AN OVERVIEW OF LOGGING IN CAMEROON

A Global Forest Watch Cameroon Report
What Is Global Forest Watch?

Approximately half of the forests that initially covered our planet have been cleared, and another 30 percent have been fragmented, or degraded, or replaced by secondary forest. Urgent steps must be taken to safeguard the remaining fifth, located mostly in the Amazon Basin, Central Africa, Canada, Southeast Asia, and Russia. As part of this effort, the World Resources Institute in 1997 started Global Forest Watch (GFW).

Global Forest Watch is identifying the threats weighing on the last frontier forests—the world’s remaining large, relatively undisturbed forest ecosystems. By 2005, our goal is to have Global Forest Watch chapters up and running in 21 countries. These nations account for about 80 percent of the world’s remaining forests. In the longer term, GFW monitoring will extend to nonfrontier forest regions, where ongoing development threatens smaller tracts of unique, and often highly diverse, natural forests.

GFW is an independent network of national and/or local organizations that monitor and map logging, mining, road-building, and other forest development within major forested regions of the world. Each organization gathers and reports similar information, with an emphasis on comparable, preferably mapped information that covers entire forest ecosystems.

We also recognize that forests straddle political boundaries. At the global level, we hope that the publication of national reports using comparable data and mapping techniques will provide, in the aggregate, a valuable picture of global trends in development activities and environmental conditions in the world’s forests.

GFW’s principal role is to provide access to better information about development activities in forests and their environmental impact. By reporting on development activities and their impact, GFW fills a vital information gap. By making this information accessible to everyone (including governments, industry, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), forest consumers, and wood consumers), GFW promotes both transparency and accountability. We are convinced that better information about forests will lead to better decisionmaking about forest management and use, which ultimately will result in forest management regimes that provide a full range of benefits for both present and future generations.

To this end, GFW (i) tracks existing and planned development activities, (ii) identifies the actors—including companies, individuals, government agencies, and others—engaged in this development, (iii) monitors the implementation of laws and regulations established in the interest of forest stewardship, and (iv) provides data on forest ecosystems to highlight the environmental and economic tradeoffs that development options entail.

GFW is an information service. Our mandate is strictly limited to providing objective, credible, peer-reviewed data, and making that information widely available.

All Global Forest Watch publications are available from the World Resources Institute as well as on our website at www.globalforestwatch.org.

What is GFW Cameroon?

Global Forest Watch Cameroon (GFW Cameroon) is an affiliate of the international Global Forest Watch program. It is currently composed of three Cameroonian nongovernmental environmental organizations (NGOs): Cameroon Environmental Watch (CEW), the Centre pour l’Environnement et le Développement (CED), and the Centre International d’Etudes Forestières et Environnementales (CIEFE). A national advisory committee (Groupe de Suivi)—including representatives from national and international NGOs, government management agencies, and research institutions—offers periodic review input on GFW Cameroon’s activities and products. The GFW international network, with help from other partners, provides technical and financial support for GFW Cameroon, with the goal of building capacity for independent, locally driven monitoring and reporting within the country.

All data presented in this report are available at www.globalforestwatch.org or by contacting us at the address provided on the inside back cover.
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