



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. 101En**

*Central Control Unit – Independent Observer Joint Mission*

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**Titles**   ○ FMU 10 062  
              ○ FMU 10 037  
              ○ UFA 10 039

**Locations**   Départements Haut-Nyong, Lom et  
                  Djerem, Province de l'Est

**Mission dates**   22, 12, 08 May 2004

**Companies**   ○ Marelis Panagiotis (Holder)  
                  ○ Kieffer (Holder)  
                  ○ Ets Assene Nkou (Holder)

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

*Mr Jean Cyrille Owada, Technical Assistant*

*Mr Célestine Tangyie Ché, Driver*

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## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In the company of the Independent Observer (Global Witness) the Central Control Unit (CCU) of the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry (MINEF) conducted control missions in the Forest Management Units (FMU) 10 039, 10 037 and 10 062 on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2004, respectively. These missions were part of a regular control programme started on 6 May 2004.

Of these 3 FMUs, the team was able to visit only the first one, FMU 10 039. This concession is the subject of a Provisional Convention signed between the state of Cameroon and the Etablissements Assene Nkou on 20 October 2000. Logging operations are subcontracted to the company R. Pallisco. Inspection of the boundaries, access and hauling roads of the Annual Standing Volume did not reveal any irregularities.

Due to several reasons, the team was not able to visit the other two FMUs, of which the beneficiaries are the companies KIEFFER and Panagiotis Marelis (PM), respectively. What is of particular concern re: the latter company is the fact that the concession FMU 10 062 which the mission had planned to visit has been under operation for close to 3 years, but has never been controlled by the CCU.

**The Independent Observer recommends** that MINEF send a control mission to FMUs 10 062 and 10 037 before the end of the current fiscal year.

## **2. RESOURCES USED**

- 1 Toyota Land Cruiser
- 2 GPS
- 1 Video Camera
- 1 Digital Photo camera
- 1 Laptop computer

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

Apart from Mr Moukouri and Mr Djeukem of the Independent Observer, the mission was composed of Mrs Essono, Mrs Ndzana and Mr. Neckmen of the CCU; and Mr Bikie of the IT Unit of MINEF. The Heads of the Local Forestry Posts of Goyoum, Mindourou and Lomie accompanied the mission.

## **4. CONSTRAINTS**

The unpredictable functioning of the private ferryboat of the Coron company , and the bad state of the roads in the valid Annual Standing Volume of FMU 10 037 prevented the control mission from visiting FMUs 10 037 and 10 062. .

## **5 MISSION'S FINDINGS**

### **5.1 The case of FMU 10 062**

In the field, the team was confronted with the problem of how to cross the Sanaga river. The conductor of the ferryboat owned by the Coron Company expressed fears about using the ferry to cross the river. He stated that he could not guarantee a safe return trip due to the continuous lowering water levels. Authorities of the company PM met at the ferry boat confirmed the information given by the conductor. It is on the basis of this information that the CCU decided (in consultation with PM officials) to discontinue the mission.

### **5.2 The case of FMU 10 037**

The team went to ASV No.21 of FMU 10 037. Logging activities were already concluded and no representative of the company Kieffer could be located in the field. The visit to the ASV was terminated shortly after it was started due to the impassable condition of the road network.

According to the Head of the Local Forestry Post for Messok, the personnel as well as the equipment from FMU 10 037 had been transported to Kagnol to be used in forestry operations on FMU 10 045 leased to the company J.Prenant.

### **5.3 The case of FMU 10 039**

In the field, the team toured access and extraction roads along the boundaries of the valid Annual Standing Volume. The team also inspected the marking of logs and field operation documents. No irregularities were found.

## **6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Two of the three titles addressed in this report, namely FMU 10 062 and 10 037, could not be controlled due to reasons of force majeure; **the Independent Observer recommends** MINEF to send a control team to said titles before the end of the current fiscal year.