



global witness

Cameroon

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

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

Report No. 049En

Joint mission: Central Control Unit - Independent Observer

Title	FMU 10 064
Location	Boumba and Ngoko Department, East Province
Mission date	18 th March, 2003
Company	Filière Bois

Independent Observer (Global Witness):

Mr. Albert K. Barume, Deputy Director

Mr. Jean Cyrille Owada., Technical Assistant

Mr. Tangyie Ché Célestine, Driver

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. SUMMARY	1
2. COMPOSITION OF THE MISSION	2
3. RESOURCES USED	2
4. CONSTRAINTS	2
5. RESULTS OF THE MISSION	2
5.1 Violations of the regulations relative to the markings noted within ACP No.02 of FMU 10 064	2
6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	4
APPENDIX	5

1. SUMMARY

The Central Control¹ Unit (CCU) of the Ministry of the Environment and Forests (MINEF), accompanied by the Independent Observer (Global Witness), carried out a control mission in the Forest Management Unit (FMU) No. 10 064 located in Kika, Boumba and Ngoko Department, East Province, on the 18th of March 2003.

This mission aimed to research, document and enforce the law in relation to the possible cases of irregularities and illegalities within the FMU mentioned above. The mission also had the mandate to survey the state of this forest unit.

The mission first had a meeting with the head of exploitation of the company Filière Bois, before going on the site of the Annual Cutting Permit (ACP) No.02 undergoing exploitation.

The main conclusions of the Independent Observer in relation to this mission are the following:

Filière Bois felled trees below the Minimum Exploitable Diameter (MED). It also made false declaration on DF10² forms.

Recording these infractions, the CCU established an official report against Filière Bois.

In view of the above, the **Independent Observer:**

Shares the CCU conclusions and suggests the fixation of the damages amount on the basis of the whole FOB value of the timber estimated to have been exploited illegally by Filière Bois.

¹ Control” in the context of this report means “Law Enforcement” or to “check compliance with law”.

² Document detailing volume of wood extracted from the forest for a valid title

2. COMPOSITION OF THE MISSION

The mission was composed of Mrs. Essono Danièle and Mr. Mamene Pierre Marcel, CCU forest law enforcement officials; Afene Obam, James, civil servant from the Direction of Forests; the Head of the forest law enforcement East Province Brigade, the Head of the Boumba Ngoko forest section and two members of the Independent Observer's technical team.

3. RESOURCES USED

- 1 4x4 pick-up truck
- 1 Motorcycle
- 3 GPS
- 1 Video cameras
- 2 Cameras
- 1 Laptop

4. CONSTRAINTS

The visual data taken in the course of this mission is part of the content of the videocassette seized by the company Ingénierie Forestière (see Independent Observer Report No. 055En). This incident, whose negative impact on transparency and good governance in the forest sector is major, took place just as the Independent Observer documented a large-scale illegal exploitation led by Ingénierie Forestière.

5. RESULTS OF THE MISSION

5.1 Violations of the regulations relative to the markings noted within ACP No.02 of FMU 10 064

Filière Bois currently logs Annual Cutting Permit No.02 of FMU 10 064 (see Appendix 1). The mission did a quasi-complete round of this ACP as shown by the map below.

The inspection of exploitation documents and log ponds along the exploitation road allowed the mission to note the registration on a DF10 form of an *Ayous* log instead of *Ngolon* species found in the log pond (see Photo 1). This practice constitutes no less than a violation of article 125 of the Decree of the 23rd of August 1995 stipulating the norms of felled tree markings.

Photo 1: *Ngolon* log registered as *Ayous*

(This photo is contained in the Independent Observer videocassette seized by the company Ingénierie Forestière, see *Independent Observer report No. 055En*)

The same inspection of the log ponds revealed a case of exploitation under diameter by Filière Bois. For the case of the species *assamela*, this irregularity resulted from cutting under the authorised diameter, as shown by the log registered under DF10 number '413974' (see Photo 2). These facts could be constitutive of the incrimination of protected tree felling without authorisation, repressed by article 155 of the 1994 law. The law stipulates that, in addition to fines for this infraction, the offender pays damages previewed by article 159 of the same law.

Map : ACP No.02 of FMU 10 064

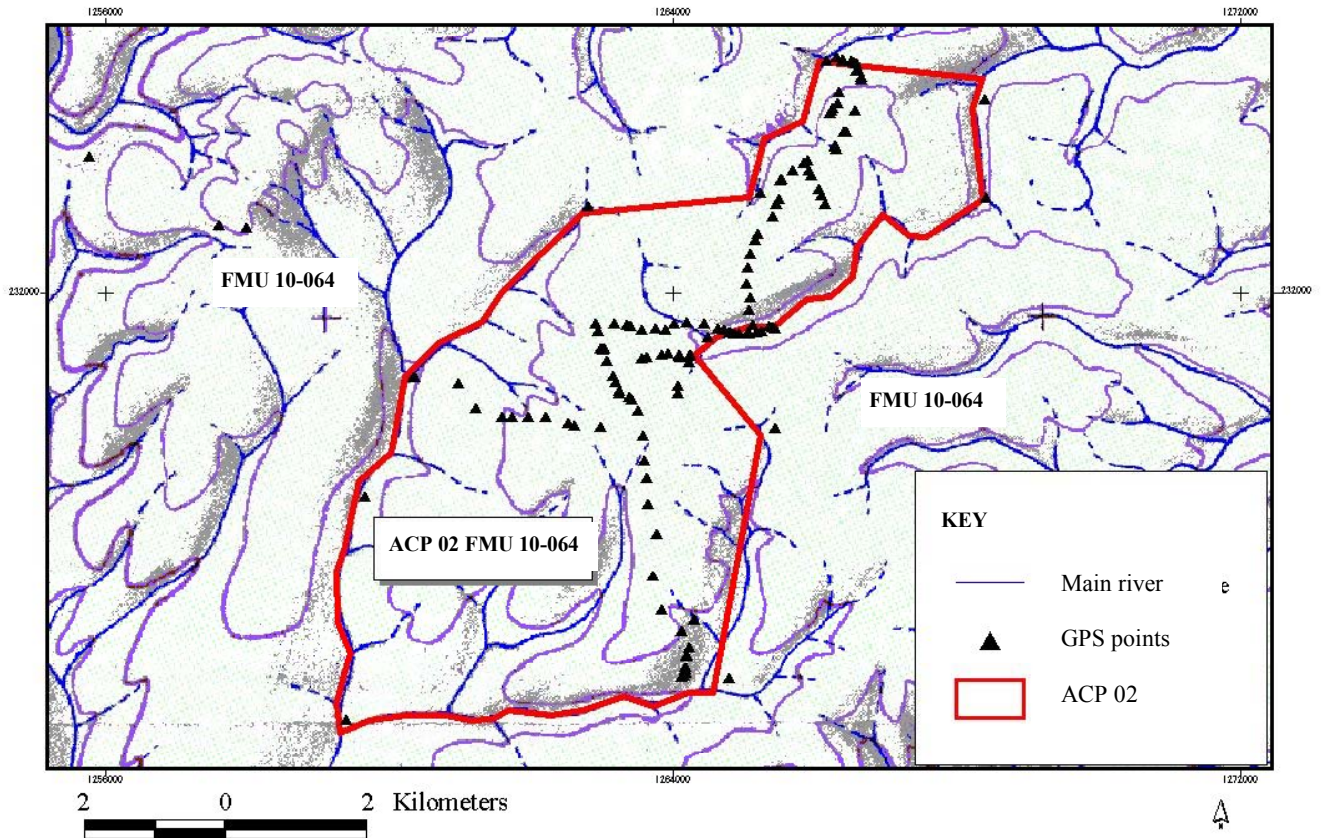


Photo 2: Log cut under the Minimum Exploitable Diameter, ACP No.02 of FMU 10 064

(This photo is contained in the Independent Observer's tape seized by Ingénierie Forestière, see *Independent Observer Report No. 055En*)

Noting these infractions, the CCU established an official report against Filière Bois. On site, the head of exploitation of this company refused to append its signature to the official report.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It emerges from this mission that Filière Bois not only exploited a log under diameter, but also badly registered the timber in its field book. Both these acts are reprehensible, which is the reason why an official report was lawfully established against this company.

In view of the above, **the Independent Observer:**

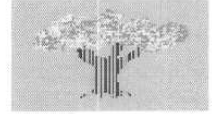
Shares the CCU conclusions and suggests the fixation of the amount of damages on the whole FOB value of the timber estimated having been exploited illegally by Filière Bois.

APPENDIX



Ministère de l'Environnement et des Forêts - Direction des Forêts

Certificat d'Assiette annuelle de coupe (copie) Convention provisoire d'exploitation



Concession: 1060

Exercice: 2002-2003

Fin de validité: 30 juin, 2003

Exploitant: 420

La Filière Bois SA

Certificat émis le: Monday, June 17, 200

B.P. 942 Douala

Partie 1. Localisation des traitements sylvicoles:

Commune					Traitements sylvicoles			Superficie
N°	Appellation	Zone	Ufa	Assiette	Cod	Appellation		
100102	Moloundou	03	10-064	2	10	Coupe à diamètre limite		3,663
							Superficie totale:	3,663

* Les cartes forestières jointes à la demande montrent la localisation précise de l'assiette de coupe autorisée

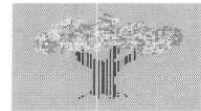
Partie 2. Essences à récolter:

Assiette No: 2								
Essence				Essence				
Code	Appellation	Nombre	Volume	Code	Appellation	Nombre	Volume	
1103	Acajou de bassam	298	1,756	1104	Assamela	812	3,852	
1105	Azobé	92	476	1106	Bété	6	23	
1108	Bossé foncé	82	385	1109	Bubinga rose	8	37	
1110	Bubinga rouge	4	12	1111	Dibétou	14	249	
1116	Iroko	52	580	1118	Kossipo	74	653	
1119	Kotibé	18	69	1120	Makoré/Douka	2	5	
1122	Mukulungu	4	55	1128	Padouk blanc	464	2,573	
1129	Sapelli	1,368	10,384	1130	Sipo	32	457	
1131	Tali	428	2,369	1135	Tiama	44	340	
1137	Agba / Tola	10	56	1201	Aiélé / Abel	34	275	
1207	Aningré R	34	221	1211	Ayous/Obéché	6,331	58,808	
1212	Bodioa	24	134	1214	Dabéma	14	139	
1215	Ebiara Yaoundé /Abem	18	94	1218	Eyong	212	956	
1220	Fraké	218	1,174	1228	Longhi / Abam	80	377	
1230	Mambodé / Amouk	10	62	1232	Movingui	6	38	
1238	Niové	10	43	1317	Bahia	4	23	
1318	Bilinga	8	34	1334	Emien	26	142	
1344	Fromager	124	721	1345	Iatandza / Evouvouss	16	110	
1346	Ilomba	32	165	1351	Lati / Edjil	166	1,164	
1358	Diana Z	58	274	1365	Pao rosa	2	6	
1458	Kumbi	44	227					
Nombre total:		11,283	Volume total:	89,518				

* Les cartes d'inventaire d'exploitation jointes à la demande montrent la localisation des arbres à récolter

Ministère de l'Environnement et des Forêts - Direction des Forêts

Certificat d'Assiette annuelle de coupe (copie)
Convention provisoire d'exploitation



Concession: 1060	Exercice: 2002-2003	Fin de validité: 30 juin, 2003
Exploitant: 420	La Filière Bois SA	Certificat émis le: Monday, June 17, 200
	B.P. 942 Douala	

Prescription:

Le titulaire de ce certificat d'assiette annuelle de coupe doit respecter les normes d'intervention en milieu forestier ainsi que les clauses de son cahier des charges lors de la réalisation de ses activités d'aménagement forestier.

Date:

Le Ministre de l'Environnement et des Forêts

Date: Wednesday, April 09,

Copie conforme du certificat d'assiette annuelle de coupe