



global witness  
Cameroon

# Project of Independent Observation in Support of Forest Law Enforcement in Cameroon

**Validated by the Reading  
Committee**

## **Report of the Independent Observer**

**No. 113En**

*Central Control Unit – Independent Observer Joint Mission*

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**Title** FMU 09 016

**Location** Mvagan District, Dja & Lobo  
Division, South Province

**Mission date** 03 August 2004

**Company** COFA

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

*Mr Reiner Tegtmeyer, Project Director*

*Mr Célestine Tangyie Ché, 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**

On 3 August 2004, the Central Control Unit (CCU), accompanied by the Independent Observer (Global Witness), undertook a control mission to the logging site of Forest Management Unit (FMU) 09 016. The mission formed part of the routine control programme commenced on 27 July 2004. Located in the Dja and Lobo Division, this FMU was granted to the Compagnie Forestière ASSAM (COFA).

On the ground, the mission inspected the boundaries of Annual Standing Volume (ASV) No. 05, which was valid for 2004, checked the logging documents and inspected the wood depot.

After a complete tour of the access roads and hauling tracks of the ASV, the mission was able to ascertain that the boundaries had been marked and were being respected. However, two unmarked stumps were found. The Central Control Unit drew up an Official Statement of Offence.

With regard to the inspection of the FMU's logging documents, no offences were revealed.

In view of the above, **The Independent Observer recommends** that the proceedings initiated against COFA for failing to mark two *Ayous* stumps should be pursued.

## 2. RESOURCES USED

- 1 Toyota Hilux
- 1 GSP (Garmin)
- 1 Digital camera
- 1 laptop computer (Sony)
- All the legal documents authorising logging operations

## 3. COMPOSITION OF THE MISSION

The mission was made up of Mrs Danièle Essono and Mr Marcel Maméné of the CCU, and Mr Reiner Tegtmeyer of the Independent Observer team. It was accompanied by Mr Jean-Pierre Mpem, Head of the Provincial Brigade for Monitoring of the South and Mr Ateba Mumbo, Foreman of FMU 09 016.

## 4. CONSTRAINTS

No difficulties were encountered in carrying out this mission.

## 5. MISSION'S FINDINGS

The mission found two unmarked *Ayous* stumps at the GPS (Global Positioning System) coordinates below:

Unmarked stump	Degrees minutes_latitude	Degrees minutes_longitude
<i>Ayous</i>	N 2 32.169	E 12 04.228
<i>Ayous</i>	N 2 33.231	E 12 03.067

By failing to mark these stumps, COFA is in violation of the provisions of Article 127 of the Implementing Decree of the Forest Law. It has committed the offence of not marking the stumps of felled trees, thereby violating Article 65 of the Forest Law of 20 January 1994, which stipulates that, "Any breach of the provisions of this law or regulations passed in implementation thereof (...) shall entail suspensions or, in case of a repeat offence, withdrawal of the exploitation document or approval, as appropriate, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the decree".

The offence was the subject of an Official Statement of Offence established by the CCU.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The CCU was right in charging COFA for not marking felled trees. **The Independent Observer recommends** that the proceedings initiated against COFA for failing to mark two *Ayous* stumps should be pursued.