



Formalization of chainsaw milling in Central Africa: Preliminary insights

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THINKING beyond the canopy



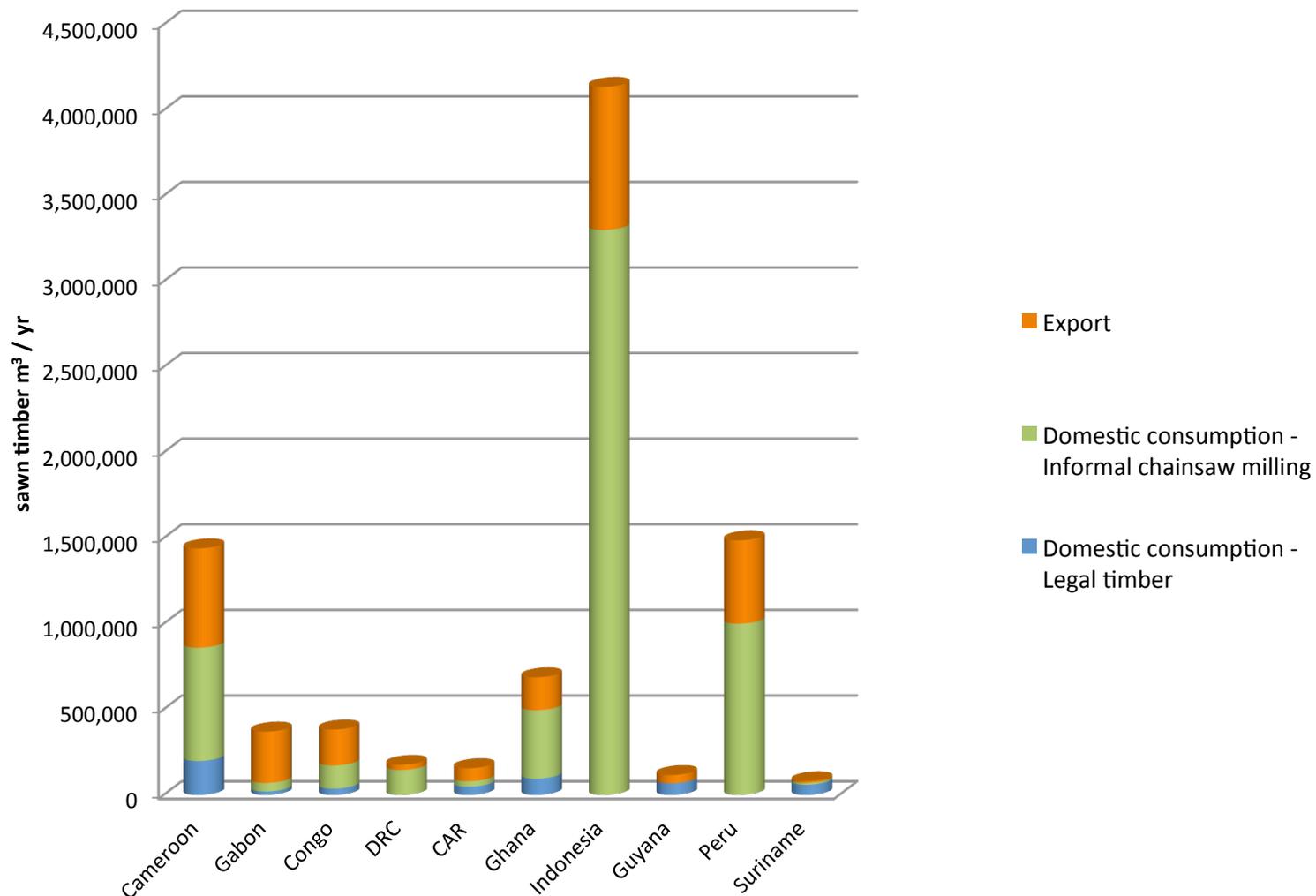
What's domestic timber ? Who is concerned ?

- Lumber (sawing, logs)

	National Production		Imports	
	Industrial	small-scale	Industrial	small-scale
Consumption	x	X	x	x
Exports	X	x	X	x

- Different sources:
 - Industrial scraps (not processed with chainsaw)
 - Small-scale exploited timber (chainsaw, mobile saws,...) but with legal permits
 - Informal small-scale exploited timber
- Different groups of stakeholders:
 - At the local level: customary owners, chainsaw millers and their teams, administrations, local governments
 - Along the chain (« on the road »): road hauliers, « corps habillés »
 - At the market level: traders, buyers, administrations, local governments

Domestic sawn timber: Volumes assessment



(Source: ETRN News 52, December 2010)

Necessary step for formalisation: A complete and adapted legal framework

- No regulation in CAR and DRC
- Suspended regulation in Gabon & Congo
- Complicated regulation in Cameroon

- Legal (or economic) impossibility to get an official small-scale logging permit
- Forestry laws under revision
- Influence of the VPA-FLEGT process

Necessary step for formalisation: Putting individual sawyers together ?

- An often proposed solution: facilitating access to permits, funds and resources to formal groups of chainsaw millers
- Small-scale permits are individual by law
- Small-scale milling is an individual activity
- Little success of collective management of forest lands or revenues in Central Africa
- Maintain the option of individual permit, with easily controlled rules

Necessary step for formalisation: Reforming forest tenure ?

- State remains the official owner of natural resources (especially when they are traded)
- Access to timber through informal arrangements with customary owners
- No incentive to sustainably manage timber stocks
- Need to recognize customary forest tenure (outside permanent forest domain) to:
 - Involve local population
 - Increase economic revenues
 - Improve control on small-scale logging

Necessary step for formalisation: How much to get legalised ?

- One financial constraint: the future cost of legalisation is equal or under the present cost of remaining informal
- Simplify as much as possible the legalisation procedure, with very low level of tax
- Ensure that possessing a legal small-scale permit significantly lowers the para-taxation level
- An anti-corruption campaign that goes beyond the forest services and includes major public authorities (police,...)

Legalising chainsaw milling in Central Africa: Major challenges

- Revision of the forest laws and regulations
 - Facilitate access of chainsaw millers to small-scale logging permits
 - Promote partnership between industrial (legal, certified) companies and small-scale loggers
- Revision of the official land tenure
- Improve the concrete enforcement of the forest law
 - Discussion and negotiation platforms at the national scale
 - Real sanctions against corrupted officers at all level
 - Economic incentives: financial compensation for the stopping of corruption (performance-based payment)

Merci de votre attention

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