

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. 066En

Central Control Unit – Independent Observer Joint Mission

Title	FMU 08 004
Location	Ngoumé, Ngambe Tikar Sub- Division, Mbam and Kim Division, Central Province
Mission date	20 March 2003
Company	EFMK Saw mill MK

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
2. RESOURCES USED	2
3. COMPOSITION OF THE MISSION	2
4. CONSTRAINTS	2
5. MISSION'S FINDINGS	2
5.1 A brief history of the FMU	2
5.2 Observations of the Independent Observer	2
6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	3

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Central Control Unit (CCU) carried out a control mission in Forestry Management Unit (FMU) 08 004 and in the Miguel Khoury (M.K.) sawmill on the 20th of March 2003. Accompanied by the Independent Observer (Global Witness), this mission was part of the control programme started on the 17th of March 2003.

The company Exploitation Forestière Miguel Khoury (EFMK) is the title holder of FMU 08 004 under a provisional convention signed with MINEF. This enterprise is permitted to exploit the Annual Standing Volume (ASV) No.13 for the current 2002-2003 fiscal year. In addition to its extraction activities, the EFMK enterprise has set up a sawmill for the processing of wood cut in the Forestry Management Unit.

The mission did not find any irregularities in ASV No.13. It did, however, find unmarked logs in one of the timber yards in the saw mill's vicinity. This constitutes an offence of forestry law. The CCU established an official statement of offence against the company EFMK.

Based on the above, **the Independent Observer recommends** the pursuance of the litigation suit filed against the EFMK enterprise by the CCU.

2. RESOURCES USED

- 1 Land Cruiser
- 2 GPS (Global Positioning System)
- 1 Digital photo Camera
- 1 Map of the area (1:200,000)

3. COMPOSITION OF THE MISSION

Two members of the CCU, the Head of the Provincial Control Brigade of the Centre, the Divisional Delegate of the Mbam and Kim Division, and two representatives of the Independent Observer took part in the mission.

4. CONSTRAINTS

An extremely long period of time was devoted to the controlling of site documents to the detriment of other control activities.

5. MISSION'S FINDINGS

5.1 A brief history of the FMU

The Forestry Management Unit 08 004 was granted to the company EFMK in November 1997. The provisional convention for this FMU was signed on March 27, 1998. The valid Annual Standing Volume No.13 for the current fiscal year covers a surface area of 4,205ha. The M.K. saw mill was set up to facilitate the processing of wood originating from FMU 08 004. The EFMK enterprise has also established a rupture timber yard at Ngoro, not far from its timber processing unit.

5.2 Observations of the Independent Observer

a) In Annual Standing Volume No.13

The Annual Standing Volume No.13 currently under exploitation was not completely controlled. The control activities conducted in ASV No.13 were centred only on the section in which operations were underway. Given the surface area of the ASV concerned (4,205ha), any conclusions applicable to the entire operation cannot be drawn from the section observed.. In effect, the mission centred its control activities on field operations documents and the materialization marking of boundaries close to the section under operation.

b) At the rupture timber yard

Logs which were not marked with the official forestry marking hammer were found in the rupture timber yard located near the M.K sawmill. This constitutes a violation of the provisions of Article 127 of the Decree of 23rd August 1995 and is subject to the provisions of Articles 65 and 142 of the Law of 20th January 1994. The law stipulates that no log must leave the forest without an official forest hammer mark.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The mission discovered unmarked logs in one of the rupture timber yards near the saw mill. This constitutes a violation of the regulations governing the transportation of logs.

Upon discovering this irregularity, the CCU established an official statement of offence against the company EFMK.

Based on the above, **the Independent Observer recommends** the pursuance of the litigation suit filed against the EFMK enterprise by the CCU.