



global witness

Cameroon

Project of Independent Observer in Support of Forest Law Enforcement in Cameroon

**Approved by the Ministry of the
Environment and Forestry**

Report of the Independent Observer

No. 043En

Central Control Unit – Independent Observer Joint Mission

Title	FMU 08 006
Location	Issandja, Yoko Sub-Division, Mbam and Kim Division, Central Province
Mission date	26 March 2003
Companies	SFB (Holder) TTS (Partner)

Independent Observer Team (Global Witness):

*Mr Reiner Tegtmeyer, Project Director
Mr Serge C. Moukouri, Technical Assistant
Mr Albert Mballa Mbarga, Driver*

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 26 March 2003, the Central Control Unit (UCC), accompanied by the Independent Observer mission, carried out a control mission of logging activities within the Annual Standing Volume (ASV) No.01 of the Forest Management Unit (FMU) 08 006, situated at Issandja, Yoko Sub-Division, Mbam and Kim Division, Central Province.

The mission had as its objectives to investigate, and observe possible irregularities within this forestry unit and to prosecute substantiated cases.

The FMU 08 006 is attributed to the company Société Forestière de Bouraka (SFB) since 1997. This company is logging ASV No.01 for the current operational year. The company SFB subcontracts the logging activities of this Annual Standing Volume to the company Transformation Tropical du Sud (TTS).

The mission sought to verify that field operation documents were being kept according to the regulations, and that the limits of ASV No.01 were properly marked and respected during logging operations within the FMU concerned.

The Independent Observer mission reached the following conclusions:

- o One of the log ponds is located beyond the limits of ASV No.01. This fact is generally an indication of illegal logging operations. It was also discovered that field operation documents relating to this title were not completed during hauling.

Having considered the conclusions cited above, the **Independent Observer recommends:**

- o The redeployment of a control mission to this ASV to further investigate possible indications of illegal logging revealed in the posted GPS points on the map. An evaluation of the duly logged surface would also be necessary in the event that illegal logging indications are confirmed;
- o The filing of an official report targeting the companies SFB and TTS for poor keeping of field operation documents.

2. RESOURCES USED

- 1 Land cruiser
- 1 Yamaha 100 Motorbike
- 3 Garmin GPS
- 1 Digital camera
- 1 Sony laptop

3. COMPOSITION OF THE MISSION

The mission was made up of: Mr. Djibrilla Hessana and Mrs. Dzana Margareth of the CCU; Mr. Eya'ane Bannister, Head of the Provincial Control Brigade (PCB) of the Central Province; Mr. Nonga, Divisional Delegate of Mbam and Kim; Mr. Nkoa Nkoa, Head of Local Forestry Post of Yoko; and Messrs. Reiner Tegtmeier and Serge Moukouri of the Independent Observer.

4. CONSTRAINTS

The mission had no map of the operations permit concerned while in the field. This explains why the irregularities relating to logging beyond the legal limits were not noted in the field.

5. MISSION FINDINGS

5.1 Case Summary

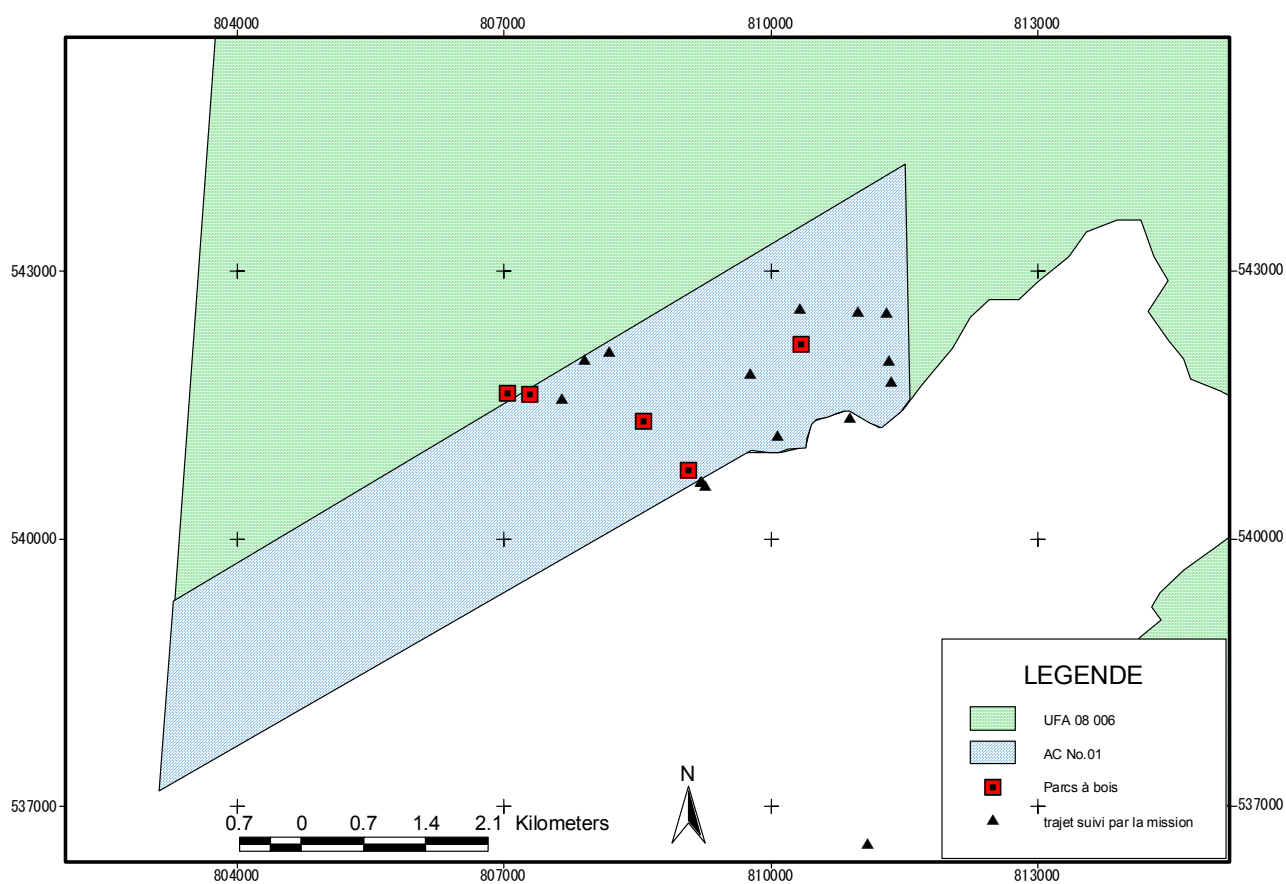
The Forest Management Unit (FMU) 08 006 has been attributed to the company SFB since November 1997. The Provisional Convention for this title was signed in March 1998. Annual Standing Volume (ASV) No.01 of this title, which actually is subcontracted to the company TTS, is being exploited in the current operational year (2002-2003). Before the granting of exploitation of the ASV for the current operational year, the company SFB modified the limits of its concession to make them conform with those of the draft decree on the FMU classification concerned (see Article 4 of Ministerial Order 222). According to the declarations of the official in charge of the worksite, the ASV exploited in the previous year has been renewed for the ongoing operational year.

5.2 Mission's Observations

a) Indications of exploitation beyond the ASV limits

The superimposing of GPS (Global Positioning System) points noted along the routes and segments of ASV No.01, FMU 08 006 on a map of the area, allowed mission personnel to observe that one of the log ponds is located beyond the limits of the Annual Operations Permit (see map below). The positioning of the log pond in question presents a strong indication of possible exploitation beyond the limits of the annual standing volume concerned.

Map FMU 08 006, ASV No.01



b) Poor keeping of field operations documents

The mission also noted that company SFB's subcontractor does not complete field operations documents during hauling and scaling operations. The data are entered on a sheet of scrap paper before being recorded in the field operations documents at the end of the day. Such practice could allow for data manipulation.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The main conclusions of the Independent Observer are as follows:

- o One of the log ponds is located beyond the limits of ASV No.01. This fact is generally an indication of illegal logging operations. It was also discovered that field operation documents relating to this title were not completed during hauling.

Having considered the conclusions cited above, the **Independent Observer recommends:**

- o The redeployment of a control mission to this ASV to further investigate possible indications of illegal logging revealed in the posted GPS points on the map. An evaluation of the duly logged surface would also be necessary in the event that illegal logging indications are confirmed;
- o The filing of an official report targeting the companies SFB and TTS for poor keeping of field operation documents.