

## STANDARDIZED EXTERNAL INDEPENDENT MONITORING SYSTEM (SNOIE)

# SYNTHESIS OF INDEPENDENT FOREST MONITORING REPORTS - CAMEROON

[Reports produced from November 2019 to February 2020]

### Contact :

**SNOIE Coordination /Forêts et Développement Rural**

**P.O. Box :** 11417 Yaoundé-Cameroun

**Tel:** +237 222005248

**Email:** [snoiecameroun@gmail.com](mailto:snoiecameroun@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.oiecameroun.org](http://www.oiecameroun.org)

*The contents of this summary is the sole responsibility of FODER. They do not absolutely match the point of view of the European Union and the implementing partners of the project "Citizen voices for change: Forest monitoring in the Congo Basin" (CV4C) project.*

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Two (02) cases of alleged illegal logging activities, documented through high quality independent forest monitoring (IFM) activities carried out in the Centre and South regions of Cameroon, were reported to the Minister of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOP), and its regional delegations in those Regions in March 2020. In these reports written by CSOs using the Standardized External Independent Monitoring System (SNOIE), certified ISO 9001: 2015, several alleged infringements of the forest law were identified. These include:

- Logging activities in community forests without authorisation. Namely in the GIC DA community forest (CF) which does not appear in the list of valid titles of October 25, 2019 and does not have an Annual logging Certificate also known as Certificat annuel d'exploitation (CAE) in French ;
- Unauthorized logging in a National Estate Forests (NEF);
- Non-respect of logging standards.

The IFM missions were carried out by Ecosystèmes et Développement (ECODEV) in the Upper Sanaga Division<sup>1</sup> (Centre Region) and Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement Local et Alternatif (CeDLA) in the Ocean Division<sup>2</sup> (South Region). Those missions were carried through "Citizen voices for change: forest monitoring in the Congo Basin" (CV4C project), funded with the support of the European Union (EU) and the Department for International Development (DFID).

Those individuals responsible of these alleged offenses could not be identified during the fact-finding missions by the named organizations teams.

The illegally logged species observed were Bubinga (*Guibourti tessmannii*), Red Doussie (*Afzelia bipindensis*), Ekop Bli (*Monopetalanthus letestui*), Azobé (*Lophira alata*), Bilinga (*Nauclea diderrichii*) and Okoumé (*Aucoumea klaineana*), Ayous (*Triplochiton scleroxylon*), Tali (*Erythropheum ivorense*), Fraké, (*Terminalia superba*), White Doussie (*Afzelia pachyloba*) Ngollon / Bassam Mahogany (*Khaya Ivor* ), Sapelli (*Entandrophragma cylindricum*), Iroko (*Milicia excelsa*), Red Padouk (*Pterocarpus soyauxii*) and Ilomba (*Pycnanthus angolensis*).

The summary of all these IFM reports produced via the SNOIE procedures below.

## **1. SUMMARY REPORT OF THE INDEPENDANT FOREST MONITORING MISSION OF ILLEGAL FOREST HARVESTING ALLEGATIONS CARRIED OUT IN MOKOLO, DJANKANI, METEP, NGOEDJOU I AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES (Bibey Sud-Division, Upper Sanaga Division, Center Region - Cameroon)**

**Fact (s):** Non-compliance with logging standards and logging in community forests without authorization in violation of the provisions of, the article 128 of Law N ° 81/013 of November 27, 1981 forest law as well as articles 65 and 156 paragraph 3 of Law N° 94/01 of January 20, 1994 on forests, wildlife and fishing.

**Alleged infringer (s):** An unidentified logger whose name is unknown to both the community and the forestry administration of the Upper Sanaga Division.

**Locality:** MOKOLO, DJANKANI, METEP, NGOEDJOU I AND SURROUNDINGS villages (Bibey Sud-Division, Upper Sanaga Division, Center Region - Cameroon).

**Submission date / Recipient (s):** March 16, 2020, the Regional Delegation of Forests and Wildlife in the Centre (DRFoF-Centre)

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<sup>1</sup> The National Estate Forests in the neighbouring villages of Mokolo, Djankani, Metep and Ngoedjou I.

<sup>2</sup> Ndjabilobé village and the the neighbouring communities in Akom2 Subdivision



**Recommendations:** At the end of the mission, ECODEV recommends that MINFOF initiate a forest control mission in ASSGRIMEN community forest, located alongside Metep village in order to:

- Identify and take sanctions against the perpetrators of these offenses;
- To sensitize the officials of ASSGRIMEN community forest on the progress of the logging activity in the forest which has been allocated to them.

**Undertaken Actions by the competent authority:** Not known at time of the publication

**Report's author (s):** ECODEV

**Ref. of the rapport:** Ref: 006/RO-SNOIE/ECODEV/022020

**Summary of the report:** On June 24, 2019 ECODEV received via Forêts et Développement Rural (FODER), a FLEGT Watch event from Visio Terra, presenting referenced satellite images: DEF-ET-001 and DEF-ET-002–CMR-FODER06 - Zone 1 UFA 08001 on the Areas monitored by FODER. In February 2020, ECODEV's network of informants informed him on the same deforestation events. Following the information received a mission was carried out from February 12 to 16, 2020 in order to verify and document the said events. Beyond the initial objective of the mission, the self-referral team widened its field of investigation, in particular in the community forest of the Metep village, where it noticed an ongoing logging activity. Observations and interviews took place in the villages of Mokolo, Djankani, Metep, and Ngoedjou I, located in the Bibey Sud-Division. A phone interview also took place with the staff of the Divisional delegation of forests and wildlife (DDFOF) of the Upper Sanaga for this purpose.

At the end of the fact-finding, the following facts were documented:

At the points targeted by the mission represented by DEF-ET-002 and DEF-ET-001, located respectively in UFA 08001 and near the villages Mekon III and Ndomba, they report creation of farms with clearing and slaughter already carried out. However, they also observed 03 batches of abandoned Ayous planks at point DEF-ET-00.

As for the community forests ASSGRIMEN and GIC TAMBÁ GAREH located near Metep. The following facts were observed and documented:

- Nineteen (19) unmarked strains of various species;
- Two (02) forest parks containing thirty-four (34) logs in total with a volume of 193.3043 m<sup>3</sup>, all unmarked;
- Skidding tracks in the community forest;
- The obstruction of an unnamed stream;
- The cutting of several Ayous stems in a temporarily flooded swamp (MIT);

Analysis of the facts observed, refers to the following offenses:

- Non-compliance with intervention standards in the forest environment;
- Logging in the CF without authorization.

These facts are respectively repressed by articles 15 of chapter 4 of the standards of intervention in forest environment (NIMF), article 128 of Law N ° 81/013 of November 27, 1981 as well as articles 65, 156 (2) paragraph 3 of Law 94/01 of January 20, 1994 on the regime of forests, wildlife and fishing.

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## 2. SYNTHESE RAPPORT DE MISSION D'OBSERVATION INDEPENDANTE DES ACTIVITES FORESTIERES PRESUMEEES ILLEGALES EFFECTUEE DANS LE VILLAGE NDJABILOBE ET SES ENVIRONS (Arrondissement d'Akom II, Département de l'océan, Région du sud)

**Fact (s) :** 1) Unauthorized logging activities in the GIC DA community forest (CF) ; This CF does not appear in the valid list of titles on October 25, 2019 and does not have an Annual logging certificate (CAE). 2) unauthorized forestry activities in a National Estate Forests (NEF), in violation of article 53 of law 94/01 of January 20, 1994 on the regime of wildlife forests and fishing; all repressed by the provisions of article 156 of law 94/01 of January 20, 1994 on the one hand and repressed by article 156 of the same law and article 128 of law N°81/013 of November 27, 1981 on the other hand.

**Alleged infringer (s):** Unidentified, but according to interviews with the community of Akanga village. During the investigation mission, a company called TALIFAM came in the village three (03) months before with the aim of creating a community plantation. One month after arriving the village, this company began to cut trees, from behind the houses to deep inside the forest. Several farms were destroyed during the felling, the using of Bulldozer and during the skidding. At the time the report was written, there were approximately twenty logs (20) of various species (Padouk, Pachy, Azobé, Bilinga, Dabéma, Bibolo) stored in a park behind a hill awaiting to be transported..

**Locality:** Ndjabilobé village and its neighbourhood, Akom 2 Sub-Division, Ocean Division, South Region

**Submission date / Recipient (s):** March 16, 2020 to the Regional Delegation of Forests and Wildlife in the South (DRFoF-Sud)

**Recommendations:** Based on the observed facts, CeDLA recommends that the Ministry of forest and wildlife to carry out a control mission in Ndjabilobé and its neighbourhood to assess the legality of forest activities realised in that area and all take legal relevant actions against the perpetrator of the alleged illegalities and their accomplices.

**Undertaken Actions by the competent Authority:** Not known at time of publication

**Report author (s):** Centre pour le Développement Local Alternatif (CeDLA)

**Ref of the report:** Ref: 014/RO-SNOIE/CeDLA/112019

**Summary of the report:** On October 05, 2019, CeDLA received a denunciation of the alleged illegal exploitation practices taking place in the village called Ndjabilobé and its neighbourhood. Following this denunciation, CeDLA carried out from November 04 to November 08, 2019, a field mission to observe and document the allegations.

At the end of this mission, the following facts were observed:

- In the community forest allocated to GIC DA
  - One (01) park containing nineteen (19) logs of various unmarked species, cubing 372.23 m3;
  - Eight (08) unmarked strains of various species;
  - Seven (07) unmarked and unhooked logs of various species cubing 77.14 m3
  - One (01) skidding track;
  - A developed forest track used for the evacuation of CF wood.

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➤ In the National Estate Forests (NEF)

- One hundred and thirty-seven (137) pieces of sawn timber from Ekop Béli of 09.59 m3 and the rest of sawed wood with a mobile chainsaw found;
- 116 pieces of red Doussie; 17 Pachy pieces; and 8 pieces of Bubinga, found in a park. The whole is 9.87 cubic meter.

These facts respectively constitute: a) an unauthorized exploitation in the FC GIC DA which does not appear in the list of valid titles of October 25, 2019 and does not have an Annual logging Certificate (CAE) and b) unauthorized logging in an NEF, in violation of article 53 of law 94/01 of January 20, 1994 on the regime of forests, wildlife and fishing; all respectively repressed by the provisions of article 156 and article 156 of the law N°94/01 of January 20, 1994 as well as article 128 of law 81 / 013 of November 27, 1981.

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