

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. 079En**

*Central Control Unit – Independent Observer Joint Mission*

-----

<b>Title</b>	FMU 10 042
<b>Location</b>	Mindourou, Haut-Nyong Division, East Province
<b>Mission date</b>	21 August 2003
<b>Company</b>	SODETRANCAM (Holder) PALISCO (Partner)

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

*Mr Owada Jean Cyrille, Technical Assistant  
Mr Serge C. Moukouri, Technical Assistant  
Mr Che Tangyie Célestine, 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
6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	2

## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Central Control Unit (CCU), accompanied by the Independent Observer (Global Observer), undertook a mission to Forest Management Unit (FMU) 10 042, on 21 August 2003. The mission was part of a routine control programme which started on 12 August 2003.

The FMU 10 042 is located in the Haut-Nyong Division of the East Province. According to the Provisional Agreement signed on 05 October 2001, it has been granted to the company SODETRANCAM, which in turn has sub-contracted it to the company PALLISCO.

The Annual Standing Volume (ASV) No. 02 of FMU 10 042 was operational during the mission's visit. It should be noted that in order to adjust forestry operations (exercises) to the new fiscal year, now identical with the calendar year, this Annual Standing Volume is only valid for a period of six months, viz.: from 1 July to 31 December 2003. This explains why the logging site was just starting operations when visited by the mission.

The mission verified the boundaries, cross-checked field operation documents and inspected tree stumps and log ponds. No irregularities were observed in the FMU.

**The Independent Observer recommends** the undertaking of a control mission at the end of the current fiscal year.

**The Reading Committee recommends that**

Joint missions should have all official documentation before going to the field for the sake of equity and neutrality.

## **2. RESOURCES USED**

- 1 Toyota Hilux Pick up
- 1 Yamaha 100 motorbike
- 4 GPS (Garmin brand)
- 1 video camera (Sony brand)
- 1 digital camera
- 1 laptop computer (Sony brand)

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

The mission had as its members 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; the Head of Local Forestry Post for Mindourou; and Messrs Owada Jean Cyrille and Moukouri Serge Christian of the technical team of the Independent Observer.

## **4. CONSTRAINTS**

The team left Yaounde without precise knowledge of the forest titles they were going to inspect. This situation made it impossible to prepare documentation required to control the targeted titles. Furthermore, the Independent Observer doubts the reliability of the maps made available to the mission by the logging companies.

## **5. MISSION'S FINDINGS**

It has to be noted that within the efforts to adjust the fiscal to the calendar year, this Annual Standing Volume is only valid for a period of six months covering the period of 1 July to 31 December 2003. This is the reason that logging site operations had just started when visited by the mission.

In the field, the mission toured access roads and hauling tracks along the boundaries of ASV No.02. The mission also verified the marking of tree stumps and the keeping of field operations documents. The mission did not observe any irregularities.

## **6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Independent Observer recommends** the undertaking of a control mission at the end of the current fiscal year.

**The Reading Committee recommends that**

Joint missions should have all official documentation before going to the field for the sake of equity and neutrality.