

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. 081En

Central Control Unit – Independent Observer Joint Mission

Title SSV 09 01 47
Location Bengbis Sub-Division, Dja and Lobo
Division, South Province
Mission date 25 April 2003
Company SCIB

Independent Observer Team (Global Witness):

*Mr Reiner Tegtmeyer, Project Director
Mr Serge C. Moukouri, Technical Assistant
Mr Che Tangyie Célestine, Driver*

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Central Control Unit (CCU), accompanied by the Independent Observer (Global Witness), undertook a control mission to Sale of Standing Volume (SSV) 09 01 47, located in Bengbis Sub-Division in the Dja and Lobo Division. The mission took place on 25 April 2003 within the framework of the execution of the routine control programme of the CCU in the South Province.

The company Société Camerounaise des Industries du Bois (SCIB) obtained the Sale of Standing Volume (SSV) by mutual agreement in 1996. In 1998, this SSV was nullified and the company was compensated with SSV 09 01 47 by Decision No. 0458/D/MINEF/DF/SDEIF/STEF of the Minister of the Environment and Forestry. This decision was again modified in October 2001 and Société Camerounaise des Industries du Bois granted a SSV in a new location. The company SCIB has been exploiting SSV 09 01 47 in the latest location since October 2001.

An analysis of information gathered until the mission was interrupted by bad weather has led to the preliminary conclusion that the logging operations of this title are taking place within boundaries.

In view of the above, **the Independent Observer recommends** that the investigation should be continued from where it was interrupted.

2. RESOURCES USED

- 1 Toyota Hilux Pick up
- 1 Video camera
- 1 Digital camera
- 2 GPS
- 1 Laptop computer

3. COMPOSITION OF THE MISSION

The mission was made up of Mrs Essono Danièle and Mr Pierre Marcel Mamene, agents of the CCU; Mr James Afene Obam, Senior staff at the Forestry Department; the Head of the Provincial Control Brigade for the South; and Messrs Reiner Tegtmeyer and Serge C. Moukouri of the technical team of the Independent Observer.

4. CONSTRAINTS

The mission did not meet the officials of the company in the field. Consequently, it was impossible to cross-reference field operation documents. Also, the mission was interrupted by torrential rains.

5. MISSION'S FINDINGS

5.1 Case summary

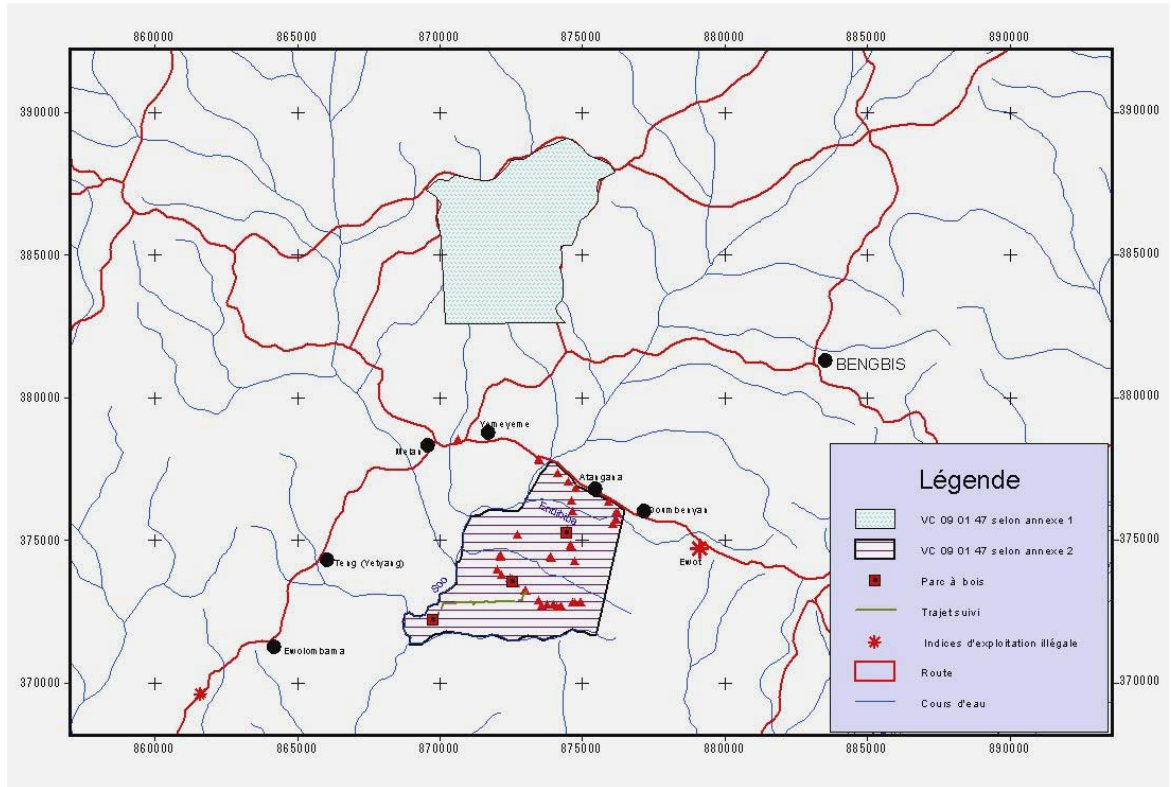
The company Société Camerounaise des Industries du Bois (SCIB) obtained a Sale of Standing Volume (SSV) by mutual agreement in 1996, which was located in the Oveng Sub-Division. On 29 July 1998, this SSV was revoked by Ministerial Decision No. 458/D/MINEF/DF/SDEIF/STEF because of a former exploitation of the SSV's area. As compensation, the company was granted SSV 09 01 47 (see Appendix 1). In October 2001, the Minister signed a new decision correcting Decision No. 458. This new decision changed the location of the SSV for the same reasons it had been changed earlier (former exploitation of the area). (See Appendix 2). The company SCIB has been exploiting SSV 09 01 47 in the latest location since October 2001.

5.2 Mission's observations

The mission was interrupted before it could complete its tour of the access roads of SSV 09 01 47. A transposition of the boundaries of the Sale of Standing Volume on a 1/200,000^e map, and data collected before the interruption of the mission by heavy rains did not show any crossing of the boundaries of the title (see map below).

However, along the Melan-Metom road at about 4 km from point B of Sale of Standing Volume 09 01 47, the Independent Observer noted the existence of an access road. According to the Head of the Control Brigade for the South, this access road served as the entrance to a Sale of Standing Volume contiguous to the one granted to the SCIB Company.

Map: Sale of Standing Volume 09 01 47



6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

An analysis of information gathered until the mission was interrupted by bad weather has led to the preliminary conclusion that the logging operations of this title are taking place within boundaries.

In view of the above, **the Independent Observer recommends** that the investigation should be continued from where it was interrupted.