



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. 088En

Central Control Unit – Independent Observer Joint Mission

Title FMU 07 002
Location Sanaga Maritime Division, Littoral
Province
Mission date 5 April 2004
Companies CPPC

Independent Observer Team (Global Witness):

Mr Jean Cyrille Owada, Technical Assistant

Mr Célestine Tangyie Ché, Driver

TABLE DES MATIERES

1. EXECUTRIVE 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 held with responsables of the company CPPC	2
6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.	3

1. EXECUTRIVE SUMMARY

From March 31 to April 06, 2004, agents of the Forestry Department of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry undertook a mission to Edea in the Sanaga Maritime Division of the Littoral Province. The mission had as objective, the evaluation of the attainment level of contract specifications clauses and the verification of the respect of environmental obligations by some forestry companies. That mission was the first of its kind ever. The Independent Observer (Global Witness) joined the mission team on Monday, the 5th of April 2004, and took part in the discussions that the mission team had with responsables of the Cameroon Pulp and Ppaper Company (CPPC) at Edea and Douala.

The CPPC company is beneficiary of the Forest Management Unit (FMU) 07 002.

The provisional agreement that the company signed with the state and the contract specifications that accompany it, stipulate that wood originating from that forest would be used in the paper pulp company located at Edea.

The Independent Observer did not take part in the inspection of the logging site of the FMU and the transformation unit. The other members of the team informed the member of the Independent Observer that FMU 07 002 is under strong pressure from the population and that the equipment and spare parts of machines held in the stores and the workers' camp are in an advanced state of deterioration

From the discussions the team had with responsables of the CPPC, it was revealed that FMU 07 002 has not been functional since its attribution on April 27, 1997. Certain community forests are alleged to have been attributed within FMU 07 002, classified in a state forest. In the field, the team was unable to elucidate on the question related to these attributions.

Due to the absence of documents of the project, the Independent Observer was not in a position to confirm the points of the discussion that the team had had with Mr Sossa, Site Director of the company CPPC.

In concluding the above, **the Independent Observer recommends:**

- The creation of an inter-ministerial commission to evaluate the viability of the project;
- The withdrawal and sale by auction of the FMU title to secure the asset which could come under strong pressure, in case the paper pulp company might not be viable anymore;
- Make an inventory of community forests attributed within FMU 07 002 and cancel them.

2. RESOURCES USED

- 1 Land cruiser
- 2 GPS (Garmin)
- 1 Digital photo camera
- 1 Laptop (Sony)

3. COMPOSITION OF THE MISSION

The following persons took part in the mission: Mr. Antoine Monayong Zeh, Head of the mission; Mr Thomas Kouamedjo, Head of the Provincial Control Brigade for the Littoral; and Mr Jean Cyrile Owada.of the technical team of the Independent Observer.

4. CONSTRAINTS

The absence of communication between the Independent Observer and the control team of the Forestry Department during their deployment to the field is responsible for the late arrival of the Independent Observer at the logging site of the CPPC company. Consequently, the Independent Observers did not take part in investigations carried out by the mission in the FMU and in the transformation unit. Its participation in the said mission was limited to discussions with responsables of the CPPC company.

5. MISSION'S FINDINGS

5.1 Case summary

FMU 07 002 is situated in the Sanaga Maritime Division. This forest is the object of a Management Convention signed April 27, 1997, and of the decree of classification No.08/363/PM. Its total surface area is 100,000 hectares. Presently, it is the object of much litigation at the level of the Divisional Delegation of the Environment and Forestry of Sanaga Maritime, especially as concerns community forests, which supposedly have been attributed within the FMU.

5.2 Discussions held with responsables of the company CPPC

From the discussions the mission had with the responsible of the CPPC company, it is understood that the company is managed by a Board of Directors presided over by Mr Georges Cardi, who resides in France and whose last stay in Cameroon took place as far back as November 2002. The main duties of the president of the Board of Directors are limited to the search for new buyers of the superstructure, and the maintenance of a latent contact with Indonesian investors and shareholders on the one hand, and the Cameroonian administrator on the other hand in view of a short-term restructuring of the project. At the local level, the project is surviving thanks to the support of a small team with Mr Edwin Sossa at its head as Site Director. For six years now, the security of the company's equipment is ensured by a security service recruited for that purpose and the equipment were in good state. The residual value of the equipment were estimated between 3 and 4 billion Francs CFA out of the 80 billion Francs CFA of the initial

project. The stores where machine spare parts are kept still contain equipment, which is fast deteriorating.

During his last stay in Cameroon, the president of the Board of Directors is alleged to have presented to officials of the Prime Ministry, the Ministry of Industrial and Commercial Development as well as the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry, a project of restructuring the CPPC. Due to the absence of documents, the Independent Observer was not able to confirm these allegations.

As concerns the rights of the maintenance personnel of his company, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security carried out an investigation mission on the site in November 2003. It emerged from the investigations that workers were owed 80 months of salary arrears, estimated at 1,200,000,000 Francs CFA. Promises had been made to solve the problem within 3 months. But during the visit of the team on 6th of April 2004, it was discovered that the problem had not yet been solved.

The forestry concession, which remains the condition sine qua non to the viability of the paper pulp transformation factory, has experienced fraudulent logging during the past years. Despite the classification act signed by the Prime Minister, community forests are alleged to have been attributed within FMU 07 002, particularly that of Ligouss. Other projects are believed to be in the pipeline. Responsibles of the project allegedly launched a complaint to MINEF to this effect.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

Due to the absence of documents of the project, the Independent Observer was not able to confirm the points of the discussions that the team had had with Mr. Sossa, Site Director of the company CPPC.

However, **the Independent Observer recommends:**

- The creation of an inter-ministerial commission to evaluate the viability of the project;
- The withdrawal and sale by auction of the FMU title to secure the asset which could come under strong pressure, in case the paper pulp company might not be viable anymore;
- Make an inventory of community forests attributed within FMU 07 002 and cancel them.