



SUMMARY No. 4/ SNOIE REPORTS

Système Normalisé
Observation Indépendante Externe

**NORMALISED SYSTEM OF CIVIL SOCIETY INDEPENDENT
FOREST MONITORING -SNOIE**

**SUMMARY OF
INDEPENDENT
FOREST
MONITORING -
CAMEROON**

[Reports produced in March 2019]

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SummaryIFM Reports_SNOIE_CV4C Project_May 2019



Since 23 April 2019, the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF), Regional Delegations of the South and Centre, the Public Prosecutor for courts in the South, and CONAC have been informed of cases of alleged illegal logging in the South and Centre Regions. The alleged violations were identified by CSO members of the Normalised System of Civil Society Independent Forest Monitoring (SNOIE), certified ISO 9001:2015. These include unauthorized logging in the communal forest of Ebolowa1, Ebolowa2, and Akom2, with sampling of Bubinga, which is a species whose exploitation requires the prior issuance of a Non-Detrimental Finding (NDF) and unauthorized logging in a community forest and a national domain forest in the environs of the Kong and Mbasongo villages, with violation of technical logging standards

In order to document these alleged violations, these IFM missions were carried out according to the approach of the Normalised System of Civil Society Independent Forest Monitoring (SNOIE), respectively by organisations such as: the *Centre pour le Développement Local Alternatif (CeDLA)* and *Ecosystème et Développement (ECODEV)*. The resources needed to carry out these IFM missions were mobilized through the “*Voix des citoyens pour le changement: observation forestière dans le Bassin du Congo*” project (CV4C project), implemented with the financial support of the European Union (EU) and partners

During the investigations carried out in the villages mentioned above, it was revealed that those responsible for the alleged illegal logging are, among others, the person known as “LAVENIR” (in the case of the South Region), and the ZENITH Company (in the Centre Region).

The summary of IFM reports produced through SNOIE procedures are discussed below.

1. SUMMARY REPORT OF IFM MISSION OF ILLEGAL LOGGING IN THE COMMUNAL FOREST OF EBOLOWA1, EBOLOWA2, AND IN THE EBEMVOK VILLAGE AND ITS ENVIRONS – AKOM2 SUBDIVISION, OCEAN DIVISION, SOUTH REGION.

Fact(s) Unauthorized logging in the communal forest of Ebolowa1, Ebolowa2, and Akom2, with sampling of Bubinga, which is a species whose exploitation requires the prior issuance of a Non-Detrimental Finding (NDF) by an individual called “LAVENIR” with the alleged complicity of the Mayor of Akom2 and the facilitation of some notables.

Locality: Ebolowa1, Ebolowa2, and Akom2 in the Ebemvok village and its environs – AKOM2 Subdivision, Ocean Division, South Region.

Date of submission/addressee(s): 23 April 2019 at the South Regional Delegate of Forestry and Wildlife (DRFoF-South)

Recommendations: At the end of this mission, recommendations were made to:

- The Minister of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) to determine the responsibilities from the evacuation of seized timber;
- The president of CONAC, to start an inquiry to determine the various accomplices and acts of corruption;
- The Public Prosecutor, to start a judicial inquiry on the seemingly fraudulent evacuation of timber seized by BNC and which can be traced to nowhere. MINFOF to send a verification mission to control the alleged illegal logging operations carried out by the *Société Huguette Forestière* in the Bella, Nkolo, Goap villages and their environs.



Actions of the authority: None that is known

Authors(s) of report: *Centre local pour le Développement Alternatif (CeDLA)*

Ref. of report: 001/RO-SNOIE/CeDLA/102018

Summary of report: The *Centre pour le Développement Local Alternatif (CeDLA)* received a telephone report on 8 November 2018 from a member of the village community informing them of alleged illegal logging practices in the forest in the environs of the Ebemvok and Bibouleman villages, by unidentified individuals. For deployment in this area, the CeDLA team carried out a field mission from 3 to 7 December 2018 to observe and document the allegations..

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

- Eight (08) logs of various species including four (04) Dabema, one (01) Ebene and three (03) Bubinga bearing the seizure marks and cubing a total of 209.23m³; then two (02) Bubinga shorts bearing the seizure marks and cubing 50.69m³;
- Ten (10) unmarked stumps of various species including Dabema, Bubinga, Ebony.
- Road developed and with a blocked entrance.
- A vehicle parked at Awomo (Pygmy village inside the FClé).

The team's analysis of these facts enabled it to conclude that this is an unauthorized logging operation in a State forest (FD) in violation of article 44(1)1 of Law No. 94/01 of 20 January 1994 on the forestry, wildlife and fisheries regime and punished by Article 158(1)2.

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<http://oiecameroun.org/images/documents/rappors/mission-SNOIE CeDLA Rapport Mission EBEMVOK2.pdf>

2. SUMMARY REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT FOREST MONITORING MISSION IN THE STATE FOREST IN THE ENVIRONS OF THE KONG AND MBASONGO VILLAGES, NGAMBEE-TIKAR SUBDIVISION, MBAM AND KIM DIVISION, CENTRE REGION

Fact(s): Unauthorized logging in a community forest and a forest of the national domain in the environs of the Kong and Mbasongo villages, with violation of technical logging standards.

Locality: Kong and Mbasongo villages (Ngambe-Tikar Subdivision, Mbam and Kim Division, Centre Region)

Date of submission/addresses(s): 23 April 2019 at the Centre Regional Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife (DRFoF-Centre)

Recommendations: Based on the facts observed during this monitoring mission, ECODEV recommends that the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) should:

- Conduct a forest monitoring mission in the locality, in order to verify the veracity of the reported facts, and also to control the fraudulent logging site in the FDN, in the environs of the Kong and Mbasongo villages



- take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the legislation in force, as well as the preservation of the Kong forest massif, made up of indigenous ecotones, requiring protection by special measures. Indeed, their destruction will have significant ecological consequences.

Actions of the Authority: None that is known

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

Ref. of report: Ref: 002/RO-SNOIE/ECODEV/032019

Summary of report: On 15 January 2019, *Ecosystèmes et Développement (ECODEV)* based in Ntui received information on alleged illegal logging activities currently underway in forests of the national domain (FDN). More specifically, the activity was allegedly being carried out in the environs of the Kong village, which is located approximately ninety (90) kilometres from Ngambe-Tikar, on which it is administratively dependent. According to the informant, these activities are allegedly being carried out by the *Société Industrielle de Mbang (SIM)*. Following this denunciation, a team from the ECODEV association visited the site from 26 February to 2 March 2019, in order to observe and document the facts. As a prelude to this field trip, the mission's objectives were clearly defined. Among other things, this involved collecting indications of presumed illegality, collecting declarations from the population and making recommendations to the Minister in charge of Forestry.

The investigations revealed that:

56 unmarked stumps of various species¹ found in both the GAK community forest (*Groupe des Agriculteurs de Kong*) and in forests of the national domain (FDN), (see figures 2 and 3). - 12 logs abandoned in the forest, all unmarked and belonging to 5 different species; composed mainly of Ayous, Ngollon/Mahogany, Bassam, Bété and Eyek; for a total compiled volume of 82, 152477 m³. - 21 logs and shorts of various species, abandoned in 5 of the 8 construction sites visited (photos 9, 10, 12 and 13); some of them bearing: the operator's trademarks: ZENITH ; the licence number: VC 0804402; DF10 numbers: 00114250, 00113313, 004229; 227; felling dates: 10/11/18, 09/08/18, 23/08/18; ZENITH; and the operating area: Z2; - Debris from operating equipment such as the power saw chain, skidding cable ends were left on site. A forest road opened by hand where lorry tracks were observed.

The felling of timber in zone30, with, among other things, the obstruction of 2 unidentified water bodies, due to the passage of the road and the skidding track:

The facts thus observed lead to the presumption that ZENITH is in breach of the technical standards of exploitation in violation of Articles 29 and 61 thereof, which are punishable under Article 125 of the Law of 27 November 1981 and unauthorised exploitation in a community forest and in a forest of the national domain in violation of Article 53 (1)² and 543 of Law No 94/01 of 20 January 1994 on the forestry, wildlife and fisheries regime and punishable under Article 156 (2)⁴ of that same Law.

In view of ZENITH company's marks found on certain logs at the park level during the mission, there is every reason to believe that this company is the main culprit in these fraudulent forest activities.

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https://oiecameroun.org/images/documents/rapports/Rapport_mission_SNOIE_ECODEV_Kong_et_environs_032019.pdf

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