



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. 071En

Central Control Unit– Independent Observer Joint Mission

Title	FMU 10 051
Location	Mindourou, Kadey Division, East Province
Mission date	13 and 15 August 2003
Company	GRUMCAM (Holder)

Independent Observer Team (Global Witness):

*Dr. Albert K. Barume, Deputy Project Director
Mr Serge C. Moukouri, Technical Assistant
Mr Owada Jean Cyrille, Technical Assistant
Mr Tangyie Che Celestine, 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 Case Summary	2
5.2 Mission’s Observations.....	3
6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	4
APPENDICES	5
Appendix 1.....	6
Appendix 2.....	10

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Independent Observer (Global Witness) joined a Central Control Unit (CCU) team from MINEF in a control mission of the Forest Monitoring Unit (FMU) 10 051. The purpose of this mission was to confirm or disprove allegations of illegal logging made against the company Grumes du Cameroun (GRUMCAM) in Ndelélé Subdivision, in the vicinity of Bouno I and II, Békélé, Demé, Mepouta, Gamago and Belita villages.

This mission fell within the framework of a routine inspection programme scheduled from 12 to 22 August 2003 in Kadey and Upper- Nyong Divisions, East Province.

The mission first carried out a routine control of the Annual Standing Volume (ASV) under exploitation, before meeting with representatives of Bouno I, Bouno II and Yola communities on August 15, 2003. The mission did not meet with Békélé, Demé and other communities.

The following observations were made during the visit :

- The limits of the Annual Standing Volume No.22, as marked in the field, do not correspond with those appearing on the map attached as an appendix to the surface area certificate;
- The mission met with only two of the seven local communities whose complaints triggered this control mission;
- Residents of Bouno I, Bouno II and Yola villages are worried about the modification to the limits of the concession granted to the company GRUMCAM. Furthermore, these residents allege they were not included in the distribution of the Annual Surface Tax (AST), which is to be paid to the FMU neighbouring communities.

From these observations, the **Independent Observer recommends**:

- Compilation of the specific rules governing the establishment of surface area certificates by MINEF officials;
- The Sending of a mission to explain to the residents of Bouno I, Bouno II and Yola villages, the processes comprising and implications of the FMU classification procedure;
- Verification by MINEF, in conjunction with the Ministry of Finances and Budget (MINFIB), of compliance with rules governing the allocation of part of the Annual Forestry Revenue to FMU neighbouring villages.

After discussions the **Reading Committee concluded** that

the Annual Standing Volume was materialized in the field based upon the geographic coordinates represented on the surface area certificate.

Consequently, it was recommended that the company GRUMCAM to address the National Institute of Cartography (NIC) to rectify the map of the Standing Volume.

2. RESOURCES USED

- 1 Toyota Hilux Pickup Truck
- 1 Yamaha Motorcycle
- 3 Garmin GPS
- 1 Sony video camera
- 1 Sony laptop
- 1 Video recorder

3. COMPOSITION OF THE MISSION

The mission team was made up of Mrs Essono Danièle (Head of mission) and Mr Djibrilla Hessana from the CCU; Mr James Afene Obam, Senior staff at the Department of Forests, the Head of the Kadey Forest Section, and three members of the Independent Observer's technical team.

4. CONSTRAINTS

Apparently, the mission team did not quite understand the nature of the communities' complaints. Consequently, the mission focused on controlling logging activities, rather than on visiting all of the disgruntled communities.

5. MISSION FINDINGS

5.1 Case Summary

The Independent Observer provided MINEF with copies of complaints made to the Head of Local Forestry Post by delegates representing a number of villages in Ndélélé Subdivision. In their three letters, the claimant communities denounced the modification of the north-eastern boundaries of the Forest Management Unit (FMU) 10 051 as well as logging activities taking place beyond the title limits towards Békélé and other localities (see Appendix 1).

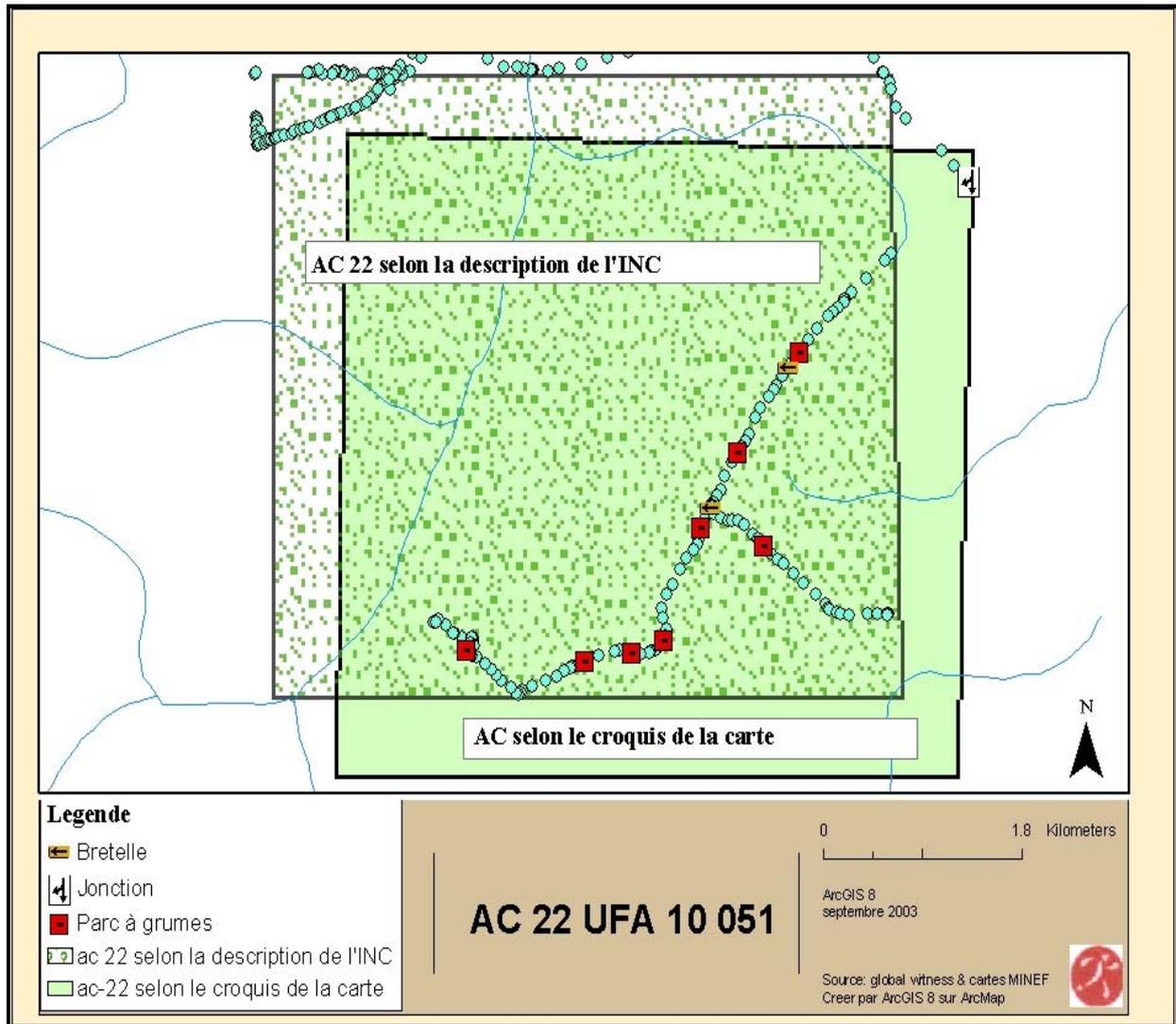
On the basis of these complaints, the Minister of the Environment and Forestry ordered an investigation and control mission of logging activities in Kadey Division (see Appendix 2).

The company Grumes du Cameroun (GRUMCAM) is the owner of the forest concession No. 1015 titled FMU No. 10 051, for which a Provisional Convention was signed on March 27, 1998. This FMU is bordered on the north-east by numerous villages. The company GRUMCAM is operating in the Annual Standing Volume (ASV) No.22 for the current fiscal year. The draft decree to classify this FMU was forwarded to the Prime Minister's Office for signature on January 17, 2002, and has still not been finalized. There has also been an increase in the FMU surface area of 284 hectares.

5.2 Mission's Observations

a) Shift in the location of logging stand No. 22

The geographical co-ordinates of ASV No.22, as used for demarcation by the company GRUMCAM, are not the same as those observed by the mission on the map annexed to the surface area certificate. The two sketch maps differ as shown on the map below.



The company GRUMCAM states that the National Institute of Cartography (NIC) is to blame for this error because, according to the company, NIC did not verify the accuracy of the co-ordinates before issuing the surface area certificate. However, it is worth noting that, NIC uses data provided by companies to produce maps. Moreover, the law provides that every logging company is responsible for the positioning of their titles.

As for this specific case, the company GRUMCAM provided NIC with data that was used to produce the map attached to the surface area certificate. Later, the company GRUMCAM realized that the location of ASV No.22 on the map appended to the Certificate did not correspond to the one used in the field.

b) Concerning complaints of communities

The mission did not focus on the subject matter of the complaints presented by representatives of Bouno I and II villages, namely allegations that the limits of FMU 10 051 were modified by the company GRUMCAM. The Head of mission ruled that the verification of limits was not part of the mission's terms of reference. Consequently, the Independent Observer could neither confirm nor dismiss allegations of modification of FMU 10 051 limits.

Nevertheless, as a result of discussions with residents of Bouno I and Bouno II, it was noted that the latter had not been informed of the classification process procedures. These village communities stated that they had never participated in any meeting held regarding the classification of FMU 10051. They did not know that the company GRUMCAM, the title holder, has the right to modify the limits of FMU 10 051, according to regulations governing classification issues.

Furthermore, the concerned communities alleged they did not receive their share of the Annual Surface Tax to which they are entitled as neighbouring communities.

Unfortunately, the mission was not able to verify allegations by the Békélé village community, and those of other localities north of Ndélélé. The mission could neither confirm nor dismiss the allegations of the communities concerned.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The limits of the Annual Standing Volume No.22, as marked in the field, do not correspond with those appearing on the map attached as an appendix to the surface area certificate;
- The mission met with only two of the seven local communities whose complaints triggered this control mission;
- Residents of Bouno I, Bouno II and Yola villages are worried about the modification to the limits of the concession granted to the company GRUMCAM. Furthermore, these residents allege they were not included in the distribution of the Annual Surface Tax (AST), which is to be paid to the FMU neighbouring communities.

Those are the conclusions reached by the Independent Observer at the end of the mission.

Therefore, the **Independent Observer recommends**:

- Compilation of the specific rules governing the establishment of surface area certificates by MINEF officials;
- The Sending of a mission to explain to the residents of Bouno I, Bouno II and Yola villages, the processes comprising and implications of the FMU classification procedure;
- Verification by MINEF, in conjunction with the Ministry of Finances and Budget (MINFIB), of compliance with rules governing the allocation of part of the Annual Forestry Revenue to FMU neighbouring villages.

After discussions the **Reading Committee concluded** that

the Annual Standing Volume was materialized in the field based upon the geographic coordinates represented on the surface area certificate.

Consequently, it was recommended that the company GRUMCAM to address the National Institute of Cartography (NIC) to rectify the map of the Standing Volume.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

A monsieur le Chef de poste
forestier et chasse de Ndéléle

Objet: Demande
de vérification de la
limite de l'UFA
10051 au niveau de
Bouno I

La population de Bouno I vient auprès de votre haute
bienveillance solliciter la vérification de la limite de l'UFA
10051 au niveau de Bouno I

En effet, des constats faits par la population, il
ressort ~~est~~ que trois lions ont été tracés dans la banne
de forêt dont notre village est riverains. Aussi plusieurs
arbres ont été marqués à la peinture dans ces espaces
et attendent d'être exploités. La population craint que ces
activités de la Grumcam qui exploite dans l'UFA 10051
ne soient ~~pas~~ dans les zones ci dessus évoquées illégales.
En conséquence, elle sollicite une rapide descente de
votre part, et si possible, une suspension préalable
des activités de la Grumcam.

Dans l'attente d'une suite favorable, veuillez agréer
monsieur l'expression de notre très haute considération

Ampliation:

- sous. préfet Ndéléle

- Grumcam Mindourou

Les représentants du village

chef de Bouno I

Ko Nestor

le Président du comité de
R&PC

Ngabast Jean

A monsieur le chef de poste
forestier

Objet: Exploitation
frauduleuse par la
Grurcam, des essences
à Bouno II

Monsieur,
Nous, habitants de Bouno II avons l'honneur de venir au
prés de votre haute personnalité attirer votre attention sur les
activités illégales de la société forestière Grurcam dans la
portion de forêt dont nous sommes riverains et qui au regard
de la carte de zonage n'est même pas limitrophe de l'UFA
10051,

En effet, depuis un certain temps, les agents de cette
société s'emploient à tracer un autre Lyon déplaçant ou
augmentant ainsi illégalement les limites de l'UFA dont
la société est concessionnaire. A ce jour, le lyonnage est sur
le point de s'achever et bientôt, la société commencera
l'exploitation. Etant donné que cet état de chose est
manifestement contraire à la loi, nous vous prions avant
toute descente, sur le terrain pour besoin d'enquête de
suspendre les activités de la dite société, à défaut, de lui
ordonner de se retirer dans ses limites sans préjudice des
sanctions prévues en la matière. Des essences que la société
entend couper dans l'espace envahi ont déjà été marquées à la
peinture.

Dans l'attente d'une suite favorable, veuillez agréer monsieur
l'assurance de notre profond respect.

Ampliation:
- sous-préfet Ndéléle
- Grurcam Mindourou

Les représentants du village
Gbandjougou Abantou Robert
Chef de village Bouno II
YELI ABANTOU Abantou Robert

Département de
la Kadéy
Arrondissement
de Hoélélé

A monsieur le Chef de poste forestier

Objet: Exploitation
hors limite par la
Grumcam.

Monsieur, nous populations des villages Beké,
Dumé, Mepouta, Gamago et Belita, réunies en ce jour
venons auprès de votre haute personnalité dénoncer l'explo-
itation illégale à laquelle s'emploie la Grumcam,
concessionnaire de l'UFA 10051.

En effet, il ressort des constats faits par la Com-
munauté que cette société forestière a débordé les limites
de l'UFA d'environ 3,5 kilomètres vers nos villages. Du
Côté de Beké, elle a commencé à exploiter dans le domaine
national de l'état et petit à petit elle progresse vers
Békélé. Considérant que ces activités de la Grumcam
sont illégales, nous, populations des villages ci-dessus
cités demandons la suspension des activités de la
Grumcam sans préjudice des sanctions prévues en
la matière.

Dans l'attente d'une suite que nous souhaitons
prompte et favorable, veuillez agréer monsieur l'expression
de notre très haute considération.

Amplification:
- Sous-préfet Hoélélé

- Grumcam Mindourou.

Signature de quelques membres
de la Communauté

Belinga Raphaël chef Mepouta

Wadjou ^{BD} PIERRE chef Dime

^{HS}
M. ^{HS} ^{HS} David chef yoma

~~AS~~
Biri Jeanrot

~~BSJ~~
Essomba Sobilo Jonas

~~[Signature]~~
Nguindikali Silvestre

~~[Signature]~~
Gberdio Emile

~~[Signature]~~
Nana Jacqueline

~~[Signature]~~
Kombo Sobilo Martin

~~[Signature]~~
Samba Samuel

~~[Signature]~~
Lendi Séraphin
~~[Signature]~~

Appendix 2

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Paix- Travail- Patrie
MINISTRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT
ET DES FORETS
SECRETARIAT GENERAL
UNITE CENTRALE DE CONTROLE

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
Peace- Work- Fatherland
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
AND FORESTRY
SECRETARIAT GENERAL
CENTRAL CONTROL UNIT

Yaoundé le 22 JUIL 2003

NOTE DE SERVICE N° 867 NS/MINEF/SG/UCC.
Portant création d'une mission d'enquête et de contrôle
des Activités d'exploitation forestière dans la Kadey,
Province de l'Est.

Il est créé pour compter de la date de signature de la présente note de service, une mission d'enquête et de contrôle des activités d'exploitation forestière dans le département de la Kadey, Province de l'Est.

Cette mission composée de :

Mme - ESSONO Danièle , Contrôleur à l'UCC,	Chef de mission
MM - DJIBRILA HESSANA , Contrôleur à l'UCC,	Membre
AFENE OBAM James , Cadre/DF,	Membre
Global Witness , Observateur Indépendant,	Membre

sera chargée de :

- 1- Vérifier les allégations d'exploitation forestière illégale perpétrée par la société **GRUMCAM** hors de son UFA 10.051 ; en dehors des limites de son UFA 10.051
- 2- Contrôler les titres valides ;
- 3- Saisir éventuellement les bois frauduleusement exploités dans cette zone ;
- 4- Rechercher, constater et poursuivre en répression les éventuels cas d'exploitation frauduleuse des ressources forestières ;
- 5- Surveiller le territoire forestier sur l'itinéraire de la mission .

Le chef de la Brigade de contrôle de l'Est et le Délégué Départemental de la Kadey ou leurs représentants se joindront à la mission qui est tenue de présenter son rapport à la hiérarchie dans un délai de sept (07) jours après la fin de la mission.

