

CONTRACT PROFILE



CAMEROON

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A TIMBER TRACEABILITY SYSTEM



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Date issued : **20/10/2010**

Last modification : **20/10/2010**

1. CONTRACTS DETAILS

Location within the country	Pilot area then extension to the national territory
Professional staff provided by SGS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Project Manager ● Traceability expert
Name of Client	MINEPAT (Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development) and MINFOF (Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife)
Address of Client:	Cabinet du Ministre de l'Economie de la Planification et de l'Aménagement du Territoire (MINEPAT), Yaoundé, Cameroon
N° of staff	2 full-time staff 6 short-term experts
Duration of assignment:	34 months
Start date	April 2010
Completion date	On-going
Approx. value/cost of Services (in current US\$)	USD 2.27 million
Name of Associated Consultants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Helveta Ltd.
Professional staff provided by Associated Consultants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Traceability expert, ● Maintenance expert, ● Configuration expert, ● Training expert
Names of key staff involved and function performed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jean Aubé, Project Manager, ● André Bena, Technical IT Director

2. CONTRACT DESCRIPTION

Further to an international bidding process, the Cameroonian Government contracted the SGS-Helveta Consortium to provide Technical Assistance (TA) for the design and implementation of a pilot Timber Traceability System in Cameroon. The pilot serves as a basis for a subsequent national extension after 9 months of testing.

The traceability system should enable to identify the origin of the timber and to attest that this origin is valid. Besides the traceability system aims to attest that the operators made the regulatory declarations and duly pay their forest taxes.

The project's activities consists in: (i) designing of the functional and technical specification of the system, (ii) providing specific training to relevant forest stakeholders, (iii) testing the traceability system at a pilot scale, (iv) preparing the technical and financial proposals for the national extension and finally (v) assisting the MINFOF in the national extension of the system.

The web-based information system (SIGIF2) available on-line is based on the CI World™ software developed by Helveta. It enables data record at every critical point of the supply chain. The activities reports related to forest inventories, tree felling, logs transport and export are entered into the SIGIF2 by the operators. All these data are stored into a central server accessible through a web interface.

The project aims also at improving the collection of forest taxes due by forest sector operators. The SIGIF2 will calculate and generate the invoices submitted to the operators. Hence, the project helps the Government to secure tax revenues that can directly contribute to the social and economical development of the country.

In the framework of the FLEGT VPA signed between the Cameroun and the European Commission, the timber traceability system is one of the key elements that compose the Legality Assurance System (LAS) that the Cameroonian Government has to set up and manage.

3. DESCRIPTION OF SGS SERVICES

The SGS-Helveta Consortium is responsible for the design, development, and field testing of the pilot system. Implementation and scope include:

- Project management
- Development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- Analysis, configuration, and implementation of the SIGIF II
- Implementation and maintenance of project infrastructures and equipment
- Training on SIGIF II utilization for all the end users (MINFOF staff, forest operators)
- Invoicing of forest taxes
- Data reconciliation between operator's declarations and documentary / physical controls by MINFOF inspectors
- Interfaces with other software (MESURE, SYDONIA; SIGICOF)
- Development of statistics on volumes for production, processing and export of timber products
- Reporting to the MECNT

4. CONTACTS

Jean Aubé

Project Manager

SGS Cameroon

Youndé

Cameroon

Tel : +23794300342; Mob : +23794300342;

e-mail : jean.aube@sgs.com