



global witness
Cameroon

Project of Independent Observation in Support
of Forest Law Enforcement in Cameroon

**Approved by the Ministry of
the Environment and Forests**

Report of the Independent Observer

No. 036 En

Joint CCU – Independent Observer Mission

Title NYAM GCI
Location Deuk district, Mbam and Inoubou
Department, Centre Province
Mission Date 18 March 2003
Companies NYAM GCI, *Grumes et Sciages*

Independent Observer (Global Witness):
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1. SUMMARY

The Central Control Unit (CCU)¹, accompanied by the Independent Observer (IO), carried out a mission to control logging activities in Deuk District, Mbam and Inoubou Department, Centre Province. The mission, which took place from 17 to 27 March 2003, was part of the CCU's routine control programme.

On arrival, the mission had a meeting with the Mbam and Inoubou Departmental Delegate, during which it was stated that only two titles were currently being logged in the division, although several existed.

The NYAM GCI (Group of Common Initiative) had been awarded the Community Forest (CF) of the Mpagné, Mpouga and Nyanzom communities, which lies in Deuk District. The CFs were being logged in partnership with the company *Grumes et Sciages*. The NYAM CF was alleged to have been involved in illegal activities. Its timber transport permits were alleged to have been used to remove timber of non-established origin (see Independent Observer Report No 027En).

In the field, the mission was not able to clarify several issues, including the use of transport permits issued to the GCI for the transportation of illegally logged timber. The major reason for this was the absence, at the time of the mission's visit, of the manager, who was responsible for all the documentation concerning the GCI's forests.

Given the above, **the Independent Observer recommends:**

To increase the investigations at the level of GCI, SIGIF and the Directorate of Forests with a view to verify the effective use of the transport permits delivered to CGI Nyam.

¹ "Control" in the context of this report means "Law Enforcement" or to "check compliance with law".

2. RESOURCES USED

- 1 Land Cruiser
- 2 Garmin GPS units
- 1 digital camera
- 1 Sony laptop computer

3. COMPOSITION OF THE MISSION

The mission was composed of: Mr. Djibrilla Hessana and Ms. Dzana Margareth of the CCU, the Mbam and Inoubou Departmental Delegate, the Deuk local forest law enforcement officer, and Mr. Reiner Tegtmeyer and Mr. Serge Moukouri of the Independent Observer.

4. CONSTRAINTS

The main constraint encountered by the mission was due to the absence of the officers responsible for the management of the forests. Consequently, the mission did not have access to the documents relating to the title.

5. MISSION RESULTS

5.1 Summary

The NYAM GCI's community forest is located on forest areas which spread over the villages of Nyanzom, Mpouga and Mpagné, in Deuk District.

This forest is governed by a management agreement signed on 25 February 2002. During the month of September 2002, the Minister of the Environment and Forests had ordered that a control mission be conducted, following a denunciation according to which a truck was transporting timber of suspect origin. The same denunciation stated that the truck had left Bafia to go to the company IBC (Industrie du Bois Camerounais) in Mbalmayo under the escort of a MINEF official.

The NYAM GCI Community Forest was implicated in the affair. Transport permits from the CF were used to transport the litigious timber (see Independent Observer Report No. 027En). The Independent Observer had recommended that a control mission be conducted within the NYAM GCI's community forest to check whether the timber concerned did in fact come from that forest.

5.2 Observations of the Independent Observer

The logging activities in the NYAM GCI's CF are conducted by the company *Grumes et Sciages*. All the timber bought by this company from the title is processed on site using a "Lucas" saw.

In the absence of the forest manager, it was not possible to establish the authenticity of the transport permit, nor the exact provenance of the timber concerned by the accusation which reached MINEF in September 2002.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Since the manager of the NYAM GCI's community forest was absent at the time of the mission's visit, it was not possible for the mission to confirm or invalidate the allegations of fraudulent use of transport permits issued to the title.

Given the above, **the Independent Observer recommends:**

To increase the investigations at the level of GCI, SIGIF and the Directorate of Forests with a view to verify the effective use of the transport permits delivered to CGI Nyam.