RÉSUMÉ

Le Log Export Ban (LEB) reform aims to ban unprocessed wood export. In 2010, Gabon adopted this reform in order to promote its wood industry while not taking account potential effects on deforestation. From panel data at second-order administrative division (ADM2) level from 2001 to 2018, this study investigates the impact of the LEB reform on deforestation in Gabon. The estimation strategy relies on a difference in difference (DiD) method in which the ADM2 in Cameroon and the Republic of the Congo are used as control group. The parallel trend test shows that there is no significant difference in deforestation level between Gabon and the control group before 2010. In addition, our results reveal that while deforestation increases in all three countries after 2010, compared to its neighbors, Gabon benefited from avoided deforestation estimated at nearly 2,100 km² from 2010 to 2018.

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