



# INFORMATION BULLETIN

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## Independent Monitor

### Forest Law Enforcement and Governance - Cameroon

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For the last twelve months, REM's Independent Monitoring project in Cameroon has focused its work on Timber Recovery Permits (Autorisations de Récupération des Bois - ARB) otherwise called 'small permits', which have become the second source of timber production after industrial concessions. These titles are rife with illegalities mostly connected to poor governance practices within the Ministry of Forests and Fauna (MINFOF), especially permit allocation, fraudulent use of log books and transport documents. These illegal practices and new trends have been well documented by numerous Independent Monitor reports on the Douala Port ([Report N°078](#)) and Road Check Points ([Report N°082](#)), as well as previous specific reports on ARBs ([Report N°077](#), [N°083](#)).

REM has recommended to the Ministry of forest various lines of action aimed at addressing the problems surrounding ARBs. Those recommendations include the need for a task force in charge of overseeing the implementation of the Independent Monitor's recommendations and the use of timber transport documents. REM also recommended the suspension of all ARBs found in blatant violation of forestry laws.

The MINFOF decisions attached to this email are a step towards acknowledging the need for improving a number of its internal procedures, and most importantly to embark on the process of taking strong action against illegalities. In the coming months, REM will monitor the impact of these decisions and provide analysis through its next reports.

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For more information on field investigations and reports produced on Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in Cameroon and other countries, see: [www.rem.org.uk](http://www.rem.org.uk) and <http://www.observation-cameroun.info>

# SUMMARY OF DECISIONS ISSUED BY MINFOF

## Document 1

Suspension of 14 Timber Recovery Permits (ARBs) by the Ministry of Forests and Fauna (MINFOF)

## Document 2

Creation of a Unit within MINFOF to follow-up forest law enforcement activities. The Unit will:

- ❖ Validate internal Annual Working Plans within MINFOF
- ❖ Follow-up recommendations made in forest law enforcement reports
- ❖ Propose solutions to the various difficulties hindering forest law enforcement missions

## Document 3

Creation of a Unit within MINFOF to follow-up the distribution of authenticated forest logging and timber transformation documents. The Unit will:

- ❖ Support to MINFOF's forest information management service (SEGIF) in the rigorous dispatch of authenticated documents
- ❖ Produce quarterly reports on supply and distribution of these documents
- ❖ Ensure the documents' conformity
- ❖ Allocate quotas of authenticated documents for each valid forest title
- ❖ Monthly check authenticated documents dispatched by SEGIF, based on respect of quotas

Creation of a Committee within MINFOF to follow-up the management of authenticated forest logging and timber transformation documents. The Committee will meet quarterly to:

- ❖ Evaluate the dispatch and supply of authenticated forest logging and timber transformation documents
- ❖ Make any useful suggestion to improve these documents' management