

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

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

## **Report of the Independent Observer**

**No. 095En**

*Central Control Unit – Independent Observer Joint Mission*

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<b>Title</b>	FMU 10 020
<b>Location</b>	Yokadouma Sub-Division Boumba and Ngoko Division, East Province
<b>Mission date</b>	11 May 2004
<b>Company</b>	Ingénierie Forestière (Title Holder)

**Independent Observer Team (Global Witness):**

*Mr Robinson DJEUKAM, Legal Consultant  
Mr Serge C. MOUKOURI, Technical Assistant  
Mr MANJO Joshua SAFEH, Driver*

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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Central Control Unit (CCU), accompanied by the Independent Observer (Global Witness), carried out a mission to the Forest Management Unit (FMU) 10 020 on 11 May 2004. The mission was part of a routine control programme started on 6 May 2004.

Allocated to the company Ingénierie Forestière (IngF), as confirmed by the Provisional Convention of 27 November 2000, this FMU is located in the Yokadouma Subdivision, Boumba and Ngoko Division, East Province. Adjacent to FMU 10 022, FMU 10 020 is accessible only via the Haut-Nyong Division. The company IngF is currently conducting logging activities within the Annual Standing Volume (ASV) No.23.

The mission had as its objectives to control and evaluate logging activities as well as investigate and instigate proceedings if fraudulent logging activities were found.

The mission verified that all regulations had been respected in regard to the opening of boundaries of the Annual Standing Volume. The mission also verified that logging operations appeared to conform to existing rules and regulations.

However, while examining the operation's field documents, the Independent Observer noted and informed the Head of Mission that one of the field operations documents (DF 10) comprised four counterfoils bearing entries, yet only partly copied via carbon paper as required by law. Instead, data had been recorded by means of ball point pen entries.. Also, a date was included in only one of the entries.

These irregularities constitute poor keeping of field operations documents, a violation of the prescriptions of Article 125 (1) of the Decree of the application of the forestry regulations.

In an attempt to understand the reason behind this violation, the Independent Observer paid a visit to the Digitalized Forestry Information Management System (SIGIF) of Bertoua and the Forestry Revenue Enhancement Programme (FREP) in Yaoundé. The research failed to produce duplicates of the counterfoils in question, those produced by the company Ing F.

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

- Summoning of officials of the company IngF and the establishment of an Official Statement of Offence for poor keeping of field operations documents.

## **2. RESOURCES USED**

- 1 Toyota Land cruiser
- 2 Garmin GPS
- 1 Digital camera
- 1 Sony laptop

## **3. COMPOSITION OF THE MISSION**

This stage of the mission was conducted by Mrs. ESSONO and Mrs. NDZANA as well as Mr. NECKMEN of the CCU, Mr. BIKIE of the IT Unit of MINEF, a representative of the Divisional Delegate for the Environment and Forestry (DDEF) of Haut-Nyong, the Local Forest Law Enforcement Agent of Messok, as well as Messrs DJEUKAM and MOUKOURI of the Independent Observer's technical team.

## **4. CONSTRAINTS**

No constraints were encountered.

## **5. RESULTS OF THE MISSION**

### **5.1 Observations of the Independent Observer**

Control of logging activities within Annual Standing Volume No.23 was carried out in two phases.

In a first phase, the mission reviewed the documents available at the logging site, as well as the opening and establishment of boundaries to ensure compliance with forestry law. The marking of logs and stumps was also investigated. These verification operations did not uncover any violation of forestry rules and regulations .

Secondly, the mission examined the logging operations documents kept at the company's base camp. An examination of the field operations document (DF 10) revealed that one of the counterfoils of forms Nos. 057801 to 057804 had been completed with a blue ball point pen rather than through the use of carbon copies (see Appendix). In addition, only the third counterfoil bore a date, namely 27 February 2004.

### **5.2 Analysis of the case**

Upon detecting the making of copies of counterfoils in a field operations document using a ball point pen and the absence of a date on some of the counterfoils, the Independent Observer concluded that the company IngF had demonstrated poor keeping of field operations documents..

This constitutes a violation of Forest Law, particularly of Article 125 (1) of Decree of the Application of Forest Management, which stipulates that all forms used in a field operations document must bear date of use.

In view of these rules and regulations, IngF is liable to administrative sanctions as provided by Article 65 of the Law of 20 January 1994. In conformity with the conditions outlined under Articles 130 to 133 of the Decree of the Application of

Forest Management, these sanctions could range from suspension to withdrawal of the logging permit.

In an attempt to understand the reason behind the poor keeping of the field operations document observed, notably to determine if there was an attempt to avoid declaring the logs concerned (or an attempt to under-declare logs harvested), the Independent Observer conducted inquiries at the offices to which all completed field operations documents are submitted.

Inquiries were conducted by the Independent Observer at the SIGIF office in Bertoua, on 17 May 2004, at the Division of Major Entreprises (DGE) and the Forestry Revenue Enhancement Programme (FREP) in Yaounde, on 05 and 08 June 2004.

While the DGE dismissed the Independent Observer, at both SIGIF of Bertoua and FREP, inquiries made by the Independent Observer failed to recover the pages corresponding to the improperly completed counterfoils. However, pages from the same field operations document (those pages occurring immediately after the pages in question - DF10 Nos. 057805 upwards) could be presented to the Independent Observer.

Due to the lack of evidence, the Independent Observer is not prepared to conclude that a fraud has been committed. Only thorough inquiries involving all the administrative structures concerned, notably the FREP's making available its computerised log tracking system, would the Independent Observer be able to draw reliable conclusions.

## **6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

In view of the analysis above, the Independent Observer concludes that:

- The offence of poor keeping of field operations document could be stated;
- The company IngF may be guilty of fraudulent use of a document issued by the government, and non-declaration or under-declaration of logs; however further inquiries into this must be conducted before conclusions can be reached.

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

- Summoning of officials of the company IngF and the establishment of an Official Statement of Offence for poor keeping of field operations documents.

## **APPENDICES**

DES BOIS D'ŒUVRE (GRUMES)  
 RTATION OF LOGS

Année (2004) Du 1er Janvier au 30 Juin 2004 N° 0578

Nom ou raison sociale de l'exploitant : **ING. FORESTIERE**  
 Company Name  
 N° contribuable (NIU) : **10070** Code agréé : **1000**  
 Taxpayer Identification  
 UFA N° : **10070** N° Concession :  
 Reference of Concession  
 Assiette de coupe : Zone : Date :  
 Sous-traitant : Sub-contractor : 300 N° de contribuable (NIU) :  
 Taxpayer Identification

N° d'ordre	Essence Nom commercial	Code	Réf. code à barres	Diamètre (cm)		Longueur (m)	Moy. des Diamètres (cm)	Volume (m³)	Valeur FOB (CFA)	Taux (CFA)
				G.S. G.E.	P.B. S.E.					
1	Frake	1210		103	78	1180	90	9527		
2	Musik	1211		102	76	2020	89	12167		
3	Musik	1211		101	74	1920	90	11574		
4	Musik	1211		102	74	2020	94	12599		
5	Musik	1211		101	82	2010	90	10790		
6	Musik	1211		102	80	1820	90	14722		
7	Musik	1211		113	77	1710	96	16222		
8	Kovido	1118		82	60	1770	71	7207		
9	Musik	1211		100	80	1320	90	11596		
10	Sapali	1129		132	67	1720	119	19019		
11	Reyous	1211		112	110	1620	126	19350		
12	Sapali	1129		102	68	2020	85	19030		
13	Sapali	1129		101	69	1820	85	16381		
14	Frake	1210		82	65	1990	72	8329		
15	Sapali	1129		115	67	2620	90	16859		
16	Sapali	1129		118	67	1820	102	15220		
17	Sapali	1129		109	67	1900	88	16023		
18	Eido	1130		133	97	1520	115	19929		
19	Tali	1131		96	70	1630	80	8193		
20	Sapali	1129		116	81	1920	97	14138		
21	Tali	1131		90	68	1620	79	5049		
22	Tali	1131		79	73	1520	76	6805		
23	Frake	1210		99	70	2130	86	14575		
24	Tali	1131		83	60	1520	71	6176		
25	Sapali	1129		101	67	1820	83	9901		
26	Sapali	1129		110	67	1620	113	16016		
27	Frake	1210		83	58	2070	70	7966		
28	Reyous	1211		111	73	1620	99	10836		
29	Musik	1346		105	78	2000	91	13007		
30	Sapali	1129		103	68	2020	85	11633		
Total	20 Piles	35117		3163	2213	58130	9705	378454		

REMARQUES :

SOUCHE A CONSERVER AU CHANTIER du chef de chantier

TRANSPORT DES BOIS D'ŒUVRE (GRUMES)  
TRANSPORTATION OF LOGS

EXERCICE : (2004) Du 1er Janvier au 30 Juin 2004  
N° 0578 12

Nom ou raison sociale de l'exploitant : **ING. FORESTIERE**  
N° contribuable (NIU) : **M0698000079900** Code agréé : **1080**  
UFA N° : **10020**

Assiette de coupe : N° Concession :  
Sous-traitant : Subcontractor Zone : Date :  
Son N° de contribuable (NIU) :

N° d'ordre	Essence Nom commercial	Code	Réf. code à barres	Diamètre (cm)		Longueur (m)	Moy des Diamètres (cm)	Volume (m³)	Valeur FOB (FCFA)	Taux (FCFA)
				G.B. B.E.	P.B. S.E.					
1	Sabelli	1129		119	92	1630	105	11144		
2	Ayous	1211		95	68	2050	81	10564		
3	Tali	1131		95	82	950	88	5778		
4	Ayous	1211		112	127	3160	124	14564		
5	Ayous	1211		120	97	1720	102	15757		
6	Sabelli	1129		108	73	1710	90	9962		
7	Enake	1220		91	69	2050	80	10304		
8	Hombou	1346		98	68	2060	83	11116		
9	Sabelli	1129		107	71	1990	89	12380		
10	Ayous	1211		102	72	2150	87	12781		
11	Sabelli	1129		101	72	1360	86	7900		
12	Ayous	1211		150	127	1180	124	17649		
13	Tali	1131		96	94	1180	95	8364		
14	Sabelli	1129		110	66	2200	88	12281		
15	Ayous	1211		104	81	2120	92	11493		
16	Sabelli	1129		108	71	2140	89	13313		
17	Ayous	1211		112	84	2150	98	16277		
18	Sabelli	1129		118	83	1880	100	14765		
19	Tali	1131		113	76	1560	94	10826		
20	Enake	1220		93	67	1400	80	7034		
21	Ayous	1211		122	115	2000	123	23765		
22	Ayous	1211		129	117	1970	128	25350		
23	Ayous	1211		118	95	2230	106	19629		
24	Tali	1131		110	85	1980	97	14632		
25	Tali	1131		110	87	1970	98	14860		
26	Ayous	1211		110	119	1150	154	21420		
27	Sabelli	1129		101	73	2120	87	12603		
28	Ayous	1211		120	101	1300	110	12354		
29	Enake	1220		75	56	1460	65	4646		
30	Tali	1131		103	94	1420	98	10711		
Total	30 Pièces	35576		3351	2616	52200	294	14309123		

REMARQUES :

SOUCHE A CONSERVER AU CHANTIER  
Visa du chef de chantier



ION DES RECETTES FORESTIERES

NSPORT DES BOIS D'ŒUVRE (GRUMES)  
NSPORTATION OF LOGS

MINISTRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DES FORÊTS  
DIRECTION DES FORÊTS  
Place Taha - Papeete  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY  
FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

CARNET DE CHANTIER (DF-10)  
FIELD REGISTER

EXERCICE : (2004) Du 1er Janvier au 30 Juin 2004  
Fiscal Year  
N° 0578/3

Nom ou raison sociale de l'exploitant :  
Company Name  
**ING. FORESTIERE**

N° contribuable (NIU) : **MO4980007900**  
Taxpayer Identification  
Code agréé : **100**

UFA N° : **10020**  
N° Concession : **1038**

Assiette de coupe : **93**  
Zone : **3** Date : **27-02-04**

Sous-traitant :  
Subcontractor  
Son N° de contribuable (NIU) :

N° d'ordre	Essence Nom commercial	Code	Réf. code à barres	Diamètre (cm)		Longueur (m)	Moy des Diamètres (cm)	Volume (m³)	Valeur FOB (F)FB Value	Taxe (FCFA) Tax
				G.B. B.F.	P.B. S.E.					
1	Ilomba	1346		85	72	1850	78	6451		
2	Sopaki	1129		105	74	2120	89	13189		
3	Silpa	1150		117	85	2000	101	16024		
4	Koshpa	1113		102	90	1630	96	11732		
5	Sopelli	1129		120	76	1470	102	19997		
6	Flake	1220		100	76	1860	88	11313		
7	Taha	1131		90	82	1120	86	6564		
8	Byton	1211		88	66	1990	77	8801		
9	Ilomba	1346		97	74	2190	85	18370		
10	Flake	1220		75	70	1830	67	6452		
11	Eyima	1219		80	59	1940	69	7254		
12	Byton	1211		99	81	2050	90	13011		
13	Byton	1211		122	90	2160	106	19061		
14	Byton	1211		116	82	2250	99	17320		
15	Flake	1220		98	79	2560	88	9488		
16	Flake	1220		104	77	2150	90	13678		
17	Byton	1211		112	79	2250	95	15318		
18	Flake	1220		106	82	1860	94	12908		
19	Flake	1220		87	67	2170	77	10105		
20	Flake	1220		95	62	2630	78	12569		
21	Byton	1211		105	70	1980	87	11770		
22	Flake	1220		92	74	2360	83	12769		
23	Byton	1211		90	58	1680	74	7225		
24	Flake	1106		78	52	2000	65	6637		
25	Byton	1211		115	76	2660	95	18855		
26	Flake	1220		94	60	2280	77	10617		
27	Byton	1211		120	83	2350	101	18908		
28	Byton	1211		122	102	1970	112	17432		
29	Flake	1106		80	58	1680	69	6882		
30	Byton	1211		95	60	2070	77	9629		
Total	30 Pieds	36060				30019207	60250	259436411		

REMARQUES :

SOUCHE A CONSERVER AU CHANTIER  
Visa du chef de chantier

N DES RECETTES FORESTIERES

PORT DES BOIS D'ŒUVRE (GRUMES)  
SPORTATION OF LOGS

CARNET DE CHANTIER (DF-10)  
FIELD REGISTER

EXERCICE : (2004) Du 1er Janvier au 30 Juin 2004 No 057874

Nom ou raison sociale de l'exploitant : ING. FORESTIERE

N° contribuable (NIU) : MOU9000079900 Code agréé : 1080

UFA N° : 10020 N° Concession : [blank]

Assiette de coupe : [blank] Date : [blank]

Sous-traitant : [blank] Son N° de contribuable (NIU) : [blank]

N° ordre	Essence Nom commercial	Code	Réf. code à barres	Diamètre (cm)		Longueur (m)	Moy des Diamètres (cm)	Volume (m³)	Valeur FOB	Taxe (FCFA)
				G.B. B.E	P.B. S.E					
1	Ayous	1211		84	61	2600	72	10586		
2	Ayous	1211		110	66	2670	85	15151		
3	Ayous	1211		120	76	2570	98	19159		
4	Ayous	1211		95	70	2080	82	10981		
5	Ayous	1211		84	57	2230	70	8582		
6	Ayous	1211		112	92	2070	101	18613		
7	Ayous	1211		110	86	1830	98	13804		
8	Ayous	1211		84	62	1940	78	7282		
9	Ayous	1211		90	64	2100	77	9313		
10	Ayous	1211		85	60	2130	72	9891		
11	Ayous	1211		113	91	1760	103	11665		
12	Falke	1220		117	74	2300	90	14682		
13	Tabi	1231		103	90	1860	96	13311		
14	Ayous	1211		139	100	1800	119	20021		
15	SAPA	1120		115	95	1700	105	10981		
16	Kaka	1220		77	66	1730	68	6283		
17	Ayous	1211		100	67	2450	73	13216		
18	Ayous	1211		110	75	2340	117	27218		
19	Tabi	1231		96	74	1660	85	7306		
20	Ayous	1211		99	63	2960	81	11170		
21	Kaka	1220		92	73	1700	82	8979		
22	Tabi	1231		80	64	1380	72	5619		
23	SAPA	1120		105	70	1800	87	10700		
24	Ayous	1211		103	73	2070	88	12164		
25										
26										
27										
28										
29										
30										
Total	24 grands	28907		2448	1792	49070	2110	303080		

REMARQUES :

SOUCHE A CONSERVER AU CHANTIER  
Visa du chef de chantier