



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. 50En

Joint Mission: Central Control Unit – Independent Observer

Title	FMU 10 012
Location	Boumba and Ngoko, East Province
Mission date	19th March, 2003
Company	SEFAC

Independent Observer (Global Witness):

*Mr. Albert K. Barume, Deputy Director
Mr. Jean Cyrille Owada, Technical Assistant
Mr. Tangyie Ché Célestine, Driver*

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1. SUMMARY

The Central Control¹ Unit of the Ministry of the Environment and Forests (MINEF), accompanied by the Independent Observer (Global Witness), carried out a mission in the Forest Management Unit (FMU) 10 012 located in the Boumba and Ngoko Department on the 19th of March 2003. The mission was part of a routine control programme started on the 14th of March 2003 in the East Province.

FMU 10 012 is allocated to the company SEFAC (Société d'Exploitation Forestière et Agricole du Cameroun), a component of a group of companies to which also belong SEBAC and Filière Bois.

At the date of the passage of the mission in FMU 10 012, exploitation activities were already finished within the Annual Cutting Permit (ACP) No.12 valid for the operating year 2002 – 2003 (see Appendix 1).

No irregularities were noted in the field, and data bearing on the production were not recorded in the SIGIF² system due to a technical breakdown affecting the Bertoua SIGIF branch.

In view of the above, the **Independent Observer recommends** the examination of DF10³ data registered within the SIGIF system when they are available.

2. COMPOSITION OF THE MISSION

The mission was composed of Mrs. Essono Danièle and Mr. Mamene Pierre Marcel, CCU controllers; Mr. 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 and Ngoko forest section and two members of the Independent Observer technical team.

3. RESOURCES USED

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

4. CONSTRAINTS

The visual data taken in the course of this mission is part of the content of the video tape 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.

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

² Forestry automated information system. Part of the program of Sustainable management of Cameroonian forests

³ Document detailing volume of wood extracted from the forest for a valid title

5. RESULTS OF THE MISSION

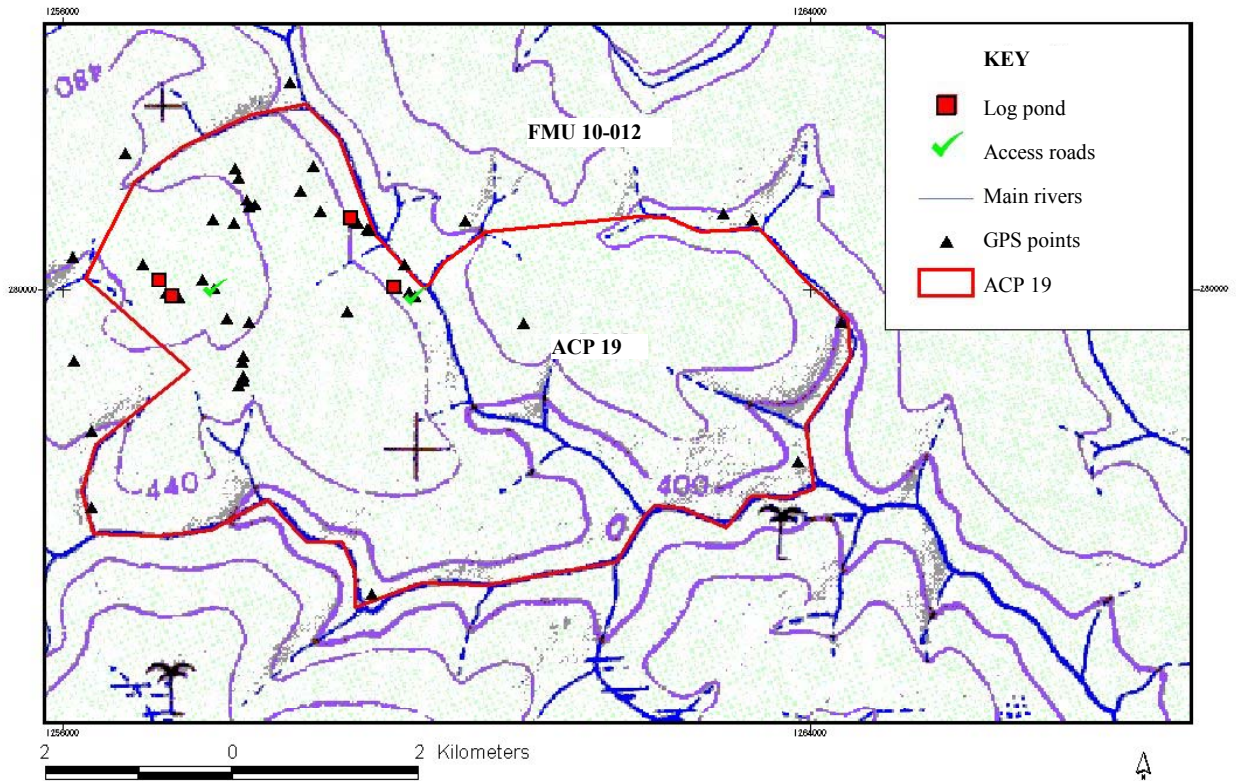
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Map: ACP No.19 of FMU 10 012

Exploitation roads ACP 19 FMU 10-012



6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the above, the **Independent Observer recommends** the examination of DF10 data registered within the SIGIF system when they are available.