



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. 059En

Central Control Unit – Independent Observer Joint Mission

Title	None
Location	Kribi, Ocean Division, South Province
Mission date	17 April 2003
Company	MMG (sawmill)

Independent Observer Team (Global Witness):

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Mr. Serge C. Moukouri, Technical Assistant

Mr. Tangyie Che Célestine, Driver

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
2. RESOURCES USED.....	2
3. COMPOSITION OF THE MISSION	2
4. CONSTRAINTS.....	2
5. MISSION FINDINGS.....	2
5.1 Mission's Observations	2
5.2 Independent Observer's note.....	2
6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	3

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Central Control Unit (CCU), accompanied by the Independent Observer (Global Witness) conducted a mission on 17 April 2003 to the timber processing unit “Scierie Mba Mba Grégoire (MMG)” located in Kribi, Ocean Division. This visit was part of a routine mission programme started by the CCU on 14 April 2003.

This sawmill owned by the company MMG was established to process timber extracted from the Forest Management Unit (FMU) No. 00 003 granted to the forestry exploitation company Mba Mba Grégoire Sarl (MMG Sarl).

The main observation of the Independent Observer on this mission was that logs stored in one of the sawmill’s lumberyards were not recorded in the “Factory-Entry” register.

Sawmill officials explained this situation by referring to an instruction of the Forestry Revenues Enhancement Programme (FREP). The said instruction states that only logs destined for processing must be recorded in the “Factory-Entry” register, which is used in calculating the ‘Factory Entry Tax’ (FET).

In view of the observations made in the field, the **Independent Observer recommends:**

- Clarification of regulations governing logging companies that use some of the space in their sawmill as a transitional lumberyard. Such lumberyards have to be declared as such in order to avoid being charged with fraud.

2. RESOURCES USED

- 1 Toyota Hilux
- 1 Yamaha 100 motorbike
- 1 Digital camera
- 1 Laptop computer (Sony brand)

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 Forestry Department; the Head of the Provincial Control Brigade for the South, a representative of the Divisional Delegation of the Environment and Forestry, Ocean Division, and Messrs Reiner Tegtmeyer and Serge C. Moukouri of the technical team of the Independent Observer.

4. CONSTRAINTS

No obstacles were encountered .

5. MISSION FINDINGS

5.1 Mission's Observations

The mission observed a large pile of logs in a lumberyard within the MMG sawmill. A cross-referencing of the "Factory-Entry" register showed that this company does not record all of the logs found in its lumberyard in its field operations documents.

Sawmill officials explained this situation by referring to an instruction of the Forestry Revenues Enhancement Programme (FREP). The said instruction actually states that only logs destined for processing must be recorded in the "Factory-Entry" register, which is used in calculating the 'Factory Entry Tax' (FET).

5.2 Independent Observer's note

The Independent Observer notes that only logs selected for processing are to be recorded in the "Factory-Entry" register. In other words, a logging company may use a lumberyard located within the precincts of its sawmill as a transitional lumberyard and not be required to record the stored logs in the Factory Entry Register. In actuality, this is a common practice that needs to be addressed in order to conform to the rules and regulations governing transitional lumberyards.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The mission observed that some logs found in the lumberyard of the MMG sawmill were not recorded in the “Factory-Entry” register. Though this practice does not contravene any laws, it requires further clarification especially in this case where the owner of the sawmill in question does not possess a forest exploitation permit.

In view of the observations made in the field, the **Independent Observer recommends:**

- Clarification of regulations governing logging companies that use some of the space in their sawmill as a transitional lumberyard. Such lumberyards have to be declared as such in order to avoid being charged with fraud.