



STANDARDISED SYSTEM OF INDEPENDENT FOREST MONITORING -SNOIE

SUMMARISED REPORTS ON INDEPENDENT FOREST MONITORING - CAMEROON

[Reports of June-July 2022]

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Summarised reports on IFM_ SNOIE_ Project OTP – OI CAM from PAMFOR Program_AUGUST



Suspected cases of illegal logging were observed in the 09027 FMU, in the Bipindi - Lolodorf communal forest and in the national estate forest around Bidjouka Village (Bipindi Subdivision, Ocean Division, South Region), in the national estate forest around the villages Dioula and Tien (Messamena Subdivision, Upper-Nyong Division, East Region) and in the villages Beng-Beng, Ina and We (Ngambé-Tikar Subdivision, Mbam and Kim Division, Centre Region, Cameroon). These facts were documented during three (03) Independent Forest Monitoring (IFM) missions, conducted respectively by the par « Centre local pour le Développement et Alternatif » (CeDLA) « Programme d'Appui à l'élevage et de Préservation de la biodiversité au Cameroun » (PAPEL) et Écosystèmes et Développement (ECODEV) according to the procedures of the Standardised System of Independent Forest Monitoring (SNOIE), certified ISO 9001:2015. These alerts were raised as a result of denunciations by some community members and data from the Global Forest Watch (GFW) and GLAD platforms.

In addition to illegal logging, several other infractions were observed. In the AAC 1-5 of FMU 10,050 allocated to SBAC around the Tien and Dioula villages, the “Prêt A Partir establishment”, which holds an authorisation to exploit waste wood from logging operations, is presumed to be the author of the exploitation of cut wood. This action is not included in the clauses of the MIB (Domestic Timber Market) secured documents attributed to this company. This points to a failure by the “Pret A Partir company” to respect the clauses of the specifications. Concerning FMU 09027 and the Bipindi communal forest, according to the testimonies of the community, the members of the development committee, the representative of the chief and some notables of Bidjouka Village are presumed to be involved in illegal logging.

At the end of the missions conducted by the above-mentioned civil society organisations (CSOs), three (03) independent forest monitoring reports were drafted and sent to the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife and its delegations on 03 August 2022.

The main species harvested during these logging activities presumed unlawful were: Tali (*Erythrophleum ivorense*), Ayous (*Triplochytton scleroxylon*), Pachy (*Pachyclavularia violacea*), Dabema (*Piptadeniastrum africanum*), Ekop Beli (*Rachystegia mildbraedii*), Padouk (*Pterocarpus soyauxii*) and White Doussie (*Afzelia pachyloba*)

The Summary of all these IFM (independent Forest monitoring) reports produced according to the SNOIE procedures below.

Summarised reports on IFM_ SNOIE_ Project OTP – OI CAM from PAMFOR Program_AUGUST



1. SUMMARISED REPORT ON INDEPENDENT FOREST MONITORING MISSION ON ALLEGATIONS OF ILLEGAL FORESTRY PRACTICES IN FMU 09027, THE BIPINDI - LOLODORF COMMUNAL FOREST AND THE NATIONAL ESTATE FORESTS AROUND BIDJOUKA VILLAGE (Bipindi Subdivision, Ocean Division, South region)

Presumed fact(s): The facts thus observed consist of:

- Unauthorised logging in National Estate Forests in violation of Article 44 (1)¹ of Law n ° 94/01 of 20 January 1994 related to forestry, wildlife and fisheries; punishable under Article 158 (1) of the same law 158 (1)² and Article 128 (6) of Law 81/013 of³ 27 November 1981 related to forestry, wildlife and fisheries,
- Unauthorised logging in National Estate Forests in violation of Article 53 (1)⁴ of Law n ° 94/01 of 20 January 1994 related to forestry, wildlife and fisheries; punishable under Article 156 (4) of the same law 158 (1)⁵ and Article 128 (6) of Law 81/013 of⁶ 27 November 1981 related to forestry, wildlife and fisheries,

According to testimonies from the members of the development committee and the Chief's representative together with some leaders from Bidjouka Village, there have been informal arrangements between the community members and the farmers. This presumption of abetment is punished by Article 97⁷ of Law 2016/07 of 12 July 2016 relating to the Penal Code of Cameroon.

¹ Article 44 (1) of Law 94/01 of 20 January 1994 related to forestry, wildlife and fisheries states that: - "The exploitation of a state forest for commercialisation is carried out either by sale of standing volume or by exploitation agreement. However, exploitation is done in accordance with the management plan of the said forest."

² Article 158 (1) stipulates that 'The perpetrator of any of the following offences (...) shall be punished by a fine of 3,000,000 to 10,000,000 CFA francs and imprisonment of one (1) year to three (3) years or by either of these penalties (...) unauthorised logging in a state-owned or communal forest in violation of Articles 45 (1) and 46 (2) above, without prejudice to damages for the timber exploited, as provided for in Article 159 below (...)

³ Article 128 (6) of Law _81/013 of 27 November 1981 which states that: "Anyone who fraudulently exploits a resource shall be punished by a fine of 500,000 to 2,000,000 CFA francs and imprisonment of 3 months to 2 years, or either of these two penalties only".

⁴ Article 53 (1) of Law 94/01 of 20 January 1994 related to forestry, wildlife and fisheries states that: "The exploitation of the communal forest is carried out through the sale of the standing volume, or licence or personal authorisations to cut".

⁵ Article 156 (4) states that "The perpetrator of any of the following offences shall be punished by a fine of 200,000 to 1.000.000 CFA francs and imprisonment of one (1) to six (6) months, or either of these penalties: - exploitation by sale of standing in a forest of the national estate exceeding the limits of the felling area and/or the period allocated, in violation of Articles 45 above, without prejudice to damages and interest on the timber exploited as provided for in Article 159 below;

⁶ Article 128 (6) of Law _81/013 of 27 November 1981 which states that: "Anyone who fraudulently exploits a resource shall be punished by a fine of 500,000 to 2,000,000 CFA francs and imprisonment of 3 months to 2 years, or either of these two penalties only".

⁷ "An accessory shall mean a person who abets the commission of a felony or misdemeanour, that is: who orders or in any manner causes the commission of an act or omission so defined; or who aids or facilitates the preparation or the commission of such an offence.



Alleged offender(s): community members and operators

Area: THE BIPINDI - LOLODORF COMMUNAL FOREST AND THE NATIONAL ESTATE FORESTS AROUND BIDJOUKA VILLAGE (Bipindi Subdivision, Ocean Division, South Region)

Date of submission/Recipient(s): 03 August 2022 (DRFOF-Sud)

Recommendations: To this end, CeDLA recommends:

• **To MINFOF (National Brigade of Forest Control):**

- To undertake a control mission to monitor logging activities in the National Estate Forests., FMU 09027 and the Bipindi - Lolodorf Communal Forest at Bidjouka;
- To punish offenders and their accomplices in compliance with the forestry regulations in force.

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

Author(s) of the report: “Centre pour le Développement Local Alternatif ” (CeDLA),

Report number: 022/RO-SNOIE/CeDLA/062022

Summary: The Local Centre for Alternative Development (CeDLA) conducted a field mission from 24 to 28 June 2022 to observe and record the allegations of a member of an indigenous Bagyéli community (located in Bidjouka Village). The information received mentioned an alleged illegal logging exploitation of logs and sawn timber in the National Estate Forests (NEF), in the Forest Management Unit (FMU) 09027 and in the Bipindi-Lolodorf communal forest (FCBL). The denunciation is in line with the GLAD warnings of the Bidjouka area (see Annex 3) about the loss of forest cover between 2020 and 2022.

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

• **In the National Estate Forests around Bidjouka Village**

- 09 yards with 7792 pieces of unmarked lumber, including 7699 Ekop Beli¹ and 93 Doussié² with a total volume of 490.896 m³;
- 06 unmarked stumps including 06 Ekop Beli and the remnants of sawing (abandoned tree bole), 01 padouk;
- 01 yard with 46 pieces of unmarked Padouk lumber with a volume of 2.898 m³ and the remaining sawing (abandoned tree bole).

• **In FMU 09-027**

- 01 yard with 116 pieces of unmarked Ekop Beli sawn timber with a volume of 7.308 m³

• **In the Bipindi-Lolodorf communal forest**

- 02 unmarked logs including 01 Ekop Beli and 01 Tali cubing 50.16 m³;
- 01 unmarked Ekop Beli logs cubing 13.27 m³;
- 16 yards, including 15 yards with a total of 3968 pieces of unmarked Ekop Beli logs cubing 326.58 m³;



- 01 yard with 209 pieces including 106 Doussie and 103 unmarked Ekop Beli logs cubing 263.151 m3;
- 02 sawmill sites;
- 14 including 06 unmarked Ekop Beli with remaining sawing, 05 Ekop Beli, 01 Tali4, 02 Ekop Beli felled below-diameter with remaining sawing
- 01 Sawyer's camp set up with boards from sawn timber.

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2. SUMMARISED REPORT OF MONITORING MISSION IN THE NATIONAL ESTATE FOREST AROUND DIOULA AND TIEN VILLAGES, *Messamena Subdivision, Haut-Nyong Division, Est Region*

Presumed fact(s): Following the analysis of the above facts, the PAPEL team assumed:

- A failure by the “Prêt A Partir company” to comply with the clauses of the specifications, punishable under Article 65⁸ of the Forest Law of 20 January 1994 related to forestry, wildlife and fisheries;
- The fraudulent use of MIB protected documents in violation of Article 44 (1) of Order ⁹de l’arrêté 222/A/MINEF/25 Mai 2001 and punishable under the provisions of Article 158 (7) ¹⁰of Law 94/01 of 20 January 1994 which regulates forestry, wildlife and fisheries;
- Illegal exploitation in a national estate forest, which is a punishable offence under the provisions of article 156 (3) ¹¹of law 94/01 of 20 January 1994 to lay down forestry, wildlife and fisheries regulation.

Alleged offender (s): the “Pret A Partir company”

Area: Dioula and Tien villages, Messamena Subdivision, Upper-Nyong Division, East Region

Date of submission/Recipient(s): 03 August (DRFoF-Est)

Recommendations: PAPEL’s recommendations to MINFOF are to:

⁸ Any infringement of the provisions of this law or of the regulatory texts adopted for its application, and in particular the violation (...) of the clauses of the specifications, shall result in either the suspension, or in the event of a repeat offence, the withdrawal of the exploitation permit or, if necessary, of the approval under conditions set by decree.

⁹ "DF10 forms are printed by the Ministry in charge of forests for each financial year and handed out to permit holders in good standing (...) Each logger is accountable for the forms received and these may only be used for the permit and the financial year they have been handed out for"; "A DF10 form should include only logs from the same logging permit".

¹⁰ Any person who commits one of the following offences shall be punished by a fine of 3,000,000 to 10,000,000 CFA francs and imprisonment of one (1) year to three (3) years, or either of these penalties: falsification or fraud on any document issued by the administrations in charge of forests, fauna and fisheries, as appropriate.

¹¹ 5The perpetrator of one of the following crimes shall be punished with a fine of 300,000 to 10,000,000 CFA francs and imprisonment of one (1) year to three (3) years or either of these penalties: (...) unauthorised logging in a national estate forest or community forest, in violation of Articles 52, 53 and 54, without any damages and compensation on the timber exploited, as set out by Article 159 below.

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- Undertake a control mission around the TIEN and DIOULA villages in order to confirm the veracity of the above facts and to take measures against the perpetrators and accomplices to enforce the law;
- Undertake a control and monitoring mission regarding the use of the MIB (Domestic Timber Market) protected documents allocated to the “Pret A Partir company”.

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

Author(s) of the report : “Programme d’Appui à l’élevage et de Préservation de la biodiversité au Cameroun” (PAPEL).

Report number: 030/RO-SNOIE/PAPEL/062022

Summary: The association named “*Livestock Support and Conservation of Biodiversity in Protected Areas in Cameroon,*” known in its French acronym PAPEL¹², was informed by some leaders of the Tien and Dioula villages about an allegedly illegal logging activity that has been going on since March 2022 around their villages in the Messamena Subdivision/Haut-Nyong Division. As a result, the PAPEL team carried out an Independent Observation (IO) mission in the area from 23 to 27 June 2022, according to SNOIE procedures, to document the allegations.

The following facts were observed during the mission:

❖ **In the national estate forest around Tien and Dioula Villages, the existence of:**

- Twenty-nine (29) stumps of Tali (*Erythrophleum ivorense*);
- Ten (10) yards among which six (06) containing eight (08) remains of unmarked logs and spurs of Tali (*Erythrophleum ivorense*);
- One Tali (*Erythrophleum ivorense*) log and spur with the initials CVEPB (Certificate of Public Auction Sale of Wood), the number 08 09 328 and the acronym MAM, all unidentified;
- Fourteen (14) strains of Ayous (*Triplochyton scleroxylon*) with no marks;
- A stock of nine hundred and seventy-eight (978) pieces of Ayous lumber cubing 44.01 m³;
- A truck of Ayous lumber labelled MIB (Domestic Timber Market) and PAP (Pret A Partir);

❖ **In AAC 1-5 of FMU 10,050 allocated to SBAC, the existence of:**

- Two (02) sawmill sites of Ayous (*Triplochyton scleroxylon*) with chainsaws;
- A stock of two hundred and twenty (220) pieces of Ayous lumber cubing 10.01 m³.

Considering the facts observed above, as well as the review of documents and testimonies recorded, the “Pret A Partir company”, which holds an authorisation for the exploitation of waste wood from logging operations in AAC 1-1/FMU 10 050, is presumed to be the perpetrator of the exploitation of the cut timber. The perpetrator of logging in the national estate forest has not been identified.

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¹² PAPEL is registered in MINFOF’s database as a partner in the forestry and wildlife sub-sector according to letter No. 1217/L/MINFOFSETAT/SG/DCP/CCOOP/CEA1 of 25 February 2022



3. SUMMARISED REPORT OF MONITORING MISSION ON ALLEGED ILLEGAL LOGGING IN BENG-BENG, INA AND WE VILLAGES (Ngambé-Tikar Subdivision, Mbam and Kim Division, Centre Region, Cameroon)

Presumed fact(s): The analysis of facts led to the assumption of:

- Illegal exploitation in national estate forests, which is a punishable offence under the provisions of article 156¹³ of law 94/01 of 20 January 1994 to lay down forestry, wildlife and fisheries regulation;
- The obstruction of a stream is punishable under article 82¹⁴ of law n ° 96/12 of 5 August 1996, relating to environmental management;
- The obstruction of a stream is punishable under article 82 of law n ° 96/12 of 5 August 1996, relating to environmental management.

Alleged offender(s): An unidentified logger.

Area: BENG-BENG, INA AND WE VILLAGES (Ngambé-Tikar Subdivision, Mbam and Kim Division, Centre Region, Cameroon)

Date of submission/Recipient(s): 03 August 2022 (DRFoF-Centre)

Recommendations: Based on the observations above, ECODEV recommends:

❖ **To the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF):**

- To carry out a control mission in the forests around Beng-Beng, Ina and We villages;
- To identify the perpetrators of these activities and, if necessary, punish them in accordance with the forestry regulations in force;
- To make an exhaustive inventory of the logs found on the spot, in order to auction them if necessary.

❖ **To the Ministry of Environment, Nature protection and Sustainable development (MINEPDED):**

- To carry out an inspection mission in these localities, in order to assess the impact of stream obstruction on the environment;
- To sanction, if necessary, the offender(s) according to the texts in force.

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

¹³ Article 156: The perpetrator of any of the following offences shall be punished with a fine of 200,000 to 1,000,000 CFA francs and imprisonment of one (1) month to six (6) months, or with only one of these penalties: -Unauthorised logging in a national estate forest or community forest, in violation of Articles 52, 53 and 54, without any damages and compensation on the timber exploited, as set out by Article 159; Exploitation by sale of standing in a national estate forest exceeding the limits of the felling area and/or the period allocated, in violation of Articles 45 above, without prejudice to damages and interest on the timber exploited as provided for in Article 159 below;

¹⁴ Article 82: (1) Anyone who causes pollution, degrades the soil and subsoil, affects the quality of the air or water, in violation of the provisions of this law shall be punished with a fine of one million (1,000,000) to five million (5,000,000) CFA francs and imprisonment of one (1) month to six (6) months, or with only one of these penalties:



Author(s) of the report: Écosystèmes et Développement (ECODEV)

Report number: 014/RO-SNOIE/ECODEV/072022

Summary: On 10 May 2022, the Écosystèmes et Développement Association (ECODEV) was alerted by the association Community action to support indigenous peoples and local development (ACPADEL) and by the Forêts et Développement Rural (FODER) facilitator. They reported suspected illegal logging activities in the national forests. Combining the information received with data from the Global Forest Watch (GFW) platform, it was found that these logging activities are taking place around Beng-Beng, Ina and We villages. In response to the information received, an ECODEV team went to the site from 6 to 10 July 2022 to observe and document the facts.

At the end of these investigations, the following facts were observed particularly in the national estate forests:

- 58 unmarked stumps of various species, namely: White Doussie (*Azelia pachyloba*), Ayous (*Triplochiton scleroxylon*) and Dabema (*Piptadeniastrum africanum*);
- 08 log yards with 28 White Doussie logs and 02 Dabema logs in good condition with a total volume of 73.73125 m³;
- Three (03) hidden stumps of white Doussie;
- Three (03) areas where logging operations resulted in the obstruction of a tributary of the Dieh River used for domestic purposes by the local population.

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