



global witness

Cameroon

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. 075En

Central Control Unit – Independent Observer Joint Mission

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| Title | FUM 10 031 |
| Location | Messok, Lomié Sub-Division, Haut-Nyong Division, East Province |
| Mission date | 19 August 2003 |
| Company | Ingénierie Forestière (Holder) |

Independent Observer Team (Global Witness):

*M. Owada Jean Cyrille, Technical Assistant
M. Serge C. Moukouri, Technical Assistant
M. Tangyie Che Célestine, Driver*

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of the control mission programme started on 12 August 2003, the Central Control Unit (CCU) team, accompanied by the Independent Observer (Global Witness), undertook a mission to Forest Management Unit (FMU) 10 031. This visit took place on 19 August 2003.

FMU 10 031, granted to the company Ingénierie Forestière (IngF), is located in Lomie Sub-Division in the Haut-Nyong Division of the East Province, as stated in the Provisional Agreement signed on 23 October 2000.

In the current fiscal year, the company is extracting the Annual Standing Volume (ASV) No.03.

The mission toured the main access roads close to the boundaries of this logging site, a site on which operations had just started, and cross-checked the field operation documents. The mission discovered no offence.

The Independent Observer recommends that a mission visit this logging title at the end of the fiscal year.

The Reading Committee recommends that

- Joint missions must avail themselves of all official documentation before traveling to the forests.

2. RESOURCES USED

- 1 Toyota Hilux Pick up
- 1 Yamaha 100 motorbike
- 3 GPS (Garmin brand)
- 1 Video camera (Sony brand)
- 1 Digital camera
- 1 Laptop computer (Sony brand)

3. COMPOSITION OF THE MISSION

Mrs Essono Danièle and Mr Djibrila, agents of the CCU; Mr James Afene Obam, Senior staff at the Forestry Department; the Head of Forestry Section for Haut-Nyong and the assistant of the Head of Local Forestry Post for Lomié; and Messrs Moukouri and Owada of the technical team of the Independent Observer took part in this mission.

4. CONSTRAINTS

The mission team left Yaounde without knowing exactly which forest titles they were to control. This made it impossible for the IO to prepare the documentation required to control efficiently the targeted forest title. The Independent Observer also questioned the reliability of the maps made available to the mission by the logging operator.

5. MISSION'S FINDINGS

5.1 Case summary

The Forest Management Unit (FMU) 10 031, granted to the company Ingénierie Forestière (IngF), is the subject of Forest Concession No. 1041, the Provisional Agreement for which was signed on October 2000. This FMU covers a provisional surface area of 41,202 hectares. Timber extraction is underway in Annual Standing Volume (ASV) No.03 during the 2003 fiscal year.

5.2 Mission's observations

The mission team toured access roads and hauling tracks close to the boundaries of ASV No.03. It also inspected the marking of stumps of felled trees and field operation documents. No irregularities were found. However, the mission noted that the abutments of felled trees were not marked. The non-marking of abutments does not constitute an offence as such. It is important, though, that abutments be marked by the logger in order to verify the minimum exploitable diameter (MED), should logs below the minimum exploitable diameter be observed in a log pond.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The mission inspected boundaries to control compliance with regulations, the marking of tree stumps and the keeping of field operation documents. No irregularities were observed.

The Independent Observer recommends that a mission visit this logging title at the end of the fiscal year.

The Reading Committee recommends that

- Joint missions must avail themselves of all official documentation before traveling to the forests.