



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. 061En

Central Control Unit – Independent Observer Joint Mission

Title	FMU 09 006
Location	Messam, Djoum Sub-Division, Dja and Lobo Division, South Province
Mission date	22 April 2003
Company	SFF (Holder)

Independent Observer Team (Global Witness):

Mr. Reiner Tegtmeyer, Project Director

Mr. Serge C. Moukouri, Technical Assistant

Mr. TangyieChe Célestine, Driver

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Within the framework of its routine missions programme in the South Province, the Central Control Unit (CCU), accompanied by the Independent Observer (Global Witness), undertook a mission within Forest Management Unit (FMU) 09 006 on 22 April 2003.

Granted to the company Société Forestière Fanga (SFF), FMU 09 006 is located in Djoum Sub-Division in the Dja and Lobo Division, and is contiguous to the southern boundary of the Dja Reserve.

For the ongoing fiscal year (2002-2003), the SFF logging company was granted two valid Annual Standing Volume (ASV) within this FMU. These are ASV Nos.20 and 27.

The granting of two standing volumes during the same fiscal year violates the principle that a standing volume cannot be renewed during the execution of a Provisional Agreement. The mission's purpose was to verify that boundaries are being respected and that proper field operations documents are being kept.

During a complete tour of the Annual Standing Volume under exploitation in FMU 09 006, the mission team observed that the SFF logging company had committed the following acts:

- Logging timber below the Minimum Exploitable Diameter (MED) in ASV No.27;
- Logging outside the boundaries of ASV No.20;
- Fraudulently marking cut timber.

Pursuant to the observation of these offences, the CCU established an official statement of offence against the SFF logging company.

Based on the findings of this mission, the **Independent Observer recommends:**

- Pursuing the litigation opened by the CCU against the company SFF ;
- Notifying the SFF company about the amounts of fines, damages and interests calculated on the basis of the Free-on-Board (FOB) value of the illegally logged timber;
- Conducting an investigation - to determine why the two standing volumes were granted to the SFF logging company in the course of the same fiscal year, and implementing appropriate follow-up measures if warranted.

2. EQUIPMENT USED

- 1 Toyota Hilux Pick Up
- 1 motorbike
- 3 GPS
- 1 Video camera
- 1 Digital camera
- 1 laptop computer

3. COMPOSITION OF THE MISSION

The mission was made up of Mrs Essono Daniëlle and Mr Mamene Pierre Marcel, Controllers at the CCU; Mr Afene Obam James, Senior staff at the Forestry Department; Mr François Issola Dipanda, Head of the Provincial Control Brigade for the South, the Head of Local Forestry Post of Djoum and Messrs Reiner Tegtmeier and Serge C. Moukouri of the Independent Observer.

4. CONSTRAINTS

The description of the boundaries of the Annual Standing Volume (ASV) under exploitation could not be found in the database of the Cartography Unit of MINEF.

5. MISSION FINDINGS

5.1 Case summary

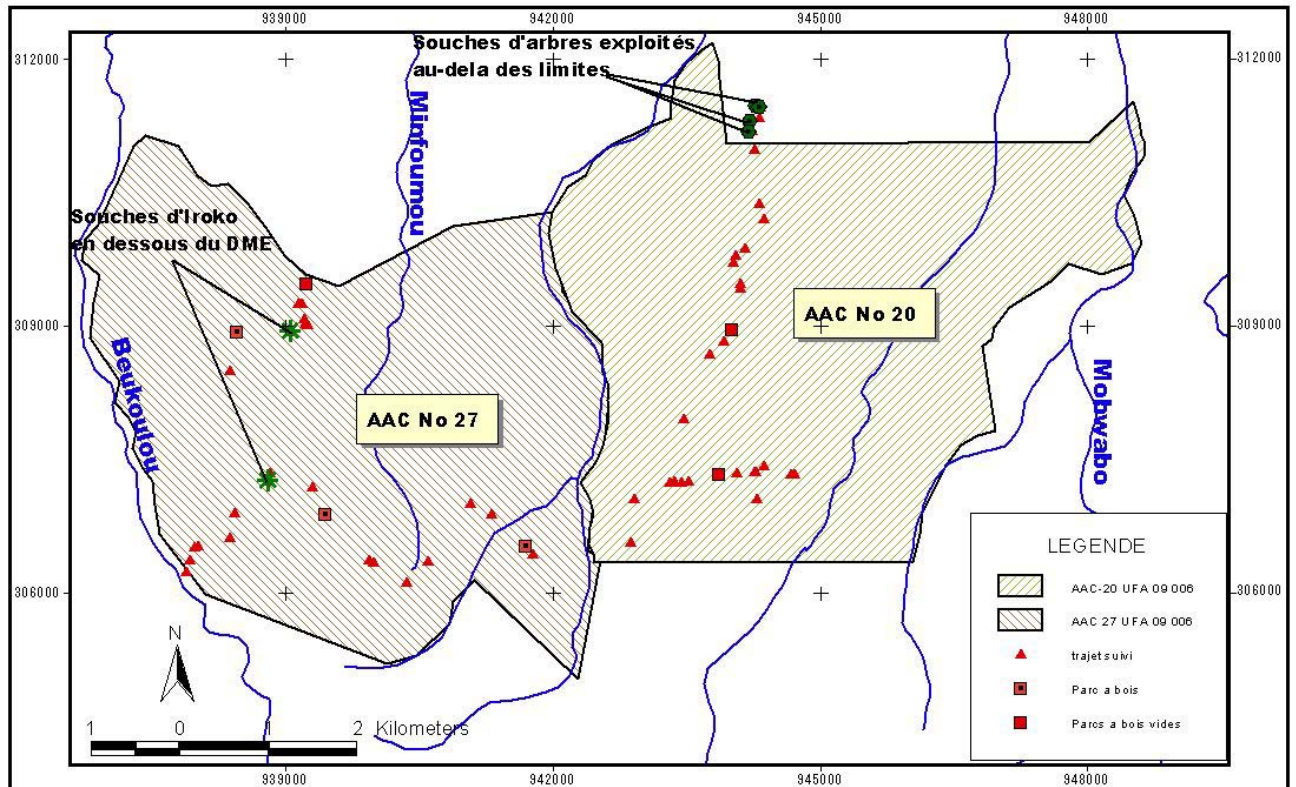
Forest Management Unit (FMU) 09 006, located in Djoum Sub-Division of the Dja and Lobo Division, was granted to the SFF logging company. This FMU is contiguous to the southern boundary of the Dja Reserve. The company SFF works in partnership with the Société des Grumes du Cameroun (EGC) logging company. The mission team encountered the latter during the field mission. Two standing volumes, namely ASV Nos.20 and 27 were granted to the SFF logging company for the current fiscal year (2002-2003).

5.2 Mission's Observations

a. Logging beyond the boundaries of Operations Permit No. 20

The mission determined that the SFF logging company carried out logging activities beyond the boundaries of ASV No.20. This was done by transposing the sketch used by the logging company of the standing volume under consideration onto a 1/200,000^e map. This operation allowed members of the mission to determine the geographic co-ordinates of the title and transfer them into GPS (Global Positioning System) devices. The team then took geo-reference (GPS) points along roads, exploitation and hauling tracks in the standing volume under consideration (see map below).

Map: Logging out of boundaries of Standing Volume No.20



b. Fraudulent use of title markings

Timber logged out of boundaries was marked ASV No.20. Since logs can only carry the mark of the standing volume from which they were legally felled, the act committed by the SFF logging company constitutes fraudulent use of forestry administration marks, as outlined in Section 156 of the 1994 law.

c. Logging below minimum exploitable diameter

The mission also observed two cases of tree felling involving trees below the minimum exploitable diameter (MED). After measuring the two *iroko* tree stumps (see photograph below) carrying DF10 numbers 417974-20 and 417988-30, the mission made formal note of the offence. This act is generally considered comparable to the unauthorised felling of protected trees, punishable under Section 155 of the 1994 Law. These acts also constitute a violation of forestry regulation governing the keeping of accurate field operations documents.

Photo: Stump of a felled *iroko* measuring under the minimum exploitable diameter permitted



d. Granting of two operations permits in one and the same fiscal year

The SFF logging company obtained two Annual Standing Volumes (No.20 and 27) for the ongoing fiscal year (2002-2003). ASV No.20 was renewed and ASV No. 27 granted anew (see Appendix 1).

Representatives of the SFF company claim that the renewal of ASV No.20 was justified on the grounds of an incomplete inventory that resulted in unsatisfactory exploitation in the **2001-2002** fiscal year. As a result, the Director of Forestry requested that the Minister of the Environment and Forestry grant two operations permits to the SFF logging company in the current fiscal year (see Appendix 2).

The ministerial Decision contradicts the principles governing annual standing volumes during the provisional agreement period. In fact, the holder of a FMU cannot obtain two standing volumes in the same fiscal year while the terms of the provisional agreement are in effect. Article 7 of Ministerial Order No. 222 of 25 May 2001 stipulates that only a concessionaire who is holder of a final agreement can be granted two operations permits in the same fiscal year.

Information collected at the Sub-Department of Forest Inventories and Management (SDFIM) at the time of writing show that the management plan of

FMU 09 006 has not yet been approved. Consequently, the SFF logging company is ineligible to receive benefit from two standing volumes in the same fiscal year.

Furthermore, Article 40 of the same Ministerial Order No. 222 states that no renewal of a standing volume is permitted during the provisional agreement period. As of date the SFF logging company had not yet been granted a final agreement.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The mission took note of the granting of two standing volumes to the SFF logging company in the same fiscal year. Also, the SFF logging company was found to have committed the following violations :

- Logging timber below the Minimum Exploitable Diameter (MED) in ASV No.27;
- Logging outside the boundaries of ASV No.20;
- Fraudulently marking cut timber

Pursuant to the observation of these offences, the CCU established an official statement of offence against the SFF logging company.

Based on the findings of this mission, the **Independent Observer recommends:**

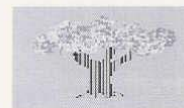
- Pursuing the litigation opened by the CCU against the company SFF ;
- Notifying the SFF company about the amounts of fines, damages and interests calculated on the basis of the Free-on-Board (FOB) value of the illegally logged timber;
- Conducting an investigation - to determine why the two standing volumes were granted to the SFF logging company in the course of the same fiscal year, and implementing appropriate follow-up measures if warranted.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

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

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



Concession: 1001

Exercice: 2002-2003

Fin de validité: 30 juin, 2003

Exploitant: 348

Société FANGA FORESTIÈRE

Certificat émis le: Wednesday, August 0

B.P. 4861 Yaoundé

Partie 2. Essences à récolter:

Essence				Essence			
Code	Appellation	Nombre	Volume	Code	Appellation	Nombre	Volume
1103	Acajou de bassam	24	169	1106	Bété	9	39
1107	Bossé clair	96	683	1111	Dibétou	32	288
1113	Doussi rouge	108	924	1116	Iroko	458	490
1118	Kossipo	55	529	1119	Kotibé	15	86
1121	Moabi	128	1,455	1122	Mukulungu	17	193
1124	Okan / Adoum	159	1,281	1127	Padouk rouge	174	1,068
1129	Sapelli	132	1,572	1130	Sipo	14	171
1132	Tali Yaoundé	925	6,474	1135	Tiama	19	156
1137	Agba / Tola	17	188	1201	Aiélé / Abel	53	401
1207	Aningré R	17	120	1211	Ayous/Obéché	108	1,013
1213	Bongo H / Olon	41	267	1214	Dabéma	32	224
1218	Eyong	116	844	1220	Fraké	321	178
1226	Koto	6	37	1227	Limbali	67	468
1228	Longhi / Abam	9	57	1230	Mambodé / Amouk	35	301
1232	Movingui	52	266	1238	Niové	37	170
1240	Oboto / Abotzok	6	27	1301	Abalé / Abing	231	1,175
1310	Ako / Aloa	17	94	1317	Bahia	61	188
1318	Bilinga	41	285	1322	Diana / Celtis / Odou	20	110
1324	Difou	11	71	1326	Ebiara Edéa	8	52
1334	Emien	194	1,082	1344	Fromager	163	216
1345	Iatandza / Evouvouss	22	121	1346	Ilomba	134	838
1351	Lati / Edjil	21	116	1361	Ovoga / Angalé	33	182
1489	Onzabili / Angongui	77	400				
Nombre total:		4,315	Volume total:			25,069	

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

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: Monday, June 23, 20

Copie conforme du certificat d'assiette annuelle de coupe

Certificat d'Assiette annuelle de coupe (copie)

Convention provisoire d'exploitation



Concession: 1001 **Exercice:** 2002-2003 **Fin de validité:** 30 juin, 2003
Exploitant: 348 Société FANGA FORESTIÈRE **Certificat émis le:** Wednesday, August 0
 B.P. 4861 Yaoundé

Partie 1. Localisation des traitements sylvicoles:

Commune				Traitements sylvicoles			Superficie
N°	Appellation	Zona	Ufa	Assiette	Cod	Appellation	
090102	Djoum	02	09-006	20	10	Coupe à diamètre limite	2,500
090102	Djoum	02	09-006	27	10	Coupe à diamètre limite	2,300
Superficie totale:							4,800

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

Partie 2. Essences à récolter:

Assiette No: 20							
Essence				Essence			
Code	Appellation	Nombre	Volume	Code	Appellation	Nombre	Volume
1103	Acajou de bassam	2	16	1107	Bossé clair	4	29
1111	Dibétou	3	20	1116	Iroko	33	388
1119	Kotibé	13	55	1121	Moabi	26	295
1122	Mukulungu	3	24	1124	Okan / Adoum	124	983
1129	Sapelli	39	285	1131	Tali	73	454
1137	Agba / Tola	9	71	1201	Aiélé / Abel	45	218
1202	Alep	364	1,517	1206	Angueuk	20	96
1207	Aningré R	7	39	1211	Ayous/Obéché	15	130
1212	Bodioa	30	217	1214	Dabéma	107	835
1218	Eyong	8	32	1220	Fraké	486	2,625
1221	Gombé / Ekop Ngombé	5	24	1227	Limbali	121	632
1228	Longhi / Abam	50	305	1230	Mambodé / Amouk	15	129
1232	Movingui	30	133	1238	Niové	30	113
1242	Osanga / Sikong	96	501	1301	Abalé / Abing	362	184
1310	Ako / Aloa	14	63	1318	Bilinga	10	64
1322	Diana / Celtis / Odou	10	50	1334	Emien	794	4,370
1344	Fromager	125	774	1345	Iatandza / Evouvouss	35	109
1346	Ilomba	125	574	1351	Lati / Edjil	17	73
1458	Kumbi	15	79	1489	Onzabili / Angongui	85	530
1492	Kondroti	14	90				
Nombre total:		3,364	Volume total:	17,126			

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

Appendix 2

**MINISTRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT
ET DES FORETS**

**REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Paix – Travail – Patrie**

DIRECTION DES FORETS

SDAFF

SAG

Yaoundé, le 12 AOUT 2002

N° 1271/N/DF/SDAFF/SAG

Réf. :

NOTE

**A Monsieur le Ministre de l'Environnement
et des Forêts**

- YAOUNDE -

**Objet Demande d'attribution et renouvellement
des certificats d'assiette de coupe N°s 20
& 27 UFA 09-006 a/n FANGA Forestière.-**

Le Directeur Général de la Société **FANGA FORESTIERE** a introduit auprès de vos services une demande d'attribution et de renouvellement des certificats d'assiette de coupe N°s 20 et 27, UFA 09 – 006 au titre de l'exercice 2002/2003.

Au cours de l'audience que vous avez accordé récemment au Directeur Général de la Société **PATRICE BOIS**, ce dernier a sollicité un renouvellement de l'assiette de coupe N° 20, car le recollement dans cette assiette laissait entrevoir que l'inventaire original avait été mal exécuté. Entre-temps un contrat a été signé entre la société **PATRICE BOIS** et **BOIS 2000** qui accepte d'acheter les bois secondaires, situation qui va dans le sens de la promotion de ces essences que nous prônons.

Compte tenu de ce qui précède, j'ai l'honneur de soumettre ci-contre à votre signature les projets de certificat d'assiette de coupe préparés à cet effet au nom de la société **FANGA FORESTIERE** et lui donnant satisfaction./-



KEDE OTODO
Ingenieur des Eaux et Forêts