



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. 057En

Central Control Unit – Independent Observer Joint Mission

Title	FMU 10 046
Location	Haut-Nyong Division, East Province
Mission date	26 - 29 March 2003
Company	SCTB (Holder)

Independent Observer Team (Global Witness):

Dr. Albert K. Barume, Deputy Project Director

Mr Owada Jean Cyrille, Technical Assistant

Mr Tangyie Che Célestine, Driver

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Central Control Unit (CCU) accompanied by the Independent Observer (Global Witness) undertook a forest control mission to the Doume Sub-Division in the Haut-Nyong Division of the East Province, from 26 to 29 March 2003. The mission was part of a routine control programme started on 14 March 2003.

The Forest Management Unit (FMU) 10 046 is contiguous to FMUs 10 059 and 10 060. The latter two FMUs have also been granted to the same company Société Camerounaise de Transformation de Bois (SCTB), and constitute a separate concession.

There are two valid Annual Standing Volumes (ASV) within FMU 10 046. These are ASV No.01 and No.42 that will expire on 30 June 2003 and 31 December 2003, respectively.

Based on a complete tour of FMU 10 046, it appears that the SCTB logging company is guilty of several forest law offences. These offences are:

- Logging beyond set boundaries;
- Fraudulent use of marks;
- Non-marking of felled timber;
- Unauthorised logging in a state forest, especially logging of timber under the required minimum exploitable diameter;
- Non-demarkation of the Annual Standing Volume;
- Non-recording of extracted timber in the Field Operation Document.

After observing these offences, the CCU established an official statement of offence against the SCTB company. Furthermore, the logging site of ASV No.42 was closed down and documents of the logging site seized as a conservatory measure. To this end, a notice to close the logging site was issued to the offender.

In view of the observation made by the mission, the **Independent Observer recommends:**

- Pursuance of the litigation opened by the CCU against the company SCTB;
- An assessment by the CCU of the entire Free-on-Board (FOB) value of timber illegally extracted by the SCTB logging company.

2. RESOURCES USED

- 1 Toyota Hilux Pick Up
- 1 Digital cameras
- 1 Video camera
- 2 GPS
- 1 laptop computer

3. COMPOSITION OF THE MISSION

The mission was made up of Mrs Essono Danièle and Mr Mamene Pierre Marcel, Controllers at the CCU; Mr Afene Obam James, Senior staff at the Department of Forests; the Head of the Provincial Control Brigade for the East, the Head of Section for Forestry for Kadey of Batouri, and two agents of the technical team of the Independent Observer.

4. CONSTRAINTS

Fourteen days were not enough to cover all the titles under exploitation in the East Province.

5. MISSION FINDINGS

5.1 Case Summary

The Forest Management Unit (FMU) 10 046 has been granted to the SCTB company. This logging company is also the holder of FMUs 10 059 and 10 060, contiguous to the FMU 10 046.

FMU 10 046 has been under exploitation since the previous fiscal year. For the current fiscal year (2002 – 2003), Annual Standing Volume (ASV) No.01 and 42 are still valid. According to the Annual Standing Volume certificate in the keeping of the SCTB logging company, ASV No.01, valid until 31 December 2003, is larger than 4,000 hectares. (see Appendix 1).

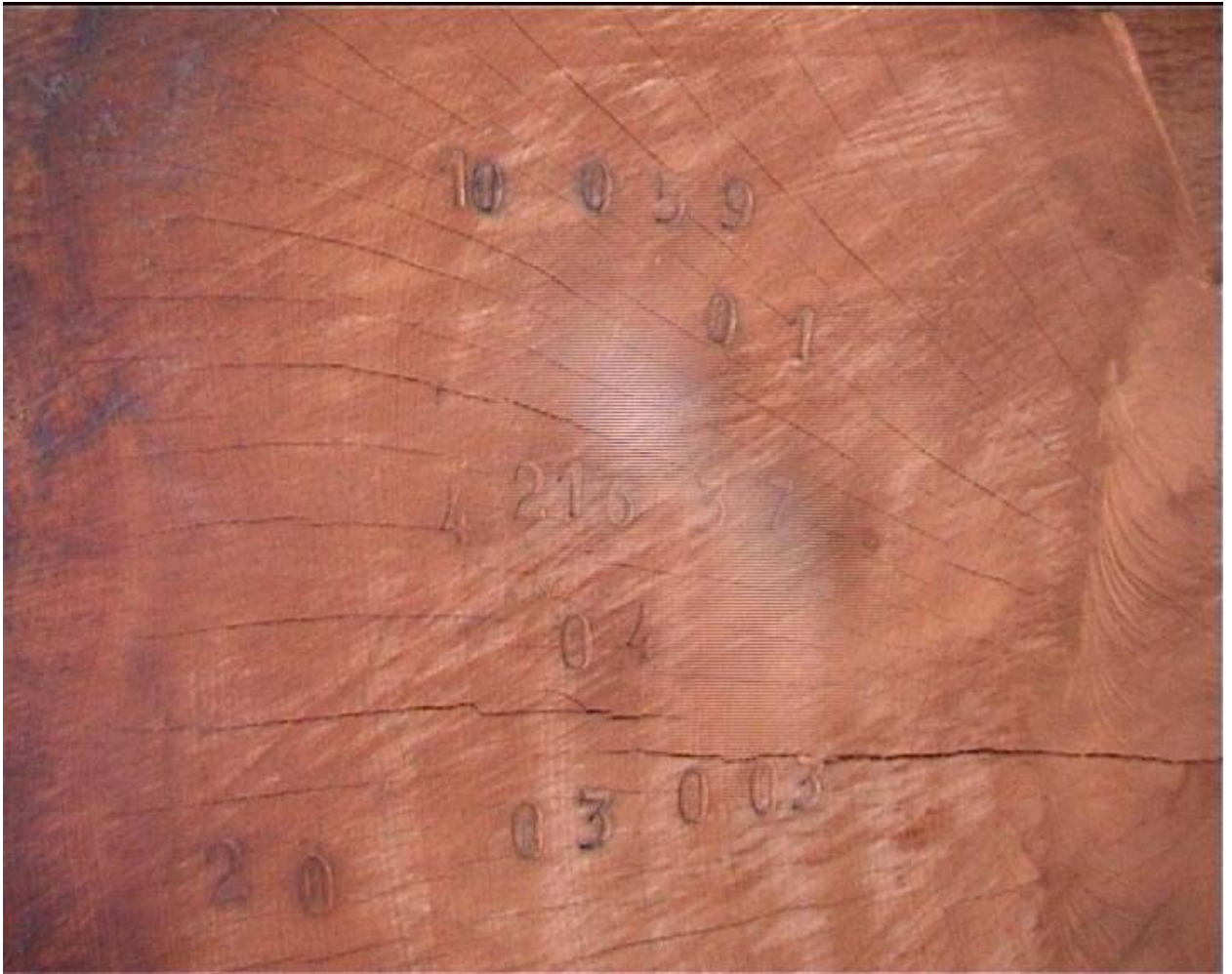
5.2 Cases of illegality observed by the mission

Several forest offences were observed in Annual Standing Volume No.42. ASV No. 42 expires on 31 December 2003.

a. Logs bearing the number of a different FMU

As shown in the following photograph, logs within FMU 10 046 displayed the marks of FMU 10 059. This is contrary to logging regulations in Cameroon that require that logs bear the number of the title from which they are extracted.

Photo 1: Logs in the middle of FMU 10 046 bearing the marks of FMU 10 059



The administrative officer of the SCTB logging company, who was accompanying the mission in the field, was unable to explain anything. He acknowledged that some of his agents were “not adequately experienced in these operation”.

b. Logs bearing no marks

In the same Annual Standing Volume No.42 of FMU 10 046, the mission saw trees without marks and/or without DF10 numbers, as shown in the following photograph.

Photos 2 and 3: Unmarked logs

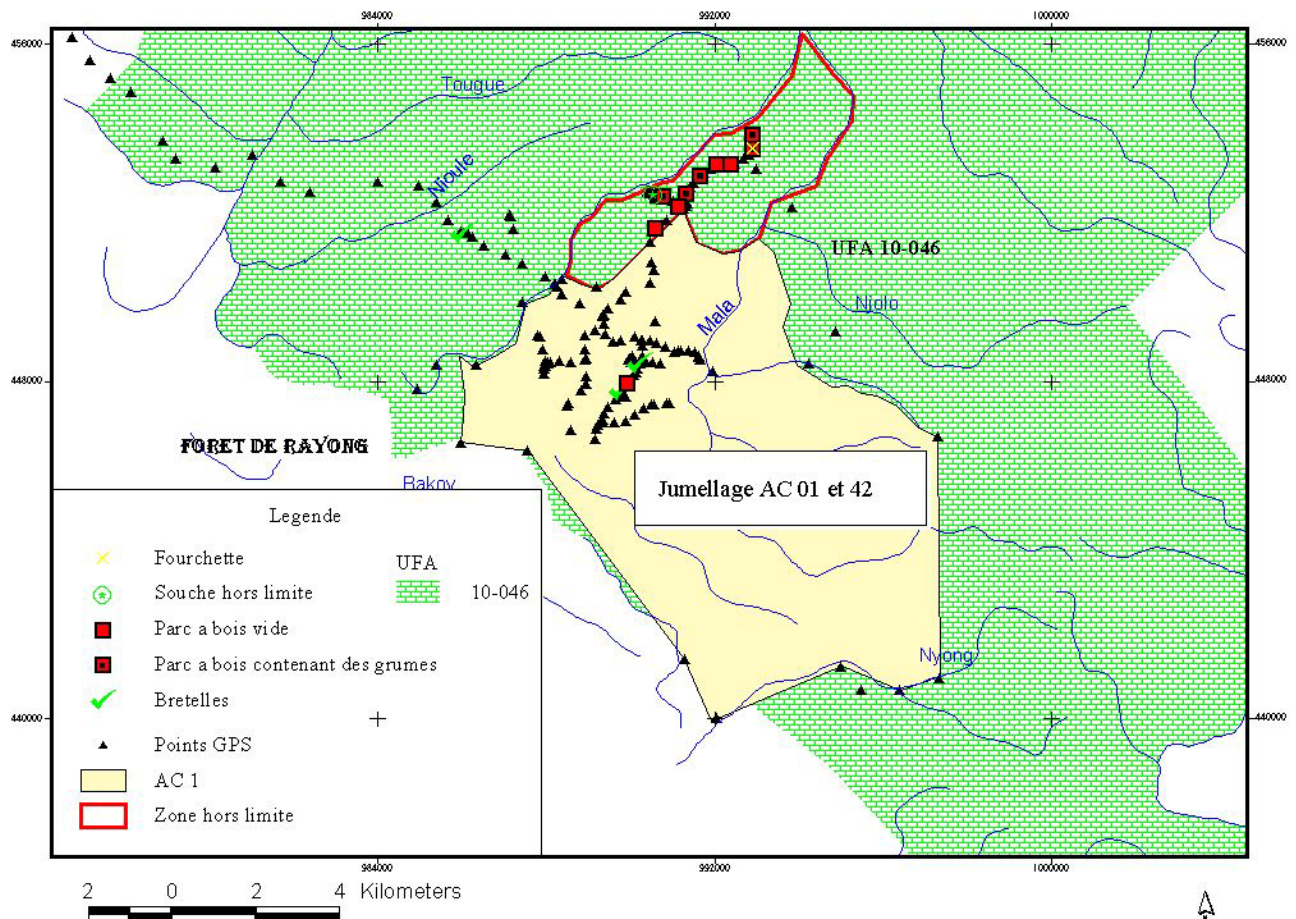


c. Log ponds and machines beyond boundaries

Farther away within ASV No.42, the mission observed large-scale logging operation outside of the boundaries; this operation consisted of access roads, logging roads lined with log ponds, and hauling tracks opened several hundred meters out of boundaries. The map below provides an approximate representation of the area illegally logged.

Map: Surface area of logging beyond boundaries of ASV No.42 of FMU 10 046

Exploitation hors limite par SCTB



The log pond shown in the following photograph was located outside of the boundaries of the operations permit. The mission also found a bulldozer on the site, as shown on one of the following photographs.

Photo 4: A log pond outside of the boundaries of ASV No.42



Photo 5: Bulldozer in a log pond outside of the boundaries of the title



d. Felling under diameter

Some log ponds discovered in ASV No.42 of FMU 10 046 contained logs below the minimum diameter permitted for exploitation. This was the case of log bearing DF10 number 421636, shown in the following photograph.

Photo 6: Felled log whose diameter is below the minimum diameter considered acceptable for exploitation.



e. Poor demarcation of the Annual Standing Volume

The Annual Standing Volumes No.42 was also poorly demarcated and some field operations documents found at the site were improperly completed.

After observing all of these offences, the Central Control Unit established an official statement of offence against the SCTB logging company. The same statement of offence was also used to close down the logging site of ASV No.42 and to seize illegally logged timber. Field operations documents relating to this operations permit were also seized by the mission.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The mission observed various offences within FMU 10 046. These offences include logging outside of the boundaries of Annual Standing Volume No.10 046, fraudulent marking of timber, and other offences.

In view of the observation made by the mission, the **Independent Observer recommends:**

- Pursuance of the litigation opened by the CCU against the company SCTB;
- An assessment by the CCU of the entire Free-on-Board (FOB) value of timber illegally extracted by the SCTB logging company.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

MINISTÈRE DE LA RECHERCHE
SCIENTIFIQUE ET TECHNIQUE

INSTITUT NATIONAL DE CARTOGRAPHIE
BP. 157- Tél . 22 29 21- YAOUNDE

DÉPARTEMENT DE CARTOGRAPHIE
ET DE LA TELEDETECTION

SERVICE DE LA REDACTION CARTOGRAPHIQUE

N° 0 2 0 1 6 3

AMS/MINREST/INC/DCT/SC

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Paix - Travail - Patrie

Yaoundé, le 26 - 04 - 2 002

ATTESTATION DE MESURE DE SUPERFICIE

Superficie mesurée : 5 680 hectares

Demandeur : S CT B

Carte (s) de référence : Bertoua et Abong Mbang
à 1/200 000

Situation Administrative : Département du Haut - Nyong
— District de Doumé tang

Planimètre utilisé Coradi 36 891

DESCRIPTION DE LA ZONE FORESTIERE

Le point de base A de l'Assiette de Coupe N°1 des l'UFA jumelées 10 046 et 10 059 sollicitée par le demandeur se trouve sur la rivière Mala, à 200 mètres au sud de son confluent avec Ntolo. Du point A, en suivant la droite AB = 3,1 km d'azimut 186 grades, on aboutit au point B, départ de l'Assiette de Coupe concernée. Cette l'Assiette est limitée :

Au Nord et à l'Est, par l'affluent droit immédiat de Mala en amont jusqu'au point C situé à 3,0 km ; les droites CD = 0,6 km d'azimut 100 grades et DE = 5,5 km d'azimut 209 grades.

Au Sud, par le Nyong en aval sur 5,2 km jusqu'au point F et la droite FG = 1,7 km d'azimut 148 grades.

A l'Ouest et au Nord, du point G, par Bakoy en aval jusqu'au point H situé à 6,4 km puis son affluent droit immédiat en amont jusqu'au point I se trouvant à 1,4 km ; la droite IJ = 3,4 km d'azimut 42 grades ; l'affluent gauche de Mala en aval puis Mala en amont sur 700 mètres ; enfin, par l'affluent droit immédiat de Mala en amont jusqu'au point B.

Cette forêt couvre une superficie de **Cinq Mille Six Cent Quatre Vingt** hectares.

La présente attestation lui est délivrée pour servir et valoir ce que de droit.



CHEF DE SERVICE
REDACTION CARTOGRAPHIQUE