



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. 076En

Central Control Unit – Independent Observer Joint Mission

Title	None
Location	Ngoro Sub-Division, Mbam and Kim Division
Mission date	21-25 July 2003
Companies	Ets. Flamboyant, individuals

Independent Observer Team (Global Witness):

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

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 Case summary	2
5.2 Discussions with those in charge of logging operations in the CF	2
6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	3
APPENDICES	4
Appendix	5

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The control and investigation missions programme conducted in the Haut-Nyong Division took the Central Control Unit (CCU) and the Independent Observer (Global Witness) to the “Mouangue-le-Bosquet Community Forest” (CF), on 19 August 2003. The objective of this phase was to confirm or disclaim the conclusions of a mission report of the Divisional Delegation of the Environment and Forestry (DDEF) for Haut-Nyong testifying that the beneficiaries of the CF concerned were not respecting the prescriptions of the Simple Management Plan (SMP) of that Community Forest.

The Mouangue community was granted the “Mouangue-le-Bosquet Community Forest” following the approval of its SMP and the signing of its management agreement in August 2000. Exploitation of this forest was carried out thanks to support received from the “Soutien au Développement Durable de Lomié” (SDDL) Project executed by the Dutch development assistance organisation SNV, the Netherlands Co-operation Service. Since the end of the pilot phase, the community has signed two partnership contracts with private operators.

The DDEF for Haut-Nyong, through a letter dated 28 January 2003, reported that administrative documents were poorly recorded, revenues of the CF poorly managed and prescriptions of the SMP not respected.

The mission held discussions with the operations manager of the said CF, in the presence of members of the community. The logging site of the CF was inactive during the visit of the mission that noted the following:

- The management of this community forest is facing some major problems; those in charge of managing the funds of the CF do not, for example, have an account book;
- The execution of some construction works envisaged in the SMP has not yet kicked-off.

Consequently, **the Independent Observer recommends** that awareness, education and training activities for members of this community be carried out by the various services involved in monitoring the activities of this community forest.

2. RESOURCES USED

- 1 Toyota Hilux Pick up
- 1 Yamaha 100 motorbike
- 3 GPS (Garmin brand)
- 1 Video camera (Sony brand)
- 1 Laptop computer (Sony brand)
- 1 Videotape recorder

3. COMPOSITION OF THE MISSION

Besides the two members of the technical team of the Independent Observer, the mission was made up of Mrs Essono Danièle and Mr Djibrila, agents of the CCU; Mr James Afene Obam, Senior staff at the Forestry Department; the Chief of Forestry Section for Haut-Nyong and a representative of the Head of the Local Forestry Post for Lomie.

4. CONSTRAINTS

The mission did not visit the operation site but concentrated its investigations on discussing with the managers of the CF.

5. MISSION'S FINDINGS

5.1 Case summary

The Mouangue Community Forest (CF) is managed by the Mouangue community. During the project's inception, the community received organisational, material and financial support from the Dutch development assistance organisation SNV - through its "Soutien au Développement Durable de Lomié" (SDDL) Project. The SDDL Project put at the community's disposal material and resources required to start logging operations. This project also undertook the marketing of the logging operation's products. As the partnership with the SDDL Project ended, the community signed two contracts with other partners. These contracts were cancelled because they failed to meet the aspirations of the community.

A control mission of the DDEF for Haut-Nyong concluded, on 13 December 2002, that this community forest was being poorly managed (see Appendix).

5.2 Discussions with those in charge of logging operations in the CF

The person in charge of forestry activities in the Mouangue CF acknowledged that some of the activities envisaged in the Simple Management Plan (SMP) were not yet completed. Allegedly, this was because of a change in the mode of the CF's exploitation having affected the revenues. At the time the SMP was being elaborated, extraction of logs was programmed before being put into question. The

discussions, furthermore, revealed that the management of the funds derived from the exploitation of this forest shows problems of accountability.

As it is the case with most community forests, the Mouangue community subcontracts logging activities of its community forest to a partner which is also the buyer of the extracted timber. The implications of this type of partnership on the revenues of the communities are still to be established, given that the logger may underestimate the volume of wood produced.

The acts denounced by the DDEF are indicative of the shady areas in the management of the Mouangue Community Forest and may serve as an illustration of how low the participation of members of communities is in present-day management of their community forests.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The mission noticed that:

- The management of this community forest is facing some major problems; those in charge of managing the funds of the CF do not, for example, have an account book;
- The execution of some construction works envisaged in the SMP has not yet kicked-off.

Consequently, **the Independent Observer recommends** that awareness, education and training activities for members of this community be carried out by the various services involved in monitoring the activities of this community forest.

APPENDICES

Appendix

MINISTÈRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT
ET DES FORÊTS

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Paix-Travail-Patrie

DELEGATION PROVINCIALE DE L'EST

DELEGATION DEPARTEMENTALE DU HAUT-NYONG

B.P : 38 Abong-Mbang.

MINISTÈRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT
1204 VE
07 FEB 2003
N° 27 / MINEF/DPE/DDH

OBJET : NOTIFICATION DES
RÉSULTATS DE CONTRÔLES.

LE DELEGUE DEPARTEMENTAL DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT
ET DES FORÊTS DU HAUT-NYONG A

- ABONG-MBANG -

A MONSIEUR LE RESPONSABLE DES OPERATIONS
FORESTIERES DE MOANGUE LE BOSQUET A

- LOMIE -

Handwritten notes: CC, 14/02/03, UCC, 13/2/03

MONSIEUR,

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître les conclusions de
la mission de ~~cameroun~~ qui a séjourné dans votre Communauté le 13 Décembre 02.

Il ressort ainsi du rapport de ladite mission que malgré
l'intense activité d'exploitation, les documents administratifs sont mal tenus.
La production n'a pas pu être quantifiée, les revenus de la vente des bois vous
ont cependant permis de mettre sur pied deux palmeraies de 186 et 200 plants
actuellement abandonnées dans la brousse. En dehors de cette réalisation
toutes les autres obligations prescrites pour la période échue n'ont pas enco-
ore connues un début d'exécution. De plus des vives tentations découlant de la
présomption de détournement sont perceptibles chez certains membres de votre
Communauté.

Vous conviendrez avec moi que pour la suite des activités,
le retour de la sérénité est impératif, en plus, toutes celles contenues dans le
plan simple de gestion que vous avez librement élaboré et signé devront être
réalisées. Faute pour vous respecter ces engagements, l'Administration des Forêt
sera dans l'obligation de retirer sa confiance à votre Communauté.

Tout en vous rassurant de notre collaboration, Veuillez
agréer, Monsieur, nos vœux les meilleurs pour l'année 2003.

AMPLIATIONS :

- MINEF/DF/CFC/YDE |
- DPEFE/BERTOUA | P C R
- PREFET/HN/ABN-MBG |
- SOUS-PREFET/LOMIE | p. information
- C/PFC/LOMIE | p. suivi

MINISTÈRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT
ET DES FORÊTS
BOURNIER ARRIVE/UCC

ABONG-MBANG, le

LE DELEGUE DEPARTEMENTAL

Stamp: 28 JAN 2003, DELEGATION DEPARTEMENTALE DU HAUT-NYONG, LE DELEGUE, MINISTÈRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DES FORÊTS. Signature: Abou Ndour Fankou, INGÉNIEUR DES EAUX FORÊTS ET CHASSES

Veillez recevoir, cher Monsieur, nos vœux de santé et de prospérité pour l'année 2003.

AMPLIATIONS:

- MINER/DF/CFC/YDE ✓ |
 - DREPE/BERTOUA |
 - PREFET/HN/ABG-MBG/ |
 - SOUS-PREFET/LOMIE |
 - C/PFC/LOMIE |
- ! - P C R
- ! - POUR INFO
- ! - POUR SUIV

Abong ~~_____~~ 28 JAN. 2003

