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SUMMARY No. 7/ SNOIE REPORTS



STANDARDIZED SYSTEM OF CIVIL SOCIETY INDEPENDENT
FOREST MONITORING – SNOIE

SUMMARY OF INDEPENDENT FOREST MONITORING - CAMEROON

[Reports produced in September-November 2019]

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The contents of this summary are the sole responsibility of FODER and can in no way be considered as reflecting the views of the European Union, FAO, DFID, ASDI and the implementing partners of the projects "Citizen Voices for Change: Congo Forest Basin Monitoring Project (CV4C Project)" and "Suivi indépendant des chaînes d'approvisionnement en bois et d'amplification des informations issues de l'observation indépendante des forêts" (Relai-OI Project).

Summary reports IFM_ SNOIE_ CV4C, Relai OI Project_ Jan 2020



The Minister of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) and his regional delegations in the East and Centre regions have received four reports of denunciations of illegal logging in the Centre and East regions since 10 December 2019. In these reports produced by CSOs, members of the Normalised System of Civil Society Independent Forest Monitoring (SNOIE), ISO certified 9001:2015, several alleged violations were noted. These include:

- Unauthorised logging in the National Forest Estate (NFE);
- Unauthorised exploitation in the Forest of the National Forest Estate (NFE) with fraudulent use of secure documents;
- Logging in violation of forest intervention standards in Cameroon;
- Non-respect of the rights of the communities bordering the Sale of standing volume (VC) 0808233 attributed to the company CAFECO SARL which has already exploited 3500 m³ of timber without paying back to the populations the sums intended for social realisations (2000/m³) in violation of Section 66 (1)¹ of the 1994 law on the forest regime;
- Exploitation of species not authorised by the CAFECO Company, notably Bubiinga (*Guibourti tessmannii*) and Wengue (*Milletia barteri*) in the permit, repressed by Section 4 155² of the 1994 Forest Law;

The IFM missions were carried out respectively by organisations such as: the *Projet d'Appui à l'Élevage et de Préservation de la biodiversité en périphérie des aires protégées au Cameroun* (PAPEL), *Forêts et Développement Rural* (FODER) and *Ecosystème et Développement* (ECODEV). The resources necessary to carry out the said IFM missions were mobilised within the framework of the "Citizen Voices for Change: Congo Forest Basin Monitoring Project" (CV4C project), implemented with the financial support of the European Union (EU) and partners, and the *Suivi indépendant des chaînes d'approvisionnement en bois et d'amplification des informations issues de l'observation indépendante des forêt* project (Relai-OI Project)", funded by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) within the framework of the FAO-EU FLEGT Programme.

In the course of the investigations carried out in the villages referred to above, alleged perpetrators were identified during these four IFM missions. These were:

- La scierie du Mbam et Kim (SMK) awarded UFA 08003
- The *Huguette Forestière* Company awarded the sale of standing volume(VC) 0808230;
- The CAFECO Company awarded the sale of standing volume(VC) 0808233;
- The IFTCA Company awarded the VC 0804401.

¹ Section 66 (1) of the Law of 94 states that: "For sales of standing volume and logging agreements, the financial charges provided for in Section 61 paragraph (3) above, in addition to the patent provided for by the General Tax Code, are constituted by: The annual forest royalty based on the surface area and whose rate is fixed by the finance law; The tax on the felling of forest products, that is, the value per species, volume, weight or length, estimated according to modalities fixed by decree; The progressive surtax on the export of unprocessed forest products: Contribution to the realisation of social projects..."

² Is punishable by a fine of CFAF 50,000 to 200,000 and imprisonment for twenty (20) days to two (2) months, or only one of these penalties, the perpetrator of one of the following offences; the exploitation by permit, in a forest of the National Forest Estate, of unauthorized forest products, or beyond the limits of the allocated volume and/or the granted period, in violation of Section 56 above, without prejudice to damages and interest on the timber exploited as provided for in Section 159 below;



- The Association ASBAD and the ENOUMEDI Noah Joss Cédar (ENJC) Company, a partner in charge of carrying out rescue logging in the community forest known as ASBAD, evaluated at 1246.71 ha located within the right-of-way of the Mekin hydroelectric dam, in collusion with certain individuals from the Alouma village and the local MINFOF official in charge of monitoring these operations.

The species exploited during these alleged illegal logging activities are mainly: Bubiinga (*Guibourtia tessmannii*), Wengue (*Milletia barteri*), Doussie (*Azelia pachyloba*), Dabema (*Piptadeniastrum africanum*), Tali (*Erythrophoeum ivorensis*), Ayous (*Triplochiton scleroxylon*), Frake (*Terminalia superba*).

The Summary of all these IFM reports produced through the SNOIE procedures below.

1. **SUMMARY REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT FOREST MONITORING OF ILLEGAL FOREST EXPLOITATION IN THE NDIRAM AND NYAMWA VILLAGES, Ngambé-Tikar and Ngoro Subdivisions, Mbam and Kim Division, Centre Region - Cameroon**

Fact(s): Unauthorized logging in a National Forest Estate in violation of the provisions of Section 53(1) of Law 94/01 of 20 January 1994 on the forestry, wildlife and fisheries regime which is punishable under Section 156(4) of the same law and Section 128(6) of Law No. 81/013 of 27 November 1981 on the forestry, wildlife and fisheries regime, and failure to comply with the intervention standards in the forest environment.

Alleged offender(s): Discussions with communities and some members of the local forest administration (Ngoro Forestry Post and the Mbam and Kim Divisional Forestry and Wildlife Delegation) suggested that this unauthorized logging activity in the National Forest Estate can be blamed on IFTCA that received the sale of standing volume (VC) 0804401.

Locality Ndiram and Nyamwa villages, Ngambé-Tikar and Ngoro Subdivisions, Mbam and Kim Division, Centre Region – Cameroon.

Date of Submission/Recipient(s): 10 December 2019, Regional Delegation for Forestry and Wildlife of the Centre (DRFoF-Centre)

Recommendations: At the end of the mission, ECODEV recommends that MINFOF should:

- Initiate a monitoring mission to the Ndiram and Nyamwa villages;
- Investigate in order to identify the author of the exploitation activity;
- Take the necessary measures against the offender, in accordance with the forest regulations in force;
- Order, as far as possible, the exhaustive census and the measurement of the timber abandoned in the forest; in order to proceed with their sale by auction.

Actions of the authority/company: None known at the time of publication

Author(s) of the report: *Ecosystèmes et Développement* (ECODEV)

Report Ref.: Ref: 004/RO-SNOIE/ECODEV/102019

Summary of report: On 20 September 2019, the association *Ecosystèmes et Développement* (ECODEV) received information regarding alleged illegal logging activities. According to the source of the information, these activities are allegedly taking place in the National Forest Estate (NFE) in the vicinity of the Ndiram and Nyamwa villages, which are located in the Ngambé-Tikar and Ngoro subdivisions, respectively.

Following this denunciation, an ECODEV team visited the site from 9 to 13 October 2019 to observe and document the facts. As a prelude to this field trip, the objectives of the mission were clearly defined. Among



other things, it was a question of collecting evidence of alleged illegality, collecting statements from the population and making recommendations to the Minister in charge of Forestry.

At the end of the investigations, the following facts were observed:

In the National Forest Estate, around Nditam:

- 6 unmarked stumps of various species including 2 of Doussie (*Azelia pachyloba*), 1 of Dabema (*Piptadeniastrum africanum*) and 3 of a forest species not botanically identified; including one located in a food crop farm;
- 4 logs and 3 short logs of various species, located in forest parks, all unmarked and with a total volume of 5.7782 m³: that is, 2 logs and 2 short logs of Doussie; as well as 2 logs and 1 short log of a species not botanically identified.
- 18 pieces of Doussie cuttings (rafters) with a total volume of 0.1087 m³.

In the National Forest Estate, around Nyamwa and the sale of standing volume (VC) 0804401 belonging to IFTCA:

- 7 stumps with 7 logs of Doussie abandoned at the logging site, all unmarked; for an estimated log volume of 6.7394 m³.

The above facts are punishable under Section 156(1) of Law No. 94/01 of 20 January 1994 on the forestry, wildlife and fisheries regime. Furthermore, the abandonment of logs leads to a presumption of non-compliance with Section 126(1) of Decree No. 95/531/PM of 23 August 1995 to lay down the modalities of application of the forest regime.

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http://oiecameroun.org/images/documents/RM-SNOIE_ECODEV_Nditam-Nyamwa_et_environs.pdf

2. SUMMARY REPORT OF INDEPENDENT FOREST MONITORING OF ALLEGED ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES IN THE MANSO AND NTANG VILLAGES (Ngambé-Tikar Subdivision, Mbam and Kim Division, Centre Region – Cameroon)

Fact(s): Unauthorised logging in the Forest of the National Domain (FDN) in violation of the provisions of Section 53 of the Forest Law of 20 January 1994 on the Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Regime; acts punishable under Section 156 (3) of the same law, Logging in violation of the standards of intervention in the forest environment, particularly Section 15³.

Alleged offender(s): *Scierie du Mbam et Kim* (SMK), which, after having benefited from UFA 08003 which is still valid (Annex 3), allegedly uses the official documents of this title to extend its activity in the National Forest Estate.

³ “The holder of a timber exploitation permit must keep intact a wooded edge 30 m wide, measured from the natural high water mark, on the edge of the sea, river, lake, stream or swamp. Note: This measure protects the shoreline from erosion and prevents sediments from entering the water. It protects mangroves, gallery forests in humid savannah zones and coastal forests or coastal ecotones in Sudano-Sahelian zones from degradation”



Locality: Manso and Ntang Villages Ngambé-Tikar Subdivision, Mbam and Kim Division Centre Region - Cameroon.

Date of Submission/Recipient(s): 10 December 2019 at the Regional Delegation for Forestry and Wildlife of the Centre (DRFoF-Centre)

Recommendations: Based on the facts observed during this independent forest monitoring mission, the mission recommended that MINFOF should instruct a forest control mission to the locality in order to take appropriate measures against the offender who carries out logging activities in violation of the laws and regulations in force. Moreover, the massif in question is located in an ecotone zone (transition zone between forest and savannah) and is part of the special ecological zones, which require special measures for their conservation.

Actions of the administrative authority: None known at the time of publication

Author(s) of the report: *Ecosystèmes et Développement* (ECODEV)

Report Ref.: Ref: 005/RO-SNOIE/ECODEV/112019

Summary of the report: On 5 October 2019, the Ntui-based *Ecosystèmes et Développement* Association (ECODEV) received information about alleged illegal logging activities currently taking place in the National Forest Estate (NFE). Specifically, the activity is said to be taking place in the vicinity of the Manso and Ntang villages, which are located respectively twenty (20) and forty-five (45) kilometres from Ngambé-Tikar, on which they are administratively dependent. Following this denunciation, an ECODEV team visited the site from 24 November to 28 November 2019 to observe and document the facts.

Investigations have revealed the following:

- 27 stumps of various timber species, including 7 in Manso village and 20 in Ntang village, all unmarked and found in the National Forest Estate (see figures 2 and 3).
- 11 logs belonging to 04 different species abandoned in the forest on the Manso side, in 3 of the 7 parks visited; all unmarked and composed essentially of Ayous, Tali, Frake, Doussie for a total compiled volume of 15.59 m³.
- 10 logs and various short logs, abandoned in 2 of the 4 work camps visited in the vicinity of Ntang village, none of them bearing a mark; with a total volume of 9.49m³.
- Timber exploitation less than 30m from an unnamed water body;

The facts thus observed give rise to a presumption of non-compliance with technical logging standards in violation of Section 29 and 61 thereof, which are punishable under Section 125 of the Law of 27 November 1981, and unauthorised logging in a National Forest Estate in violation of Section 53(1)2 of Law No. 94/01 of 20 January 1994 on the forestry, wildlife and fisheries regime, which is punishable under Section 156(2)3 of the said Law.

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http://oiecameroun.org/images/documents/RM-SNOIE_ECODEV_Ntang_et_Mansoh.pdf (French Version)

http://oiecameroun.org/images/documents/RM-SNOIE_ECODEV_Ntang_et_Mansoh_English.pdf (English Version)



3. SUMMARY OF INDEPENDENT FOREST MONITORING OF ALLEGED ILLEGAL FORESTRY ACTIVITIES IN THE VILLAGES OF ALOUMA, MASSIEL, KOMBA 1 AND ITS ENVIRONS (Somalomo Subdivision, Upper Nyong Division, East Region)

Fact(s): Unauthorized exploitation in the National Forest Estate (NFE) with fraudulent use of secure documents. These acts are punishable under the provisions of the following Sections 65⁴, 156 (3)⁵, 158 (7)⁶ of the Forestry Law of 20 January 1994 and Section 128⁷ of Law 81/013 of 27 November 1981 on the forestry, wildlife and fisheries regime.

Alleged offender(s): The *Association ASBAD* and the ENOUMEDI Noah Joss Cédar (ENJC) company, a partner in charge of carrying out rescue logging in the community forest known as ASBAD, evaluated at 1246.71 ha located within the right-of-way of the Mekin hydroelectric dam, in complicity with certain individuals from the Alouma village and the local MINFOF official in charge of monitoring these operations.

Locality: Alouma, Komba I and Komba Tida Villages, Somalomo Subdivision, East Region.

Date of Submission/Recipient(s): 16 December 2019, Regional Delegation for Forestry and Wildlife in the East (DRFoF-East)

Recommendations: At the end of the mission, PAPEL recommends that the Ministry in charge of Forestry should initiate a monitoring mission in the villages of Alouma, Komba Tida, Komba 1, Massiel, Ndjibot and their environs in order to verify the forestry operations taking place in these areas and, if possible, punish offenders in relation to the regulations in force.

Actions of the authority/company: None known at the time of publication.

Author(s) of the report: *Projet d'Appui à l'Élevage et de Préservation de la biodiversité en périphérie des aires protégées au Cameroun* (PAPEL)

Report Ref.: Ref: 019/RO-SNOIE/PAPEL/102019

Summary of the report: This mission was triggered following information of industrial logging in the National Forest Estate of the Alouma, Komba I and Komba Tida villages, in Somalomo Subdivision, East Region. In order to assess the veracity of these allegations and to document the facts, PAPEL carried out a mission from 10 to 14 October 2019 in the area concerned. The on-site examination revealed the existence of:

- Forty-one (41) unmarked stumps in the National Forest Estate, notably the Tali (*Erythrophleum ivorense*) in the vicinity of the villages Komba 1 and Komba Tida;
- Eight (08) parks emptied of their contents in the National Forest Estate and along the route connecting the Alouma and Komba 1 villages;

⁴ "Any infringement of the provisions of this law or of the regulatory texts adopted for its application, and in particular (...) the violation of the realisation of the clauses of the specifications will lead either to the suspension, or in the event of a repeat offence, to the withdrawal of the operating title or, where applicable, of the approval under the conditions laid down by decree"

⁵ A fine of CFAF 200,000 to 1,000,000 and imprisonment for one (1) month to six (6) months, or only one of these penalties, shall be imposed on the perpetrator of any of the following offences: -unauthorized logging in a forest in the national or community domain, in violation of Sections 52, 53 and 54, without prejudice to damages on the timber exploited (...).

⁶ A fine of between CFAF 3,000,000 and 10,000,000 and imprisonment for between one (1) and three (3) years or only one of these penalties shall be imposed on the perpetrator of any of the following offences: falsification or fraud on any document issued by the forestry, wildlife and fisheries administrations, as the case may be".

⁷ A fine of CFAF 500,000 F to 2,000,000 and imprisonment for a term of 3 months to 2 years, or either of these two penalties, shall be imposed on anyone who: (...)



- Marks with green paint and dry hammer prints showing GIC ZIOMAS, ASBAD, the following numbers: 00170665; 00170563; 00174105 as well as the initials RASCS on eight (08) logs identified on two (02) semi-trailer trucks (LT 3355SR and LTR 068ON) stationed at Komba 1 and on a short log of Tali in the forest;
- A copy of document No. 1078/ASCS/MINFOF/SETA of 14 May 2019 renewing the Special Authorisation for Rescue logging in the community forest called ASBAD evaluated at 1246.71 ha located in the right-of-way of the Mekin hydroelectric dam;
- A copy of document No. 19/1746/NDA/RE/DRFOF of 4 July 2019 on the Notification of commencement of logging activities issued to the association ASBAD and its subcontractor ENOUMEDI Noah Joss Cédar (ENJC), approved to the logging profession.

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https://oiecameroun.org/images/RM_SNOIE_PAPEL -Massiel Alouma 15122019.pdf

4. SUMMARY REPORT OF THE AUDIT MISSION TO VERIFY ALLEGED ILLEGAL FOREST OPERATION ACTIVITIES AROUND THE KELLE MPECK, KELLE BITJOKA AND SO DIBANGA VILLAGES, Messondo Subdivision, Nyong and Kellé Division, Centre Region - Cameroon

Fact(s): Three facts were observed during this IFM mission:

- Logging in Violation of Forest Intervention Standards in Cameroon;
- Non-respect of the rights of the communities bordering the VC 0808233 attributed to the company CAFECO SARL which has already exploited 3500 m3 of wood without paying back to the populations the sums intended for social achievements (2000/m3) in violation of article 66 (1) of the law of 94 on the forest regime;
- Exploitation of species not authorised by the CAFECO Company, notably Bubiinga (*Guibourtia tessmannii*) and Wengue (*Milletia barteri*) in the permit, repressed by Section 4 155 of the 1994 Forest Law.

Alleged offender(s): The Huguette Forestière Company awarded the Sale of standing volume (VC) 0808230 and the CAFECO Company awarded the Sale of standing volume (VC) 0808233.

Locality: Kelle Mpeck, Kelle Bitjoka and So dibanga Villages; Messondo Subdivision, Nyong and Kellé Division, Centre Region - Cameroon;

Date of Submission/Recipient(s): 16 December 2019 at the Regional Delegation of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife for the Centre (DRFOF - Centre)

Recommendations: Based on the facts observed during this monitoring mission, FODER recommends to the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) to instruct a mission of verification in VC 0808233 and 0808230.

Actions of the authority/company: None known at the time of publication.

Author(s) of the report: *Forêts et Développement Rural* (FODER)

Report Ref.: Ref: 027/RO-SNOIE/FODER/092019



Summary of the report: In order to strengthen the monitoring of the legality of forestry operations in Cameroon, the Association *Forêts et Développement Rural* (FODER) is implementing the standardized System of Civil Society Independent Forest Monitoring (SNOIE), modelled on the international quality standard (ISO 9001-2015). To this end, FODER received information on a case of alleged illegal logging in the Messondo subdivisions according to which the company CAFECO SARL is exploiting without respecting the rights of the communities bordering the Sale of standing volume (VC) 0808233, destroying bridges and roads without rehabilitating them. It is in order to verify this information that a verification mission was carried out by FODER from 16 to 19 September 2019 in the Messondo subdivision, So Dibanga, Kellé Bitjoka, Souk and Kellé Mpeck Villages.

At the end of the mission, the following indications of alleged illegal logging were observed and documented:

In the environs of the Kellé Bitsoka village (Messondo Subdivision), an alleged illegal logging operation in the Sale of standing volume (VC) 0808233 is carried out by the CAFECO Company. It includes:

- 18 Stumps marked with various species whose markings on one of the stumps were as follows (CAFECO, VC 0808233; DF10, 0176659, Zone 2);
- 4 Timber yards in the forest containing a total of 38 logs of various species bearing the markings (CAFECO, VC 0808233, DF10 00176659, Zone 2 Felling date 07-29-2019) ;
- 02 parks emptied of their contents;
- Employment contracts established between members of the community of Kellé Bitsoka with the CFK instead of CAFECO SARL.

In the vicinity of the Souck village (Messondo subdivision), an alleged illegal logging operation in the Sale of standing volume (VC) 0808230, was carried out by the Huguette Forestière Company, which was awarded the VC. It includes:

- 15 Unmarked stumps of various species;
- 04 timber yards in the forest containing a total of 23 logs of various species;
- 02 logs of Frake bearing the marks (HF; VC 0808230, DF10 00165868, Zone 2, Slaughter date 08-05-2019) ;
- The obstruction of the Lepli Bom and Lep Makon streams.

At the end of discussions with the communities of Kellé Bitjoka, the mission noted that the rights of the said communities were not respected because the 1000 FCFA/m³ to be paid back to the communities has not yet been paid by CAFECO SARL, which is the recipient of VC 0808233. Similarly, the Huguette Forestière (HF) company started the exploitation without agreeing with the communities on the social realisations of the latter.

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https://oiecameroun.org/images/RM-SNOIE_FODER_Messondo_092019_CV4C.pdf



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Summary reports IFM_ SNOIE_ CV4C, Relai OI Project_ Jan 2020_ Page 9

