRODUCTION AND USE OF FORESTRY DATA IN CAMEROON AND PROPOSALS FOR FILLING THESE GAPS

S4Q01	<p>In your opinion, what are the main gaps in the production and use of forestry data in Cameroon? Name some of these gaps.</p> <p>1 =</p> <p>2 =</p> <p>3 =</p> <p>4 =</p> <p>5 =</p> <p>6 =</p> <p>7 =</p> <p>8 =</p> <p>9 =</p> <p>10 =</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
S4Q02	<p>What can be done in your opinion to overcome and resolve these gaps? What tools should be implemented to address these gaps?</p>	

	<p>1 =</p> <p>2 =</p> <p>3 =</p> <p>4 =</p> <p>5 =</p> <p>6 =</p> <p>7 =</p> <p>8 =</p> <p>9 =</p> <p>10 =</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
S4Q03	<p>What national indicators would be appropriate to measure progress towards sustainable forest management in Cameroon?</p> <p>1 =</p> <p>2 =</p> <p>3 =</p> <p>4 =</p> <p>5 =</p> <p>6 =</p> <p>7 =</p> <p>8 =</p> <p>9 =</p> <p>10 =</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>

	11 =	<input type="checkbox"/>
	12 =	<input type="checkbox"/>
	13 =	<input type="checkbox"/>
	14 =	<input type="checkbox"/>
	15 =	<input type="checkbox"/>
	16 =	<input type="checkbox"/>
	17 =	<input type="checkbox"/>
	18 =	<input type="checkbox"/>
	19 =	<input type="checkbox"/>
	20 =	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION 5: PROPOSED FORMAT FOR REPORTING ON PROGRESS IN SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN CAMEROON

S5Q01	<p>What format do you propose for reporting on the progress of sustainable forest management in Cameroon?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	
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PROPOSED OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COLLABORATION.