



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. 042En

Central Control Unit – Independent Observer Joint Mission

Title	FMU 08 009
Location	Ngouétou, Yoko Sub-Division, Mbam and Kim Division, Central Province
Mission date	25 to 26 March 2003
Companies	INC (Holder) SIM/TIB (Partner)

Independent Observer Team (Global Witness):

*Mr. Reiner Tegtmeyer, Project Director
Mr. Serge C. Moukouri, Technical Assistant
Mr. Albert Mballa Mbarga, Driver*

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Central Control Unit (UCC) carried out a forestry control mission within the Annual Standing Volume (ASV) No.03 of the Forest Development Unit 08 009 from 25 to 26 March 2003.

Accompanied by the Independent Observer (Global Witness), the objectives of the mission were to observe and control logging activities, and recommend prosecution of possible cases of illegal logging within this FMU.

International Négoce Cameroun SARL (INC) company, an appointee of the Forestry Development Unit (FMU) No. 08 009 since July 2000, subcontracts the logging activities of the FMU to the Société Industrielle de Mbang (SIM) / Transformation Intégrée du Bois (TIB) companies.

The main conclusions made by the Independent Observer mission are as follows:

- About fifteen logs of various species as well as three stumps not bearing any visible marks were discovered within ASV No.03 of this FMU.

Having considered the observation above, the **Independent Observer recommends:**

- The establishment of an official statement of offence against the company INC Sarl and its subcontractor SIM/TIB, for not marking the timber felled;
- Evaluation of the fine in conformity with the Law.

2. RESOURCES USED

- 1 Toyota Hilux Pick Up belonging to Global Witness
- 1 Yamaha 100 Motorbike belonging to Global Witness
- 3 Garmin GPS
- 1 Digital camera
- 1 Sony laptop

3. COMPOSITION OF THE MISSION

The mission was made up of Mr. Djibrilla Hessana and Mrs. Dzana Margareth of the CCU; Mr. Eya'ane Bannister, Head of the Provincial Control Brigade (PCB) of Central Province; Mr. Nonga, Divisional Delegate of Mbam and Kim; Mr. Nkoa Nkoa, Head of Local Forestry Post of Yoko; and Messrs. Reiner Tegtmeier and Serge Moukouri of the Independent Observer.

4. CONSTRAINTS

At the end of the first working day within the annual standing volume concerned, the Independent Observer discovered that the mission had missed controlling an important part of the said operations permit. The Independent Observer proposed to the Mission Leader that the team be allowed to return the next day to complete the work. This proposal was rejected by the CCU. Faced with this refusal, and in conformity with its terms of reference, the Independent Observer mission returned alone to the piece of land in question.

5. MISSION FINDINGS

5.1 Mission's Observations

The return to an uncontrolled segment by the CCU enabled the Independent Observer to discover about fifteen logs not bearing statutory marks (see map below). This was noted to have occurred in two timber yards of ASV No.03, FMU 08 009. Several stumps not bearing any mark were observed around these timber yards (see pictures 1 and 2).

Not-marking felled timber constitutes a contravention of Article 127 of the 1994 forestry law. More particularly, not marking felled timber violates the contract conditions governing FMU 08 009 logging, conditions agreed upon by MINEF and the company INC Sarl. These terms are as follows:

“The logging company must inscribe with paint on each log, the serial number of the tree and the number corresponding to the position of the log, as well as the number of the permit and its personal mark...”. This offence can result in the suspension of the title or permit in accordance with the provisions of Article 65 of the law of 20 January 1994.

Map: Segment inspected by the Independent Observation, logs not marked

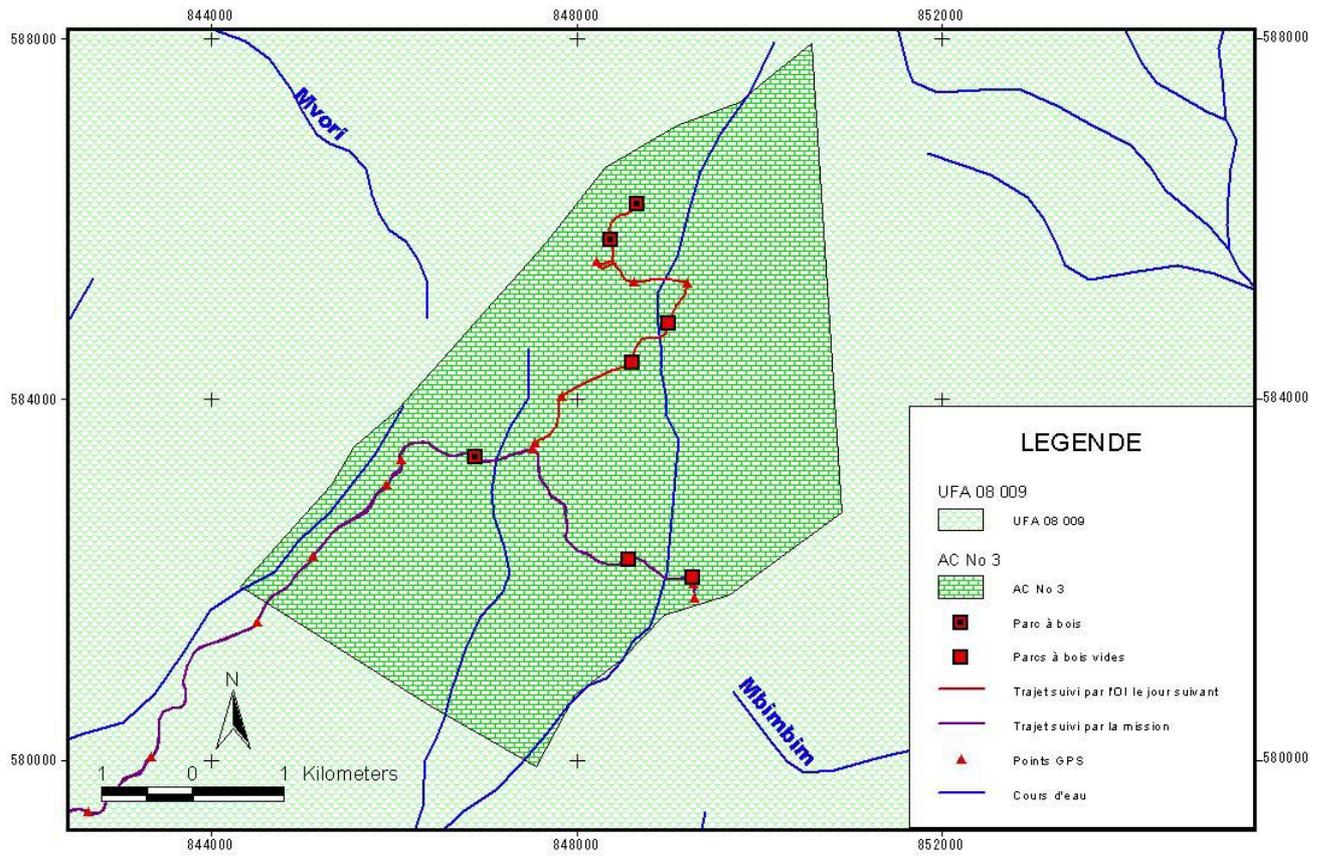


Photo 1: Timber yard, logs not marked



Photo2 : Unmarked log



6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Having observed these cases, the Independent Observer mission arrived at the following conclusions:

- About fifteen logs of various species as well as three stumps not bearing any visible marks were discovered within ASV No.03 of this FMU.

Having considered the observation above, the **Independent Observer recommends:**

- The establishment of an official statement of offence against the company INC Sarl and its subcontractor SIM/TIB, for not marking the timber felled;
- Evaluation of the fine in conformity with the Law.