



Système Normalisé
Observation Indépendante Externe



SUMMARY No. 5 / SNOIE REPORTS

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

SUMMARY OF INDEPENDENT FOREST MONITORING - CAMEROON

[Reports produced in May – June 2019]

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In the course of the months of May and June 2019, three (3) Cameroonian Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) carried out fact-finding missions in the East and South regions to investigate allegations of illegal forest exploitation. The reports of the missions were submitted to the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) and its East and South regional delegations. During the missions, the alleged crimes were pointed out by the CSOs which are members of *Normalised System of Civil Society Independent Forest Monitoring (SNOIE)* which is ISO 9001:2015 certified. *The allegations include:*

- Unauthorized exploitation of community forests in collusion with the people of *Bareko, Mpan Kobera and Mpan Diteb villages in the East region,*
- Unauthorized exploitation in a national forest area,
- Fraudulent exploitation within a valid concession,
- Forest exploitation beyond the limits of Forestry Management Unit (UFA) 10050,
- Ongoing unauthorized exploitation in a national forest area near the Nkoulkoua and Londjap villages,
- Failure to comply with technical logging standards in a national forest area near Nkoulkoua and Londjap villages,
- Alleged complicity of a MINFOF agent with jurisdiction in Somalomo in the East region, in forest exploitation beyond the limits of UFA 10050,
- Clearing/deforestation of an area estimated at 16 hectares (QGIS) leading to changes in a forest cover identified by version 1.0 detector in the CMR FODER37_Zone 3 Messaména / Mindourou monitored area,
- Exploitation beyond the limits of VC 0903451,
- Complicity in an unauthorized exploitation in a national forest area in Bifa'a village and its environs in Niète sub-division of the Ocean Division, South region

In order to document all these offences, the missions of the CSOs were carried out following the *Normalised System of Civil Society Independent Forest Monitoring (SNOIE)*. *The organisations include the Forests and Rural Development (FODER), the “Support Project for Livestock and Biodiversity Preservation around Protected Areas in Cameroon” (PAPEL) and the Centre for Alternative Local Development (CEDLA).*

Resources for the realisation of the said missions were mobilised within the framework of two projects; the European Union-funded “Citizens’ Voices For Change: forest observation in the Congo Basin (CV4C)” and the “Integrate community monitoring in real time to sustain livelihoods and forests in West and Central Africa (RTM2).

During the three investigation missions; the authors of the alleged offenses were identified. They include;

- A company named “Nation Bois” which is not authorised by MINFOF to carry out forest exploitation. It is owned by a certain Hugues (resident in Abong-Mbang) who operates in



complicity with the people of Bareko, Mpan Kobera and Mpan Diteb, as documented by PAPEL as an illegal activity.

- Three (03) unidentified individuals living in Mboumo village are allegedly responsible for the change in the forest cover occurred in the Messamena/Mindourou community forest in Messamena sub division of the Upper Nyong Division, East region- documented by PAPEL.
- The “Société des Bois Africains du Cameroun (SBAC)” was documented by FODER for alleged illegal exploitation around the Masea, Nkoulkoua and Londjapvillages in Somalomo sub-division.
- The “Société Africaine des Bois de l'Est (SABE)” was found to be exploiting forest beyond the limits of its VC 0903451 concession in Bifa’a village and around the Niete sub division of the Ocean Division, South region.

The summaries of all the Independent Forest Monitoring reports produced through SNOIE procedures are here below.

1. SUMMARY OF OBSERVATION MISSION ON ALLEGATIONS OF ILLEGAL FOREST ACTIVITIES AROUND BAREKO/MPAN KOBERA/MPAN DITIEB VILLAGES IN MESSOK AND LOMIE SUB DIVISIONS IN THE OCEAN DIVISION, EAST REGION.

Fact (s): Three facts of illegality were observed during the mission. These include:

- *Unauthorized exploitation of community forests in collusion with the people of Bareko, Mpan Kobera and Mpan Diteb in their community forest in violation of dispositions of article 30 (3) and 54 (4) of Law No. 94-01 of January 20, 1994 laying down Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Regulations, suppressed by provisions of articles 158 (5) of the same law.*
- *Unauthorized exploitation in a national forest area in violation of provisions of article 53 (1)6 of the January 20, 1994 Forest Law, suppressed by provisions of articles 156 (3) 7 of the same law.*
- *Fraudulent exploitation within a valid license, suppressed by article 158 (28) of the January 20, 1994 Forest Law.*

Presumed author(s) of the offenses: A company named Nation Bois which is not authorised by MINFOF to carry out forest exploitation. It is owned by a certain Hugues (resident in Abong-Mbang) and operates in complicity with the people of Bareko, Mpan Kobera and Mpan Diteb.

Locality: Bareko, Mpan Kobera and Mpan Diteb villages in the Messok and Lomié sub divisions in the Upper Nyong division, East region.

Date of submission/ recipient(s): July 2, 2019 at the East regional delegation for Forestry and Wildlife.

Recommendations: At the end of the mission, PAPEL recommended that MINFOF should:



Carry out control missions in the following areas;

- ✓ Community forests : N° 10 02 143 awarded to GIC CADIBA of Bareko and N° 10 02 257/ GIC RECODEM of Mpan Diteb,
- ✓ Community forest N° 1492 awarded to the Lomie Council and ; National Forest area (former VC 10 02 227),

Reaction of authority / company: No known action

Author(s) of the report: Projet d'Appui à l'Elevage et de Préservation de la biodiversité en périphérie des aires protégées au Cameroun- PAPEL ("Support Project For Livestock and Biodiversity Preservation around Protected Areas in Cameroon).

Report reference: Ref: 015/RO-SNOIE/PAPEL/032019

Summary of Report: Within the framework of the implementation of the *Normalised System of Civil Society Independent Forest Monitoring (SNOIE)* in the Upper Nyong division, PAPEL (partner CSO 1) received information from a representative of CaBuRo2 and a notable from Bareko village indicating that illegal forest exploitation had been taking place around Bareko in MessokSub division since February 2018. More recently in February 2019, according to the same sources, the activities continued both during the day and at night, extending to the Mpan Kobera and Mpan Diteb villages in Lomie Subdivision.

Responding to the need to verify the allegations, PAPEL initiated an Independent External Observation (IEO) mission from to run from March 19 to 26, 2019 in the three villages and their environs.

The methodology scheme applied for the mission included documentation review, interviews with individuals and direct observation on the site of activities.

At the end of the missions, the following facts were identified:

- a) *Inside the limits of community forests N° 10 02 143 allocated to GIC CADIBA of Bareko and N° 10 02 257/ GIC RECODEM of Mpan Diteb,*
 - Six (06) unmarked stumps of which four (04) are Sapelli and two (02) are of Sipo wood;
 - Remains and waste of sawn wood in a mobile saw mill found near the tree stumps.
 - An emptied park along a logging road;
 - Two entry points into a forest exploitation area noticeable along the Bareko-Mpan Diteb road
- b) *Inside the former national forest area identified as Vente de Coupe n° 10 02 214*
 - Nine unmarked stumps including four (04) Sapelli, one (01) Moabi, one (01) Doussié, one (01) Sipo, one (01) Dibetou and one (01) Ayous;
 - One thousand and fourteen (1 014) logs amounting to 74.97m³. They comprised of 700 logs of Ayous of 42m³, 144 logs of Doussié of 15.12 m³, 98 logs of Sapelli of 10.29 m³ and 72 logs of Sipo of 7.56 m³;
 - An abandoned camp that hosted a team of sawmills workers.

c) *Within the limits of 1492/Lomie Community Forest*

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- Six (06) unmarked stumps including three (3) Sapelli stumps, two (02) Sipo and one (01) Iroko tree stump ;
- A logging road whose point of departure can be seen from the Messok-Bareko road. It goes 8km deep into the Lomie community forest.

Sources interviewed in these villages attest that the activities are carried out by a certain Hugues (resident in Abong-Mbang) who owns a company named Nation Bois which is not authorised by MINFOF to carry out forest exploitation.

An analysis of the facts above led to the conclusion that:

- There is an unauthorized exploitation carried out in the Bareko, Mpan Kobera and Mpan Ditiéb villages in complicity with residents. This violates provisions of article 30 (3) 3 and 54 5 of the January 1994 Forest Law. The violations are suppressed by provisions in articles 158 5 of the same law.
- Presence of an unauthorized exploitation in a national forest area in violation of the provisions of article 53 (1) 6 of the January 20, 1994 Forest Law and repressed by article 156 (3) 7 of the same law,
- Presence of a fraudulent exploitation in a valid license, repressed by article 158, paragraph 28 of the January 20, 1994 Forest Law.

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http://oicameroun.org/images/documents/015_RO-SNOIE_PAPEL_Bareko_Mpan.pdf

2. SUMMARY OF OBSERVATION MISSION TO VERIFY CHANGE OF FOREST COVER IN THE MESSAMENA / MINDOUROU COMMUNITY FOREST (MESSAMENA SUB DIVISION OF THE UPPER NYONG DIVISION, EAST REGION

Fact (s): Clearing/deforestation of an area estimated at 16 hectares (QGIS). This clearing/deforestation is the origin of the forest cover change identified by the version 1.0 of [FLEGT WATCH](#) detector occurred in the CMR FODER37_Zone 3 monitored area in Messaména/Mindourou. This activity violates provisions of articles 162 and 173 of Law No. 94-01 of January 20, 1994 laying down Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Regulations and repressed by provisions of article 156 of the said law.

Presumed Author (s) of the offenses: Three (03) individuals of Mboumo village.

Location: Messamena/Mindourou Community Forest- Messamena Subdivision, Upper Nyong Division, East Region

Date of submission/Recipient(s): July 2, 2019 - East regional delegation for Forestry and Wildlife (DRFoF-Est)

Recommendations: Based on the facts observed during this observation mission, PAPEL recommends that MINFOF should initiate a fact-finding mission and instruct Messamena / Mindourou council to



strengthen the effective participation of neighbouring communities in the process of reviewing and implementing the management plan so that they take ownership of the community forest initiative.

Actions of the authority/company: No known reaction

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 ("Support Project For Livestock and Biodiversity Preservation around Protected Areas in Cameroon).

Report reference: Ref: 017 / RO-SNOIE / PAPEL / 062019

Report Summary: The Normalised System of Civil Society Independent Forest Monitoring (SNOIE) uses information sources that can trigger independent forest monitoring missions and tools developed from New Information and Communication Technologies (NICTs).

On May 21, 2019, PAPEL received from FODER, information related to the change of forest cover including the detection (1) of event "#55138" of [FLEGT Watch](#) which occurred on April 5, 2019 in the CMR FODER37-Zone 3 monitored area in Messamena/Mindourou. To document these facts that affected the forest cover in the communal forest, PAPEL carried out a verification mission on the field from May 27 to June 1, 2019. The methodological approach integrated a desktop pre-verification using the 2018 Forest Atlas and satellite images of the event to confirm its location in relation to the map of forest titles in the area; the forestry sector document review; on the ground observation and individual interviews.

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

- Fruit tree branches on a ramp near the deforested/cleared site bearing marks (title number: 1484, Date of felling: 30/12/18)
- Clearing/deforestation/burning on an area estimated at 16 hectares; this clearing/deforestation/burning is the event "#55138" that caused the forest cover change identified by the version 1.0 detector in the CMR FODER37-Zone 3 monitored area in Messamena/Mindourou.
- The authors are three (03) individuals from Mboumo village, bordering the said forest. This activity violated provisions of articles 162 and 173 of Law No. 94-01 of January 20, 1994 laying down Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Regulations and repressed by the provisions of article 156 of the said law.
- A mission was carried out from March 29 to 31, 2019 by officials of Messamena Council to assess the illegal occupation of populations in its title. Their report shows that the entry of neighbouring populations makes it difficult for the municipality to ensure the sustainable management of its forests.

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http://oiecameroun.org/images/documents/017_RO-SNOIE_PAPEL_Flegtwatch.pdf

Link to FLEGT WATCH:

<https://visioterra.org/FlegtWatch/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mr6Zd_ohNgw

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3. SUMMARY REPORT OF ALERT VERIFICATION MISSION SYNTHESIS MISSION REPORT VERIFICATION OF COMMUNITY ALERTS OF ILLEGAL FORESTRY ACTIVITIES NEAR THE VILLAGES OF MASSEA, NKOULKOUA AND LONDJAP, IN THE SOMALOMO SUB DIVISION, UPPER NYONG DIVISION IN THE EAST REGION OF CAMEROON

Fact(s): Logging takes place outside the boundaries of UFA 10050 and unauthorized exploitation taking place in the national forests area at the neighbourhoods of Nkoulkoua and Londjap villages with non-compliance with technical logging standards. Another fact is the presence of the forest hammer (EFC 22 CAMEROON) on the logs, probably that of an agent of MINFOF (Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife) in charge of Somalomo and could be likened to the complicity between the latter and the author of the acts. The author obviously tried to erase the clues linking his act to the UFA 10050 beneficiary. These activities are thus conducted in violation of the forest intervention standards (NIMF) and dispositions of Articles 46 (1) 2 and 47 (1) 3, 53 (1) 4 of law No. 94/01 of the January 20, 1994 on Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries. Facts repressed by Article 1585 of the same law.

Presumed author(s) of the offenses: Société des Bois Africains du Cameroun (SBAC)

Location: The villages of Massea, Nkoulkoua and Londjap in the Somalomo sub division, Upper Nyong division, East Region - Cameroon

Date of submission / Recipient(s): July 2, 2019 at the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF).

Recommendations: Based on the facts observed during this observation mission, FODER recommends that the Minister of Forestry should take all necessary measures against:

- The perpetrator of this fraudulent exploitation and the non-marking of stumps and logs;
- The MINFOF agent who holds forestry hammer No. 22 who allegedly became an accomplice in these allegedly illegal logging activities in Somalomo sub division.

Actions of the authority / company: No known action

Author(s) of the report: Forests and Rural Development (FODER)

Report reference: Ref: 022 / RO-SNOIE / FODER / 052019

Summary of the report: In order to strengthen the monitoring of the legality of forest operations in Cameroon, the Forests and Rural Development Association (FODER) implements the Normalised System of Civil Society Independent Forest Monitoring (SNOIE) modelled on the International Organization for Standardization of Quality (ISO 9001-2015).

The decryption of 38 alerts collected and forwarded by a community member on the Forestlink1 Cameroon platform revealed that there were allegedly illegal logging in UFA 10050 attributed to SBAC and in the National Forest Area (FDN) in the neighbourhoods of the villages of Massea, Nkoulkoua and Londjap.

A SNOIE verification mission of the said alerts was thus triggered to verify the information transmitted. This mission took place from May 15-18, 2019 in the Somalomo sub division. The Forest and Rural



Development Association (FODER) focused the investigations around the Nkoulkoua and Londjap villages.

Thus, the following illegal logging indices were observed and documented at the time of the mission:

In the vicinity of Nkoulkoua village (Somalomo sub division), an illegal logging of Tali, Anigré, Ayous, Padouk and Movinguils in UFA 10050 and in FDN which Société des Bois Africains du Cameroun (SBAC) could be the author. These include:

- 13 unmarked stumps, including: (01) Anigré, (01) Ayous, (01) Movingui, (03) Padouk and (07) Tali located in UFA 10050;
- 03 parks located in the UFA 10050 with a total of 14 logs of Ayous and 4 logs of Tali. Among these logs, 01 Ayous and 01 Tali bear only the marks "EFC 22 CAMEROON" (Forest Hammer), and 02 Ayous logs bear the marks of the operator "10050; 161362; 2; 4-12-18 and 10050; 0106135; 13-9-18 ". 11 Ayous logs do not bear marks for an estimated volume of 49,647m³;
- 01 log park located in the FDN, containing 2 Tali logs, with 1 log bearing the marks: SBAC; 10050; 00302815; 27-02-19. The total volume of Tali logs estimated at 11,560 m³ (See photo 4 and appendix 3 of the attached report which presents the table of volumes of logs found in the parks at the time of the mission).
- 03 parks located in the UFA 10050 containing respectively 05 Ayous, 2 Okan and 04 Padouk logs bearing no mark. Their total volume is estimated at: Ayous (37,348m³), Okan (31,380m³) and Padouk (10,038m³).

In the vicinity of Londjap village (Somalomo sub division), an alleged illegal logging of Bilinga, Tali, Bossé, Eyong, Okan, Sapelli, Kosipo, Kopeli, Ayous, Padouk, Fraké and Movingui logs in UFA 10050 and in FDN, of which the Société des Bois et Agriculteurs du Cameroun (SBAC) is the author. These include the following facts:

- 42 unmarked stumps located in the FDN whose quantities by species are: (03) Bilinga, (01) Eyong, (01) Fraké, (01) Kopeli, (18) Movingui, (05) Okan, (02) Padouk , (04) Sapelli and (08) Tali. (See photos 6, 7, 8, 9 and Appendix 1 of the attached report which presents the data table of unmarked stumps collected in the field at the time of the mission);
- 06 unmarked stumps located in the UFA 10050 including: (01) Bilinga, (02) Bossé, (01) Movingui and (01) Padouk. (See photos 10, 11 and Appendix 1 of the report which presents the data table of unmarked stumps collected in the field at the time of the mission);
- 02 log parks located in the FDNs including: 01 park containing 05 Movingui logs (39.090m³ approximately) of which 04 are unmarked and 01 bearing only the marks "EFC 22 CAMEROON" (forest hammer); And 01 park containing 02 Kossipo logs (approximately 17,251m³) of which 01 unmarked and 01 bearing the marks' 10050; 00312803; 22-1-19 ". (See photographs 12, 13 and Appendix 3 of the report which presents the table of volumes of the logs found in the parks at the time of the mission);
- 02 parks located in the UFA 10050 totalling 3 logs of Ayous (approximately 33,868m³) and 01 of Anigré (approximately 16,660m³) all unmarked. (See photo 14 and appendix 3 which presents the table of volumes of logs found in the parks at the time of the mission);



- 01 unsplit and unmarked Sapelli log located in the UFA with a total estimated volume of approximately 39,800m³. (See photo 15 and appendix 3 which presents the table of volumes of logs found in the parks at the time of the mission);

In addition, indications that logs bearing the "SBAC UFA AAC1" marks were "truncated" on the parks visited were noted by the verification mission team.

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http://oiecameroun.org/images/documents/022_RO_SNOIE_FODER_Nkoulkoua-Massea-Londjap_052019_RTM2.pdf

4. SUMMARY REPORT OF INDEPENDENT OBSERVATION MISSION OF ILLEGAL FORESTRY ALLEGATIONS IN THE VILLAGE OF BIFA'A AND SURROUNDINGS IN THE NIETE SUB DIVISION, OCEAN DIVISION, SOUTH REGION

Fact(s): Exploitation beyond the boundaries of VC 0903451 in violation of provisions of Article 46 (1) of Law No. 94/01 of January 20, 1994 laying down Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Regulations punishable under dispositions of Article 158 of the same law, coupled with the non-respect of the technical logging standards repressed by Article 128 paragraph 6 of Law _81 / 013 of 27 November 1981 and in complicity with unauthorized exploitation in a National Forest Area, repressed by the provisions of articles 97 (1) (a) (b) 3 and 98 (1) 4 of law No. 2016/007 of 12 July 2016 relating to the penal code.

Presumed author(s) of the offenses: Société Africaine des Bois de l'Est (SABE)

Location: Bifa'a village and surroundings, Niété sub division, Ocean Division, South region

Date of submission / Recipient (s): July 2, 2019 to the Regional Delegation of Forestry and Wildlife for the South (DRFoF-South)

Recommendations: In view of the allegedly illegal facts collected, CeDLA recommends that the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) should deploy a fact-finding mission to verify the allegedly illegal logging operations carried out by SABE in Bifa'a village and surrounding areas, because this practice or even this activity has significant consequences in achieving the objectives of sustainable management of forest resources and improving the living conditions of local populations.

Actions of the authority / company: No known action

Author (s) of the report: Centre for Alternative Local Development (CeDLA),

Report reference: Ref: 012 / RO-SNOIE / CeDLA / 052019

Report Summary: On April 23, 2019, the Centre for Alternative Local Development (CeDLA) received a phone call from a member of the Zingui Village Vigilante Committee. This denunciation reported an alleged illegal exploitation of which Société Africaine des Bois de l'Est (SABE), installed in the Bifa'a village for several months, is the author. Following this denunciation, the CeDLA team carried out a field mission to observe and document the said allegations from May 27-31, 2019. This mission revealed the following observations:

- 19 unmarked stumps of various species including 09 of Onzabili K (Antrocaryonklaineanum,

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- 02 Eyong, 08 Tali, all cut outside the limits of VC: 0903451 legally attributed to SABE,
- a forest park containing 09 unmarked logs including 05 Padouk, 01 Azobe, 03 Tali and 13 unlabelled bows of the same species, all of which weigh 45.7 m3,
- a forest park containing 07 logs including 03 Onzabili K and 01 Eyong all marked (Name: SABE, VC: 0903451, DF10: 00305025: 16/2, Date: 23 04 19);
- 01 Onzabili K, 01 Tali and 01 Eyong all unmarked and 08 coursons including 04 Onzabili, 02 Eyong and 02 Tali unmarked GPS Coordinates 32N X: 632751 Y: 301977 cubant 45.56 m3 and 08 coursons,
- a forest park containing 07 logs including 06 Tali and 01 Azobé all unmarked cubing 26.72 m3,
- a forest park containing 01 Onzabili K ball and 04 cousins of the same species all unmarked and 1.55 m3 cubic,
- a forest park containing (01 log of Tali) unlabeled cubing 3.98 m3,
- 02 unmarked logs not skidded: 01 Eyong and 01 Tali all cubing 26.8 m3.

The information gathered during the interviews, documentation review, the projection of 32N GPS coordinates using the QGIS2.17 software and the analysis of the map of the observed facts allowed the team to assume the responsibility of SABE who logs spotted in the area site bear its marks.

This exploitation carried out in the National Forest Area (FDN) beyond VC 0903451 led to the observation of many facts on the ground namely the absence of the marks on certain logs and coursons found on Park Forest, the non-marking of stumps. According to the testimonies gathered from the members of the community, this exploitation would be carried out with the complicity of the community under the guide of the representative of the head of the Bifa'a village who was absent. These facts constitute an exploitation beyond the limits of the VC 0903451 in violation of dispositions of article 46 (1) 1 of the Law No. 94-01 of 20 January 1994 to lay down Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Regulations and the provisions of Article 1582 of the same law, coupled with the non-respect of the technical logging standards, repressed by Article 128 paragraph 6 of Law _81 / 013 of 27 November 1981 and in complicity with unauthorized exploitation in a National Forest Area, repressed by the provisions of articles 97 (1) (a) (b) 3 and 98 (1) 4 of law No. 2016/007 of 12 July 2016 relating to the penal code.

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http://oiecameroun.org/images/documents/012_RO-SNOIE_CeDLA_Bifaa_052019_VF.pdf



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