



STANDARDISED INDEPENDENT FOREST MONITORING SYSTEM - SNOIE

SUMMARY OF INDEPENDENT FOREST MONITORING REPORTS - CAMEROON

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The content of this publication is the sole responsibility of FODER, who ensures SNOIE coordination, and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union, the Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) as well as the implementing partners of the "Promoting Transparency in Cameroon's forest sector through OTP outreach and independent monitoring" and the "Strengthening Forest and Wildlife Monitoring and Law Enforcement in the Congo Basin" (FGMC-CIDT) projects.



Evidence of alleged illegal logging was reported in the 10 02 423 and 10 02 424 sales of standing volume (SSV) located in KA-NORD and NGOULMAKONG, two localities of the Messamena sub-division (Upper-Nyong division, East region) and in the national domain forests (NDF) of Lohr and its neighbouring localities in the Yoko municipality (Mbam and Kim division, Centre Region). These fraudulent activities were documented following two independent forest monitoring (IFM) missions carried out by the *Projet d'Appui à l'élevage et de Préservation de la biodiversité en périphérie des aires protégées au Cameroun* (PAPEL) et *Ecosystèmes et Développement* (ECODEV), according to procedures of the 'SNOIE' system, certified ISO 9001: 2015.

Evidence collected during these monitoring missions show that illegal logging activities reported in visited titles by observers were perpetrated by title-holding companies. These are Establishments NGO TOUCK (holder of 10 02 423 and 10 02 424 SSVs) and the NCD Company, owned by the Société Africaine du Bois du Mbam (SABM) and neighbouring forest management unit (FMU) 08002. As for the Lohr national domain forest is adjacent to FMU 08002, the reported illegal logging was allegedly perpetrated by NCD, a company whose acronym could not be defined. Meanwhile, investigations on the unauthorised activities carried out in the 10 02 423 and 10 02 424 SSVs have revealed connivance between some members of KA-NORD and NGOULMAKONG communities.

species mainly exploited by these companies include the White powder (*Azelia pachyloba*), Iroko (*Milicia excelsa*), Aningre (*Aningeria altissima*), Okan (*Cylicodiscus gabonensi*), Eyek (*Pachyelasma tessmannii*), Tali (*Erythrophleum ivorense*), Ayous (*Triplochiton Scleroxylon*), Kossipo (*Entandrophragma candollei*) and Dabéma (*Piptadeniastrum africanum*). Resources for these missions have been granted due to the support of two projects namely: "*Promoting transparency in Cameroon's forestry sector through OTP outreach and independent monitoring implementation*" and "*Strengthening Forest and wildlife monitoring & law enforcement in the Congo Basin*", both implemented by FODER with the support of CIDT (University of Wolverhampton) and FCDO.

Both Independent Forest Monitoring (IFM) reports from SNOIE were submitted to the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOP) and its Centre and East regional delegations on May 11, 2022.

Below is a synthesis of all IFM reports produced through SNOIE procedures.

1. SYNTHESIS OF INDEPENDENT MONITORING IN THE 10 02 423 AND 10 02 424 SSVs, AS WELL AS IN THE NATIONAL DOMAIN FOREST NEIGHBOURING KA-NORD AND NGOULMAKONG (Messamena sub-division, Upper-Nyong division, East Region).

Alleged illegal activities: the monitoring mission has revealed the following four (4) alleged offences:

- non-compliance with specifications, in violation of provisions of Article 125 (1) of Decree No. 95/531/PM of 23 August 1995 laying down modalities for the implementation of the forestry system in Cameroon, by Etablissements NGO TOUCK, beneficiary of the 10 02 423 and 10 02 424 SSVs. This is punishable under Article 128 of Law 81/013 of 27 November 1981 on the forestry, wildlife and fisheries system;
- exploitation beyond the limits of the above-mentioned SSVs attributed to Etablissements NGO TOUCK, in violation of provisions of Article 53 paragraph 1 of the Forest Law and punishable under Articles 156 (3) of the same law;
- **Removal of seals** of the forestry hammer, in violation of provisions of Article 191 of the Criminal Code;



- Complicity between members of neighbouring communities. These acts are defined and punished under articles 97 (1) and 98 (1) of Law No. 2016/007 of 12 July 2016 on the Criminal Code.

Alleged perpetrator(s) of the offences: Ets NGO TOUCK, recipient of 10 02 423 and 10 02 424 SSVs, is said to have perpetrated these criminal acts in connivance with individuals from neighbouring villages (Ka-Nord, Lèh, Dja and Ngoulmakong).

Locality: 10 02 423 and 10 02 424 SSVs and the national domain forest around KA-NORD and NGOULMAKONG, Messamena sub-division, Upper-Nyong division, East region.

Submission date/addressee(s): 11 May 2022, Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, Centre Regional Delegation of MINFOF for the East Region (DRFoF-Est).

Recommendations: PAPEL's recommendations to MINFOF are to:

- undertake a forest law enforcement mission both in the national domain forest surrounding these villages (Ka-Nord, Lèh, Koulmakong and Dja) and in the 10 02 423 and 10 02 424 SSVs allocated to Etablissements NGO TOUCK, so as to establish the above facts in situ and take necessary steps;
- Identify perpetrators of such offences and sanction them in accordance with the forestry regulations in force.

Actions by the authority/ company: No action as we publish this report.

Author(s) of the report: "Livestock Support and Biodiversity Preservation Project" (PAPEL).

Report number: Ref: 028/RO-SNOIE/PAPEL/032022

Summary: The PAPEL association was contacted by two civil servants in Messamena, who brought to its attention fact on alleged illegal logging activities carried out in September, October and November 2021 in the 10 02 424 SSV allocated to Etablissements NGO TOUCK around Ka-Nord and Ngoulmakong (Messamena sub-division/Upper-Nyong division). Following this, PAPEL's technical team visited the area concerned from 8 to 13 March 2022, in order to confirm and document these allegations.

It resulted from the mission the following facts and infringement situations:

- **Within the 10 02 424 and 10 02 423 sales of standing volumes**
 - Eleven (11) unmarked stumps and bases of various species: four (04) Ayous; four (04) Tali; two (02) Okan and one (01) Eyek;
 - Forty-four (44) unmarked logs of several species lying in forest parks;
- **In the national domain forest around the Nkoulmakong, Dja and Ka Nord localities:**
 - Forty-two (42) unmarked stumps of various species including thirty-two (32) of Tali, four (04) of Eyek and six (06) of Okan;
 - Forty-two (42) unmarked logs of various species lying in forest parks, with a total volume of 354.365 m³ ;
 - Two (02) logs and one (01) sprig of Tali bearing marks that read N.T (NGO TOUCK), VC 10 02 423, DF 10: 0019064 Date: 08 10 2021, then 10 02 424, DF 10: 0019084;
 - Breakage of forestry hammer seals on two logs lying in the forest park.



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2. SYNTHESIS OF MONITORING MISSION REPORTS ON ILLEGAL FOREST EXPLOITATION ALLEGATIONS IN LOHR AND ITS NEIGHBOURING LOCALITIES (Yoko sub-division, Mbam and Kim division, Centre Region - Cameroon)

Alleged illegal activities: Following an analysis of all activities carried out in Lohr and neighbouring localities in the Yoko sub-division (Mbam and Kim division, Centre Region - Cameroon), four (4) alleged infractions have been documented:

- Unauthorised logging in forests of the national domain, in violation of Article 53 (1) of Law n°94/01 of 20 January 1994 related to forestry, wildlife and fisheries; punishable under Article 156 of the same law;
- Clearing on slopes greater than 30° in violation of Article 3 paragraph 17 of the operating inventory standards in forest areas (NIMF), and punished under Article 125 of the 27 November 1981 law;
- Unauthorised logging in a state-owned forest in violation of Article 41(1) of Law n°94/01 of 20 January 1994 related to forestry, wildlife and fisheries, punishable under Article 158 of the same law;
- The non-materialisation of FMU boundaries, in violation of the requirements of Article 4 (2) of Order No. 0222/A/MINEF of 25 May 2001 laying down procedures for drawing up, approving, monitoring and controlling management plans for the productive forest of the permanent forest domain of Cameroon.

Alleged perpetrator(s) of the offences: in the national domain forests adjacent to FMU 08002 owned by SABM, the perpetrator could be NCD, a company whose acronym could not be defined. SABM, title-holder of FMU 08002, is also alleged to have perpetrated unlawful activities in this unit.

Locality: Lohr and neighbouring villages (Yoko sub-division, Mbam and Kim division, Centre Region - Cameroon)

Submission date/addressee(s): 11 May 2022 (DRFOF - Centre)

Recommendations: Based on the findings, ECODEV has issued the following recommendations

❖ **to MINFOF:**

- instruct a forest law enforcement mission in this village and its surrounding localities, to ascertain the facts described in this report; and
- punish offenders in accordance with the current legislation.

Actions by the authority/company: No action known as we publish this report.

Author(s) of the report: 'Ecosystem and Development (ECODEV)

Report number: Ref: 012/RO-SNOIE/ECODEV/122021

Summary: Lohr is located near Layem, on the road leading into the Mbam and Ndjere National Park in the Yoko sub-division. Logging is carried out in the national domain forests near FMU 080002. On 26 November



2021, the 'Ecosystem and Development Organization (ECODEV) was contacted by a member of the locality over alleged illegal logging activities in the vicinity of his village, in the Yoko sub-division. Following this denunciation, the SNOIE Coordination authorised a field visit to verify these allegations. As a result, an ECODEV team made a site visit from 7 to 11 December 2021 to examine and record the facts.

At the end of these investigations, the following were documented:

➤ **In the national domain forests:**

- 15 unmarked stumps of various species, i.e., 10 stumps of White Doussie (*Azizia pachyloba*), 02 stumps of Iroko (*Milicia excelsa*) and 01 stump of *Aningeria altissima*, arranged as follows: 06 stumps located on hillsides with 10 to 70° slopes; 03 stumps cut under at the minimum exploitable diameter and 01 buried stump;
- 02 wood yards, where 01 contains 01 white Doussié log in good condition, with a 2.002125m³ volume and 01 Aningre log in good condition with a 2.163125 m³ volume;
- Seven (07) places where rivers have been obstructed by logging operations;
- Abandoned Wire rope in the field.

➤ **In the 08 002 FMU**

- 22 unmarked White Doussie stumps and almost as many unmarked tree bases, 02 stumps on a hillside with a 15-30° slope;
- 02 yards with 08 white doussie logs in good condition with a total volume of 15.115 m³ ;
- presence of a "Seized" mark on a piece of wood;
- Three (03) places where rivers have been obstructed by logging operations;

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