



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. 082En

Independent Mission: Independent Observer

Title	FMUs 10 022 and 10 020
Location	East Province
Mission date	10 December 2003
Company	Ingénierie Forestière (Holder)

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Independent Observer (Global Witness) undertook a verification mission to the East Province from 4 to 11 December 2003. The Forest Management Unit (FMU) 10 020, granted to the Ingénierie Forestière company, was one of the titles on the mission programme. The Independent Observer was refused access to the logging site of this FMU.

Following a working session between the Independent Observer and the Head of the Local Forestry Post for Messok, it was agreed that FMUs 10 020 and 10 022 under the operation of the Ingénierie Forestière company would be visited.

Before going to the field, the Independent Observer and the Head of the Local Forestry Post were invited to a meeting presided over by the Messok District Officer, to whom the Independent Observer explained the nature of the mission and its compliance with the Observer's Terms of Reference.

The Site Manager of FMU 10 020, who intercepted the Independent Observer in the company of the Head of the Local Forestry Post for Messok, declared that he would not allow the Independent Observer to enter the logging site of the aforementioned FMU. Contacted by radio, his superior, the Foreman of Ingénierie Forestière for both titles, confirmed the refusal and gave strict orders not to allow the Independent Observer to enter FMUs 10 020 and 10 022.

In view of the above, **the Independent Observer recommends:**

- That MINEF undertakes a joint control mission to FMUs 10 020 and 10 022.

The Reading Committee recommends that the Head of Local Forestry Post for Messok be asked to forward his report on the control mission undertaken to FMUs 10 020 and 10 022 on December 2003.

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 was made up exclusively of members of the technical team of the Independent Observer. The Head of the Local Forestry Post for Messok expressed his intention to accompany the Independent Observer.

4. CONSTRAINTS

The mission did not take place because the company Ingénierie Forestière refused to allow the Independent Observer access to the logging site.

5. MISSION'S FINDINGS

This mission was undertaken within the purview of the provisions of paragraph 3.2 of the Terms of Reference of the Independent Observer. This paragraph outlines the mechanisms for undertaking observation missions without the presence of the central services of MINEF. However, the Independent Observer intended to undertake the visit to FMU 10 020 in the company of the Head of the Local Forestry Post for Messok.

Before going to the field, the Independent Observer and the Head of the Local Forestry Post for Messok were invited to a meeting presided over by the Messok District Officer, to whom the Independent Observer explained the nature and objective of the mission, and its conformity with the Terms of Reference.

The Site Manager of FMU 10 020, intercepted the team in Messok, and declared that he would not allow the Independent Observer to enter the logging site of the aforementioned FMU. Contacted by radio, his superior, the Foreman of the company Ingénierie Forestière, confirmed the refusal and gave strict orders not to allow the Independent Observer to enter FMUs 10 020 and 10 022.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The mission was unable to visit FMU 10 020 because of the categorical refusal by representatives of the Ingénierie Forestière to allow the Independent Observer to visit the logging site of this concession.

In view of this fact, **the Independent Observer recommends:**

- That MINEF undertakes a joint control mission to FMUs 10 020 and 10 022.

The Reading Committee recommends that the Head of Local Forestry Post for Messok be asked to forward his report on the control mission undertaken to FMUs 10 020 and 10 022 on December 2003.