COORDINATING THE SECURITY SECTOR'S RESPONSE TO ILLEGAL LOGGING

Police Colonel Michel KOUA

July 2023
CONTENTS

1. SECURITY CONTEXT IN CENTRAL AFRICA
2. SOME FACTORS THAT ENCOURAGE ILLEGAL LOGGING;
3. THE ROLE OF THE POLICE IN ILLEGAL LOGGING;
4. REGIONAL COORDINATION/ENGAGEMENT;
5. STRENGTHS/WEAKNESSES/TIPS.
1. SECURITY CONTEXT IN AFRICA

- Ongoing crises and armed conflicts;
- Rising terrorism and radicalisation;
- Mass population displacement;
- Poverty and social tensions;
- Porous borders;
- Proliferation of small arms and light weapons;
2. FACTORS FAVOURING ILLEGAL LOGGING

• Lucrative activities with low risks for criminal organisations;
• Impunity for logging companies involved in illegal activities;
• Corruption;
• Weak control capacity on the part of forestry administrations;
• Insufficient human resources in number and quality;
• Weak coordination between players at both national and international level;
FACTORS INVOLVING ILLEGAL CUTTING OF WOOD (continued)

• Lack of transparency and governance in the forestry sector;

• Lack of data on illegal logging;

• Lack of a system for monitoring illegal logging;

• Weak forestry information systems and out-of-date databases;

• Weak application of the laws in force in each country.
3. THE ROLE OF THE POLICE IN ILLEGAL LOGGING

Weak involvement of the security sector in the fight against illegal logging;

Use of the Police/Gendarmerie during preliminary investigations:

- Arresting the criminals;
- Seizures of illegal items;
- Referral to the public prosecutor.
4. REGIONAL COORDINATION/ENGAGEMENT

Open cooperation with regional partners and institutions:

- CCPAC;
- INTERPOL Regional Bureau;
- AFRIPOL.
5. STRENGTHS/WEAKNESSES/TIPS

- Improving cooperation with partners and regional institutions responsible for security issues in Africa;

- Use international platforms to exchange and share information;

- Train magistrates and OPJs (forestry officers, police officers and gendarmes);

- Organise large-scale police operations in collaboration with national law enforcement agencies.
THANK YOU

mishadkoua@gmail.com