



## STANDARDISED SYSTEM OF INDEPENDENT FOREST MONITORING -SNOIE

# SUMMARISED REPORTS ON INDEPENDENT FOREST MONITORING - CAMEROON

[Reports of April 2022]

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Suspected cases of illegal logging were observed in the Sale of Standing Volume (VC) No.10 02 425 (Messamena Subdivision, Haut-Nyong Division, East Region), the state forest in Bifa'a village (Niete Subdivision, Ocean Division), the national forest in Guervoum and Mbembeing villages and their neighbourhood (Yoko Subdivision, Mbam and Kim Division, Centre Region). These facts were documented during three (03) Independent Forest Monitoring (IFM) missions, conducted respectively by *Projet d'Appui à l'élevage et de Préservation de la biodiversité en périphérie des aires protégées au Cameroun* (PAPEL), le *Centre local pour le Développement et Alternatif* (CeDLA) and *Ecosystèmes et Développement* (ECODEV). The missions were carried out according to the procedures of the Standardised System of Independent Forest Monitoring (SNOIE), certified ISO 9001:2015, and the resources needed to accomplish these missions were acquired through the projects: "Monitoring Integrate Real-Time Community Monitoring to Sustain Livelihoods and Forest in Central Africa (RTM3 Project)" and the project "Promoting Transparency in the Forest Sector in Cameroon through the extension of OTP and the implementation of independent forest" which received financial support from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the European Union (EU) respectively.

At the end of the IFM missions, three (03) independent forest monitoring reports were sent to the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife and its delegations in the East, South, and Centre on 9 June 2022. According to the investigations South Forestry Company (SFC) was identified as the alleged perpetrator of illegal logging in its own VC (Sale of Standing Volume) La Forestière Industrielle du Sud (LFIS), successful bidder for the Certificate of Public Auction of Timber (CVEPB) No. 0903342, is also suspected to be involved in the alleged illegal exploitation with the complicity of some community members. Concerning the investigations carried out in the communal forest of Guervoum, Mbembeing villages and their surroundings (Yoko Subdivision, Mbam and Kim Division, Centre Region), the absence of real evidence did not make it possible to identify the alleged perpetrators.

The main species harvested during these logging activities presumed unlawful were: White Doussie (*Azelia pachyloba*), Ayous (*Triplochiton scleroxylon*), Bilinga (*Nauclea diderichii*), Padouk (*Pterocarpus soyauxii*), Tali (*Erythrophleum ivorense*), Ekop Naga (*Brachystegia cynometroides*) Ekop Beli (*Brachystegia mildbraedii*), Ilomba (*Pycnanthus angolensis*), Eyek (*Fillaeopsis discophora* Harms), Movingui (*Distemonanthus benthamianus* Baill), Okan (*Cylicodiscus gabunensis*), Onzabili (*Antrocaryon klaineianum*).

**The Summary of all these Independent Forest Monitoring (IFM) reports produced according to the SNOIE procedures below.**

### **1. SUMMARISED RAPPORT ON INDEPENDENT FOREST MONITORING MISSION IN VC 10 02 425 AND IN THE COMMUNAL FOREST SURROUNDING KOUM VILLAGE, Messamena Suidivision, Haut-Nyong Division, East Region**

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

- The non respect of technical norms in the VC 10 02 425 by the SFC Company successful bidder for the said VC; is punished by <sup>1</sup>law 81/013 of of 27 November 1981 regulating forests, wildlife and fisheries;
- Exploitation beyond the limits of VC 10 02 425 with the presumed collaboration of some inhabitants of neighbouring villages ;such acts are provided for and punished by article 156 (3)<sup>2</sup> of the forestry law of

<sup>1</sup> Shall be punished with a fine of FCFA500 000 to 2 000 000 and imprisonment of three to two years or only one of two penalties whoever (...) removes without authorisation (...) forest products, (...) as a result of a fraudulent operation (...) carries out illegal logging.

<sup>2</sup>The perpetrator of one of the following crimes shall be punished with a fine of 200,000 to 1,000,000 CFA francs and imprisonment of one (1) year to three (3) years or only one of these penalties: [...] Unauthorised logging in a communal forest (...) in violation



20 January 1994 which regulates forestry, wildlife and fisheries on one hand, and expose the perpetrators to the provisions of articles 191<sup>3</sup>, 97 (1) and 98 (1)<sup>4</sup> of law No. 2016/007 of 12 July 2016 relating to the Penal Code on the other hand;

- The fraudulent use of protected documents issued by the administration in charge of forestry and the suspected destruction of forestry marks; are punished by the provisions of article 156 (7<sup>5</sup>) f Law 94/01 of 20 January 1994 which regulates forestry, wildlife and fisheries Law 94/01 of 20 January 1994 which regulates forestry, wildlife and fisheries.

**Alleged offender(s)** : South Forestry Company (SFC), beneficiary of the sale of standing volume 10 02 425 with the help of some inhabitants of Koum village.

**Area:** KOUM village, Messamena Subdivision, Haut-Nyong Division, East Region

**Date of submission/Recipient(s):** 09 June (DRFoF-Est)

**Recommendations:** PAPEL recommends the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife to:

- Initiate a forest control mission in the communal forest around Koum village and in the Sale of Standing Volume 10 02 425 allocated to the South Forestry Company (SFC) in order to witness the above facts and take appropriate measures;
- Identify the perpetrators of these activities and punish them in accordance with the forestry regulations in force.

**Actions by the government/company:** No action reported at the time of publication

**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),

**Report ref:** Ref: 029/RO-SNOIE/PAPEL/042022

**Summary of the report:** The association named "Livestock Support and Conservation of Biodiversity in Protected Areas in Cameroon," known in its French acronym PAPEL<sup>6</sup> was approached by two public service agents in Messamena who drew their attention on the alleged illegal logging activities that took place in March 2021-February 2022 in the Sale of Standing Volume (VC) No. 10 02 425 which South Forestry Company (SFC) is the beneficiary and around Koum village (Messamena subdivision/Haut Nyong division). As a result, PAPEL

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*of Articles 52, 53 and 54, without prejudice to the damages on the harvested timber, as prescribed in Article 159 below [...]*

<sup>3</sup> *Anyone who breaks a legally imposed seal shall be punished by imprisonment of 6 months to 2 years and a fine of 50,000 to 500,000 francs*

<sup>4</sup> *The co-perpetrators and accomplices are liable to the same punishment as that of the main perpetrator unless the law stipulates otherwise*

<sup>5</sup> *Any person who destroys marks, marking hammers (...) used by the forestry, wildlife and fisheries administrations shall pay a fine of 200,000 to 1,000,000 CFA francs and imprisonment of one (1) to six (6) months, or by one of these penalties.*

<sup>6</sup> *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*



technical team carried out a mission from 21 to 25 April 2022 in the area concerned to observe, verify and document the said allegations.

At the end of the mission, it was discovered that:

- ❖ **In Sale of Standing Volume 10 02 425 allocated to South Forestry Company (SFC),**
  - There were eleven (11) stumps of various species and corresponding crown bases, all unmarked;
- ❖ **In the communal forest around Koum Village, the existence of :**
  - One hundred and forty-nine (149) strains and fifty-five (55) logs of various species bearing no marks, with a total volume of 1020.335 m<sup>3</sup> ;
  - Six (06) logs in four (04) yards bearing marks that identify the title number (VC 10 02 425), purchaser (SFC), the number of DF 10, among others;
  - Six (06) unbarked logs on the yard, some bearing the marks of “ seizure “ of the marking hammer, and three others were chopped up with a chainsaw.

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## 2. SUMMARISED RAPPORT OF AN INDEPENDENT FOREST MISSION ON ALLEGATIONS OF ILLEGAL FORESTRY PRACTICES IN AND AROUND THE ANNUAL CUTTING PERMIT OF CVEPB No.0903342 Niete Subdivision, Ocean Division, South region

**Presumed fact(s):** The analysis of the facts made it possible to presume five offences:

- Illegal exploitation in a state forest is punished by article 44<sup>7</sup>(1) of law 94/01 of 20 January 1994 to lay down forestry, wildlife and fisheries regulation,
- non-respect of the technical norms of intervention in the forest environment sanctioned by article 128 (6) of law No. 81/013 of 27 November 1981 which regulates forests, wildlife and fisheries
- Embezzling property seized according to article 190<sup>8</sup> of law 2016 /007 of 12 July 2016 on the Penal Code,
- article 157<sup>9</sup> of Law 2016/007 of 12 July 2016 relating to the the Penal Code punishes rebellion,
- Non-respect of resolutions of the terms and sensitisation meeting provided by articles 65<sup>10</sup>law 94/01 of 20 January 1994 and 128 of law 81/013 of 27 November 1981.

**Alleged offender(s) :** La Forestière Industrielle du Sud (LFIS) in collaboration with some people in the village

<sup>7</sup> “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. “

<sup>8</sup> “.Any person who embezzles, destroys or damages property seized or placed under confiscation shall be punished by imprisonment of one (01) to five (05) years and a fine of fifty (50,000) to one (01) million (1,000,000) francs. “

<sup>9</sup> ““Anyone who: a) by any means whatsoever, attempts to incite (...) the public authorities shall be punished by three (03) months to four (04) years”

<sup>10</sup> “Any infringement of the provisions of this law or of the regulatory texts adopted for its application, and in particular the violation of the prescriptions of a management plan for a permanent or community forest, or the violation of obligations in terms of industrial facilities, or the fulfilment 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”



**Area:** Niete Subdivision, Ocean Division, South Region

**Date of submission/Recipient(s):** 9 June 2022 (DRFOF-Sud)

**Recommendations:** CeDLA recommends that MINFOF (National Brigade of Forest Control):

- carry out a control mission to the suspended logging site in order to verify whether Decision No. 0471/D/MINFOF/CAB of 24 November 2021 has been respected by LFIS on one hand, and whether the seized timber is still in the logging yards on the other hand
- investigate the process that enabled the timber to be removed in order to identify the culprits;
- examine the content of the letters of complaints submitted by the communities if they are well-founded, LFIS will have then solve them:

**Actions by the government/company:** No action reported at the time of publication

**Author (s) of the report :** Centre local pour le Développement et Alternatif (CeDLA),

Report ref: Ref: 021/RO-SNOIE/CeDLA/042022

**Summary of the report:** The Local Centre for Development and Change (CeDLA), a civil society organisation based in Kribi, received various information from a member of the community of Bifa'a village found in Niete Subdivision, Ocean Division. The information revealed the alleged illegal logging in the forest of this village which is said to extend into the Campo Ma'an National Park (PNCM). These accusations were attributed to La Forestière Industrielle du Sud (LFIS), purchaser of the Certificate of Public Auction of Timber (CVEPB) No. 0903342. According to information received from a similar source, LFIS was suspended by decision No 0471 of 24 November 2021 following a control mission carried out in the area by the National Brigade of Forest Control and Anti-Poaching (BNC). Despite the fact that it was subjected to seizure, LFIS still continued to remove the timber peacefully. Considering the above, CeDLA team carried out a field mission from 21 to 25 April 2022 to observe and document the allegations.

At the end of the mission, it was observed that:

- one yard with 07 logs, including 04 Ekop naga and 03 Ekop beli and 01 Ekop Naga struck with the marking hammer, with a total volume 42.478 m<sup>3</sup> ;
- four logs of various species with a volume of 33.943 m<sup>3</sup> ;
- fourteen logs of various species with a volume of 23.854 m<sup>3</sup> ;
- one yard with one unmarked Padouk log with a volume of : 3.32m<sup>3</sup>.
- one yard with 05 shorts of Tali of which 03 were marked (100903342, DF10 :0021629 ; 25/2 ; date : 19-06-21) and 02 unmarked ones, with a total volume of 5.707m<sup>3</sup> ;
- several tree stumps and crowns of various species were unmarked;
- drawing strips;
- the road ,as well as the bridges leading to the village were damaged due to the movement of LFIS machines and logging trucks

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### 3. SUMMARISED REPORT OF MONITORING MISSION ON ALLEGED ILLEGAL LOGGING IN GUERVOUM, MBEMBEING VILLAGES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS Yoko, Subdivision Mbam and Kim Division, Centre Region – Cameroon)

**Presumed fact(s):** 'Based on the analysis of the facts observed, the mission team presumed an unauthorised logging in the communal forests in violation article 53 (1) Law of No.94/01 of 20 January 1994 which regulates forests, wildlife and fisheries, and which is punished by article 156 156<sup>11</sup> 156<sup>12</sup> of the same law

**Alleged offender(s) :** An unidentified logger

**Area:** Guervoum, Mbembeing villages and their neighbourhoods

**Date of submission/Recipient(s):** 09 June 2022 (DRFoF-Centre)

**Recommendations :** Based on the observations above, ECODEV recommends that MINFOP:

- carry out a control mission in the forests around Guervoum and Mbembeing, villages in order to verify the veracity of the facts presented in this report;
- identify and sanction offenders in accordance with the legislation in force,
- and to make an exhaustive inventory of the logs found on the spot, in order to auction them if necessary.

**Actions by the authority /company :** No action reported at the time of publication

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

**Report ref:** Ref: 013/RO-SNOIE/ECODEV/042022

**Summary of the report:** On 7 February 2022, the Ecosystems and Development Association (ECODEV) was alerted via the ForestLink platform that suspected illegal logging activities were taking place in the communal forest of Guervoum and Metsing villages in Mbam and Kim division. Due to this denunciation, the SNOIE (Standardised System of Independent Forest Monitoring) coordination team authorised a field visit to verify the alerts. An ECODEV team went to the site from 11 to 15 April 2022 to observe and document the facts.

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

➤ **In the forest of the national domain:**

- 39 unmarked stumps of various species i.e. 37 Stump of White Doussie (*Afzelia pachyloba*), 01 of Ayous (*Triplochiton scleroxylon*) and of 01 Bilinga (*Nauclea diderichii*) as follows: 02 stumps located on hillsides of 40° to 45° slope; 05 stumps cut between 2 and 20 metres from an unnamed stream;
- 02 timber yards having 05 white Doussie logs in good condition with an estimated total volume of 9.475625 m<sup>3</sup> , 02 Ayous logs with an estimated volume of 8.16125 m<sup>3</sup> and 01 Bilinga log with an estimated volume of 4.473125 m<sup>3</sup> ; i.e. a total volume of 22.11 m<sup>3</sup> ;

<sup>11</sup> The exploitation of the communal forest is carried out through the sale of the standing volume, or licence or personal authorisations to cut.:

<sup>12</sup> 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 communal 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;

- ...



- Six (06) white Doussie logs still in good condition and lying in the yard at the moment of the mission, with an estimated volume of 12.73375 m<sup>3</sup> and two (2) Ayous logs in good condition with a volume of about 6.43125 m<sup>3</sup> ;
- One (01) place where logging activities have blocked a stream from flowing.

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