

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

**Validated by the Reading
Committee**

Report of the Independent Observer

No. 118En

Central Control Unit – Independent Observer Joint Mission

Title	FMU 08 004
Location	Ngoumé, Ngambé Tikar District, Mbam & Kim Division
Mission Date	July 31, 2004
Company	EFMK

Independent Observer (Global Witness):
Mr. Serge C. Moukouri, Technical Assistant
Mr. Emmanuel Tamounang, Driver

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Central Control Unit (CCU), accompanied by the Independent Observer (Global Witness), conducted a control mission to Forest Management Unit (FMU) 08 004, situated at Ngouné, in the Ngambé Tikar Sub-division, Mbam et Kim Division on 31 July 2004. The mission formed part of a routine control programme that commenced on 28 July 2004. The aim of the mission was to monitor current logging activities authorised by valid permits and to commence proceedings against any possible cases of violation of current forest regulations.

FMU 08 004 has been allocated to Exploitation Forestière Miguel Khoury (EFMK) since 1997. It forms the object of forestry concession No 1017 and covers an area of 88,050 ha. For 2004, Annual Standing Volume (ASV) No. 14 is being logged.

The mission verified the conformity of all logging activities in ASV No. 14 with the current regulations. The main observation made was that EFMK had cleared a road in part of the State forest adjacent to its FMU. When questioned regarding the legal requirement to obtain MINEF authorisation before clearing such a road, the site managers claimed to have received it. But the mission was unable to obtain a copy of the said authorisation.

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

- The summoning of EFMK officials to present documents proving the authorisation to clear a road within the State forest,
- Commencement of proceedings, if appropriate.

2. RESOURCES USED

- 1 Nissan Pick Up
- 1 Camera
- 1 GPS
- 1 Laptop

3. COMPOSITION OF THE MISSION

The mission comprised Mrs MANHOULI Marie, Messrs KONGAPÉ Jean Avit and NECKMEN Samson of the CCU, Mr BIKIÉ Romuald of the MINEF IT Unit and Mr Serge MOUKOURI of the Independent Observer technical team. It was accompanied by two representatives of the Ngambe Tikar local Forestry Post.

4. CONSTRAINTS

No difficulties were encountered in carrying out this mission.

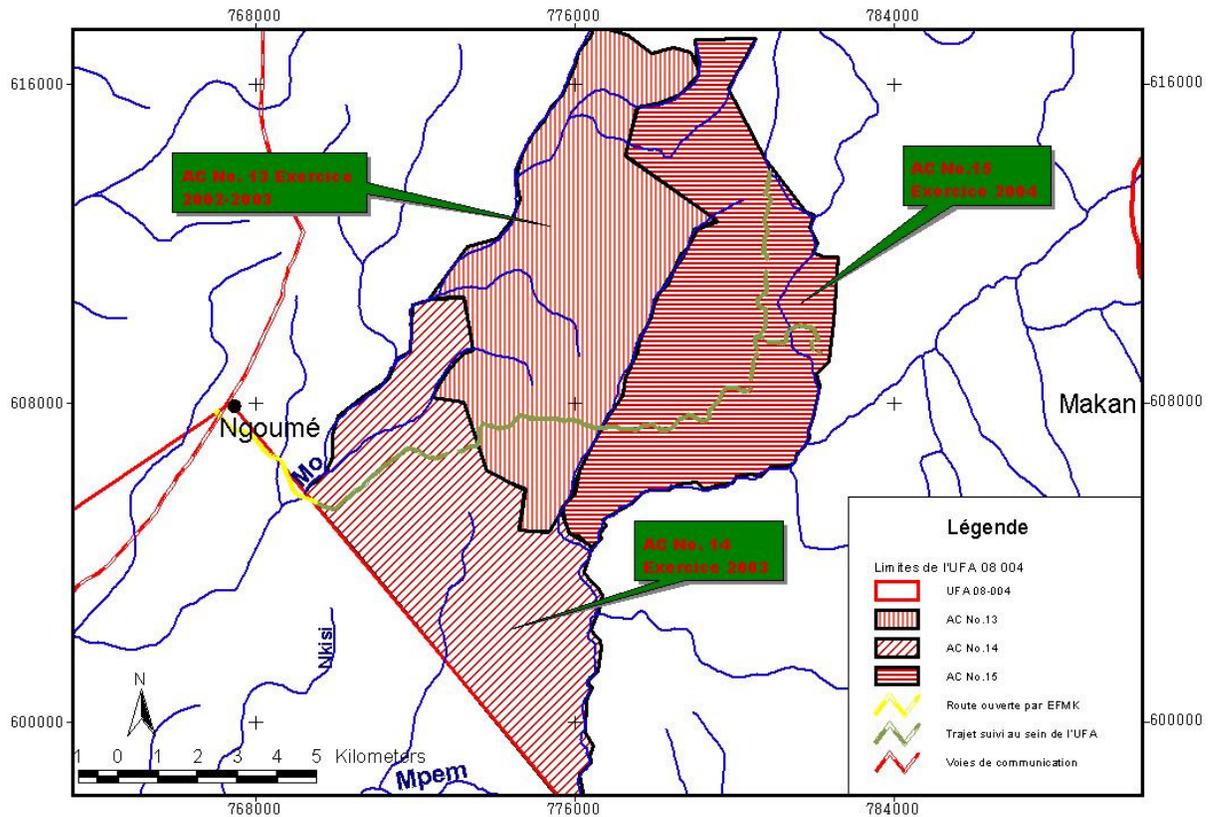
5. MISSION'S FINDINGS

Within Annual Standing Volume No.14, the mission consisted of verifying the marking of and respect for boundaries and monitoring the effectiveness of marking of timber in depots as well as on stumps. The mission also focussed on conformity with felling declarations, the keeping of site documents and respect for minimum diameters to be felled. All these investigations revealed no violation of the regulations governing forest exploitation.

The mission observed that EFMK had cleared a 3.4 km-long road inside the State forest adjacent to its allocated FMU, as shown on the map below.

During the meeting between the mission and work site managers, these latter claimed to have obtained a road clearance authorisation. The mission was not shown any copy of the said authorisation in the field. Research conducted at the level of MINEF also failed to reveal the existence of such authorisation.

Map: Road opened by EFMK



6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The clearing of a road through State forest is subject to an authorisation issued by MINEF. If it fails to produce this document, EFMK will be guilty of unauthorised logging within a State forest, an offence provided for and sanctioned by article 156 of the 1994 Forest Law.

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

- The summoning of EFMK officials to present documents proving the authorisation to clear a road within the State forest,
- Commencement of proceedings, if appropriate.