

Independent Monitoring Cameroon



Progress in tackling
illegal logging in Cameroon



Financed by the European Development
Fund of the European Union



A project implemented by
Resource Extraction Monitoring
(REM)

Annual Report March 2007-March 2008

REM is a not-for-profit international organisation founded in 2003 that specialises in Independent Monitoring of Law Enforcement and Governance. REM promotes a constructive approach to establish a link between governments, environment and human rights NGOs, local communities, international donors and the private sector by providing timely and objective information on the exploitation of natural resources and the host governments' own monitoring efforts. REM's aim is to reinforce the implementation of legislation in the forest and other sectors and promote the follow-up of legal cases.

REM is not a campaigning organisation and has no political affiliation. Our approach and analysis of governance problems and forest law enforcement during project implementation, however, remains proactive.

REM's team of experts is mainly composed of lawyers, forest technicians, economists, environmental scientists and specialists in forest legislation, forest law enforcement systems, documentation, data management and forest sectors in many African and Asian countries.

Detailed information on REM's approach and our activities are available on our Internet site www.rem.org.uk

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Acknowledgements

This report was produced thanks to financing from the European Union European Development Fund (EDF) for EDF's National Contractor, the Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Land Use Management (MINEPAT), and under the supervision of the Ministry of Forests and Fauna (MINFOF)



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Printed on 80% FSC certified recycled paper and 20% FSC certified paper from mixed sources



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During its foundation, REM also received financial support from the Netherlands Committee of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (NC-IUCN) and the DOEN Foundation, which enabled its participation in this project.

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INTRODUCTION

Executive summary

This annual report by the Independent Monitor of Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in Cameroon covers the period from 7 March 2007 to 6 March 2008. This is the last year of the initial three-year phase that began following an international call for tender issued by the European Commission in the framework of the ninth European Development Fund (EDF) in Cameroon. The British NGO Resource Extraction Monitoring¹ was commissioned to fulfil this service contract.

2008 is significant for the forestry sector in Cameroon: one-fifth of the forest concessions now have approved management plans, the FESP is in full implementation, annual timber production is rising, and the European Union has begun negotiations with the government of Cameroon to reach a Voluntary Partnership Agreement following which only legal timber will be authorised for import into Europe.

The third year of the Independent Monitoring project focused essentially on improving the MINFOF's internal governance. This decision followed the observation that the project has had a positive effect on a large section of the private sector over the preceding years. Several logging companies have opted for legality with the aim of ensuring the longevity of their activities. However, it was noted that the MINFOF is also in large part responsible for the persistence of illegal logging. In other words, the illegality that affects the private forest sector in Cameroon is not only endogenous but also exogenous. Various factors within the Ministry of Forests and Fauna (MINFOF) contribute to, and in some circumstances encourage, illegal forest exploitation.

Permits are issued in clear violation of the required procedures, the passivity of some of the Ministry's offices in response to the trafficking of transport permits and logging documents is patent, and somewhat unorthodox practices by law enforcement officers in regard to logging companies can be seen during field and investigations into the follow-up of known infractions. These include, in particular, excessive voluntary reductions in fines owed to the state and, sometimes, trafficking official notifications of infractions.

Timber Recovery Permits (TRPs) have become a central problem in MINFOF's governance weaknesses. These permits—previously called “small” because of their maximum surface area of 1,000 ha, the limited duration of their validity and the limited volumes of timber—have nevertheless become the second largest source of timber supply after Forest Management Units (FMUs) following systematic abuse. During the year 2006, they numbered more than 60 with an annual volume of more than 300,000 cubic metres of wood. The recent law enforcement missions conducted with Ministry officers by the Independent Monitor in regard to these permits revealed that a large proportion of the illegalities linked to these permits are endogenous to the MINFOF. The origin of some of the trafficking of transport permits around TRPs is also found within MINFOF itself. Erroneous and incomplete data entered into the Computerised Forest Information Management System (SIGIF) make it dysfunctional and unusable. For example, because the Forest Directorate has failed to recover and follow up real use of timber transport documentation, several unused transport documents remain in the hands of loggers and are used to launder illegal timber.



Mission with the Ambassadors to investigate TRPs, Mbam et Kim, 1 February 2008

¹ www.rem.org.uk



However, one must emphasise that the last quarters of the year 2008 showed encouraging signs. First, the highest level of the Ministry has become aware of the problem. This led to a restructuring of the MINFOF staff and the replacement of certain of the MINFOF's regional services' officers recognised to have been complicit in some instances of illegal logging. In addition, following a series of law enforcement missions in the port of Douala, twenty-seven (27) exporters had their activities suspended for having timber of doubtful origin. A review of certain regulations passed outside the law is also underway.

Against this backdrop of increased effort by the Ministry of Forests and Fauna, a study of forest governance was initiated. The Steering Committee for this study is made up of representatives of the Prime Minister, representatives of diverse ministries, several heads of diplomatic missions, and the REM team leader for the Independent Monitor of Forest Law Enforcement and Governance. This study, which is the first of its type and will be conducted by an independent international firm, aims to produce an analysis of poor governance practices, and corruption in particular, within the forest sector and, in particular, the Ministry of Forests and Fauna. Having initiated this study, MINFOF says it is ready to implement its conclusions and recommendations in order to improve its internal governance.

Indeed, there is still a relatively long distance to be travelled on the road to improved governance within MINFOF in the framework of the overall fight against illegal logging. One of the steps will be the application and follow-up of the Independent Monitor's recommendations, starting with the priority actions identified. This annual report therefore presents a summary of all the specific recommendations formulated during the project's last year, as well as the ten principal recommendations, the application of which is key to improving forest law enforcement and governance. The second part of this report also presents the project's activities for the last quarter².

Background

Cameroon's forestry policy is based essentially on application of the law and institutional development with the aim of infusing the principles of good governance and sustainable management into the forestry sector.

The 'Independent Monitor of Forest Law Enforcement and Governance' project was designed and is being implemented in Cameroon with the aim of helping resolve difficulties related to lack of transparency and illegal logging in the sector. Initiated in 2000, the Independent Monitor (IM) is mandated to accompany law enforcement operations in the field, monitor the process of levying sanctions against those who do not comply with forest law, and contribute to transparency and the dissemination of sector-related information through its publications.

Objectives

The Ministry of Forests and Fauna (MINFOF) committed to implementing, with the financial support of the interested donors, an Independent Monitor of Forest Law Enforcement and Governance project. The project consists of the carrying out of law enforcement operations by the appropriate services of the MINFOF in the presence of an Independent Monitor.

Overall objective

The overall objective is to contribute to the application of good governance principles in forestry activities, and improve forest law enforcement.

Specific objectives

In order to ensure sustainable management of forest resources and improve the forestry sector's contribution to the national economy as a whole, the project targets the following specific objectives:

- Monitor the application of forest law enforcement procedures and the implementation of enforcement activities within the national territory;
- Monitor the follow-up of identified forest law infractions and litigation within the national territory; and
- Ensure the transparency of information on forest exploitation.

² This project's 12th quarterly report

ANNUAL SUMMARY

This section of the report consists of a summary of the primary issues addressed during the period from 07 March 2007 to 06 March 2008, notably the themes analysed, conclusions, and recommendations.

Subjects addressed during the year

The conclusions and recommendations presented at the end of this report and in Table 1 summarise the situations observed in regard to certain subjects related to forest law enforcement by the state. They provide the Independent Monitor's perspective on the issues identified.

Table 1: Summary of observations on subjects pertaining to forest law enforcement

Subject	Situations Observed	Commentary
Analysis of estimation methods (QR9)	The various methods used to estimate the volume of timber illegally logged produce greatly differing results.	MINFOF has yet to officially establish a single method of estimating volumes of illegally logged timber, despite several recommendations by the IM. Using one method over another influences the fairness of the estimates and their acceptableness in court in the case of legal challenges.
Analysis of the communiqué published by MINFOF on 03 April 2007 (QR9)	Follow-up of litigation remains inconsistent. The "Administrative Summons" section is incomplete.	Poor coordination between MINFOF's various services seems to have a negative impact on follow-up of litigation.
Lack of transparency by observer of the commission for the allocation of logging permits covering public works (QR10)	Some sales of standing volume (SSVs) are not located where stipulated in the notice of call for tenders. Fifteen SSVs were relocated with the approval of the Inter-Ministerial Permit Allocation Commission.	It is difficult to accept that, when verifying major cases such as the displacement of SSVs, the IM of illegal logging (REM)—or indeed any other law enforcement structure—cannot have direct access to these reports. One can wonder what opinion the permit allocation commission monitor expressed.
Crisis within MINFOF (QR10)	The locks on the offices of some MINFOF agents were replaced by MINEP officials in August 2007. For more than one week, several of MINFOF's activities were therefore suspended. This crisis within MINFOF worsened an already worrying situation.	The MINFOF crisis is of a nature that has a negative impact on the efficiency and productivity of its agents, which in turn influences the Voluntary Partnership Agreement negotiations in the framework of the FLEGT initiative. This lack of offices more specifically affects forest law enforcement.
The IM's comments on the Memo (lettre circulaire) dated 5 June 2007 on delivery and execution of follow-up procedures for small permits (QR10)	This circular letter excludes inventories from the elements to be included in TRP applications. It introduces the payment of a resource access fee. It describes usage rights as "declarative".	The omission of inventories in the circular is a modification of the law that cannot legally be made by circular.
Innovative management practices (QR10)	Some companies are developing innovative logging practices such as replanting timber yards and setting up experimental systems that aim to better identify the optimal growth conditions for certain species.	These practices should be encouraged. However, it would seem that they are highly localised sites and are not very widespread. A review of all such initiatives in the country would make it possible to share them with all loggers, which could become a source of positive inspiration.

The main trends observed during this year were (table 1):

- The disproportionate distribution of and lack of follow-up for transport permits reveals important procedural violations within the MINFOF. These violations continue to contribute to illegal logging in Cameroon.
- MINFOF officers have acted in violation of the required standards and procedures when allocating forest permits. This is the case, for instance, with nearly all of TRPs as well as approximately fifteen SSVs.
- MINFOF law enforcement officers have, on several occasions, not lived up to their legal responsibilities in response to flagrant instances of illegal logging.



Subject	Situations Observed	Commentary
Errors in the names of logging permit holders (QR10)	Some logging permits have been delivered to names or companies that are inconsistent or do not figure on the approved list.	These inconsistencies can be interpreted in several different ways, with a negative effect on forest litigation follow-up since, in penal matters, responsibility rests with the individual.
Fifteen SSV displaced (QR10)	<p>Fifteen SSV titles were attributed in locations that differed from those indicated in their call for tender.</p> <p>The Forests Directorate has indicated that these resulted because "once allocated and paid for, the recipients of these SSVs discovered that they were located in areas without forest cover."</p> <p>According to the Forests Directorate, the displacement was approved by the Inter-Ministerial Allocation Commission and the MINFOF supervisory authorities.</p>	<p>The Forests Directorate's argument is unfounded because the bidders were supposed to have visited the sites of these fifteen sales of standing volume before producing their bids or making any payments. The site visit (inventory) should have been the basis of the bid submitted for the SSV. Relocating the SSV title provides the recipient company with access to a potentially rich area of forest that they have not paid a competitive price for, losing the state significant amount of revenue. This has been previously documented and is known by the ministry staff.</p> <p>The IM-REM questions the legitimacy of validation by the Inter-Ministerial Commission because, under Cameroon's forest regulations, this body cannot decide to change the geographic location of a forest permit. If a change is necessary, the law requires another public call for tenders to be issued.</p> <p>These 15 SSVs represent a total revenue value ranging between FCFA 37.5 and 150 billion (or 57 to 228 million euros).</p>
Refusal to sign official statements of offence in the field (QR10)	<p>Employees of natural or legal persons active in the logging sector often refuse to sign official statements of offence in the field.</p> <p>In this situation, law enforcement officers decide to not issue official statements of offence, and are then obliged to use the administrative summons procedure.</p> <p>A refusal to sign has the consequence of prolonging the litigation follow-up process.</p>	<p>Cameroon's code of criminal procedure specifies that official statements of offence can validly be issued without the signature of the contravening parties as long as the issuing officer notes that the concerned party refused to sign.</p> <p>The Ministry's Legal Unit has already reminded law enforcement officers of this procedure of the law.</p> <p>Yet, law enforcement officers continue to not issue official statements of offence when the people encountered at the sites in question refuse to sign.</p>
Non-application of conservation measures and administrative sanctions (QR10)	<p>On-site MINFOF law enforcement teams no longer use conservation measures (closure of logging sites) or administrative sanctions (withdrawal of licenses, suspension of logging permits) in the case of flagrant instances of illegal logging.</p> <p>Law enforcement officers often merely issue official statements of offence, while allowing the illegal activity to continue. This does not stop illegalities in the field.</p>	<p>Allowing flagrant illegal logging to continue affords the perpetrators the opportunity to complete their illegal undertakings and rapidly evacuate and sell the proceeds of their illegal logging operations before they are issued an official statement of offence.</p> <p>Not taking conservation measures or using administrative sanctions helps maintain the non-dissuasive nature of forest sanctions.</p>
Worrying trend of censorship of the Independent Monitor's reports by MINFOF at Reading Committee meetings (QR10)	<p>The Reading Committee attempts to eliminate from the IM's reports any remark or fact that MINFOF law enforcement officers omit from their reports. The publication of several of the IM's reports was temporarily blocked because of this.</p> <p>Copies of MINFOF law enforcement officers' reports are not made available to Reading Committee members.</p>	<p>This practice harms the quality of law enforcement, imperils application of the National Forest and Fauna Law Enforcement Strategy, and is a step backwards in regard to the government of Cameroon's efforts at transparency in the forestry sector.</p> <p>Not making copies of MINFOF law enforcement officers' reports available to the Reading Committee members makes it impossible to comment on the quality of their work in the field.</p> <p>The currently observed trend is a worrying shift from the Reading Committee's function towards that of a Censor Committee, which works against the objectives displayed by the government through its involvement in FLEGT.</p>

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Subject	Situations Observed	Commentary
The case of a TRP granted in 2006 as compensation for a TRP granted in 1998 (QR11)	<p>Several TRPs have been granted as compensation for previous permits that were unable to be executed correctly.</p> <p>The IM raises the case of one TRP that was granted in 2006 as compensation for another TRP dating from 1998 that was said to have not been executed.</p> <p>The site was chosen by the company that received the permit in question.</p> <p>Sometimes TRPs have been granted as compensation for unspecified reasons.</p>	<p>Granting TRPs as compensation for any reason and allowing the recipients to choose their location freely seems contrary to the law.</p> <p>It is surprising that it took 8 years for this case to receive such an outcome.</p> <p>This compensatory TRP represents a large volume of timber.</p>
Inventory in TRPs (QR11)	<p>For the vast majority of TRPs granted, no inventory of commercial timber was conducted prior to the auction.</p> <p>The Forests Directorate declares that the budgets allocated to conduct such inventories are insufficient, or even nonexistent.</p> <p>This state of affairs does not reduce the number of TRPs granted and volumes authorised. On the contrary, both have risen sharply over the past two years.</p>	<p>Granting TRPs without having inventoried the timber to sell is a major flaw in the TRP allocation system, and gets around legal requirements.</p> <p>Without inventories, setting the volume of timber to fell is haphazard and opens the door to the Ministry authorising the felling of excess volumes.</p> <p>Inventories also make it possible to compare the economic advantages linked to the implementation of the development project.</p>
TRPs and gallery forests (QR11)	<p>More than one-third of the TRPs granted are located in gallery forests. In addition, eight of these TRPs have an allocated volume of more than 20,000 cubic metres.</p>	<p>The intensive logging that takes place in gallery forests causes a rapid depletion of forest capital.</p>
Disproportionate distribution of and lack of follow-up on transport permits (QR11)	<p>MINFOF grants some loggers transport permits in numbers much higher than the volume of timber to transport.</p> <p>MINFOF does not recover those exploitation and transport documents that were not used during the year from the companies.</p>	<p>Some companies use these documents to launder illegally logged timber.</p> <p>This situation is made worse by the fact that MINFOF does not follow up any of the documents not used during the year.</p>
MINFOF website (QR11)	<p>MINFOF has not had its own website since January 2007, although one could easily access important information on the www.minef.cm site in December 2006.</p>	<p>Such a website is, for ministries with economic vocations such as MINFOF, a tool of utmost importance.</p> <p>For economic operators, it is a reliable source of information, notably the territories available for sales of standing volume or TRPs; the site allows communities to know which territories are available to establish community forests; for the public, the site plays a role of instruction and education; and finally, for donors and NGOs, the site itself is an indicator of transparency within the Ministry.</p> <p>Such a tool being out of operation for more than 12 months cannot be due to a technical problem.</p>

Last year's principal conclusions and recommendations

recommendations with the aim of providing solutions to the primary problems observed since the start of the project.

A large number of conclusions and recommendations were issued last year. They are summarised in this section. However, in order to identify the most urgent and most important actions that the Ministry could take to improve forest law enforcement and governance, the Independent Monitor has identified 10 principal

Table 2: The IM's 10 principal recommendations to improve forest governance

Priority Level	Recommendations	Comments	Expected Results	Progress Made
Group A - Increase sanctions				
Urgent	Damages and interest: cap out-of-court settlement reductions at 25%	If illegality continues to be profitable, improved forest law enforcement will not be dissuasive. Currently, financial sanctions are smaller than the profits one can make from illegal operations. This problem must be addressed.	Illegality less profitable	Slight
Urgent	Application of administrative sanctions	To make law enforcement dissuasive, it is crucial to take administrative measures, such as the suspension or withdrawal of the licenses and/or permits of repeat-offender illegal loggers, the public auctioning of vehicles that served to transport timber of fraudulent origin, etc.	Illegality less profitable	27 companies suspended
Group B - Changes to procedures				
Urgent	Redefine small permit allocation procedures	The circular letter dated 5 June 2007 states that inventories are no longer necessary prior to the allocation of small permits, which can be used for unlimited felling of timber. This new provision is extremely dangerous for the sustainability of forest resources—all the more so as these permits are often granted in gallery forests, extremely fragile ecological zones the destruction of which allows savannah to spread.	Better tax collection Reduced danger to forest resource sustainability	Under examination
High	Establish systematic inventories as the sole method of evaluating the value of fraudulently felled timber	This method would make it possible to improve transparency and objectivity in setting damages and interest, and would prevent future contestation of these penalties.	Better revenue collection Illegality less profitable	None
High	Cross-check SIGIF data (declared volumes) against PSRF data (taxed volumes)	Regular cross-checking would make it possible to lower tax evasion significantly since it would make it possible to identify currently declared but not taxed volumes.	Better tax collection	None

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Priority Level	Recommendations	Comments	Expected Results	Progress Made
Group C - Improvement of information management				
High	Establish a national public registry for auctions of seized timber and small permits	<p>This would make it possible to measure the effectiveness of the auction system. Without a registry, it is difficult to track the timber sold directly by decentralised services, which opens the door to possible tax losses. The national registry should indicate the quantity, location and type of timber available for auction. MINFI would probably support this recommendation.</p> <p>Publishing information on other permits would sharply reduce the possibility of displacing permits or exploitable zones and other non-transparent, non-competitive processes that could undermine forest resource sustainability.</p>	<p>Better tax collection</p> <p>Significant reduction in the possibility of corruption within MINFOF</p> <p>Principle of competition better applied</p> <p>Reduced danger to forest resource sustainability</p>	Underway
High	Out-sourcing SIGIF and SIGICOF	One possibility to consider is outsourcing SIGIF (the database on permits, volumes, etc.) and SIGICOF (a crucial system for effective litigation follow-up). Outside companies or consultancy firms should be indicated more as partners. The reliability of the data in this system will be crucial to the FLEGT process.	<p>Better tax collection</p> <p>Significant reduction in the possibility of corruption within MINFOF</p>	None
Group D - Verification of the quality of MINFOF human resources				
Urgent	Levy sanctions on MINFOF officers	Officers guilty of collusion or of failing their duties must be sanctioned to eradicate widespread corruption and re-establish an optimum level of efficiency among MINFOF officers. Initially, it is necessary to apply existing provisions for the levying of sanctions.	Reduction of corruption and the 'minimalist' approach within MINFOF	Slight
High	Define and validate performance indicators for MINFOF law enforcement officers	The Independent Monitor is willing to assist MINFOF with the task of defining performance indicators for law enforcement officers in the field as a support to annual staff assessment. These indicators would allow for better monitoring of officers as well as adequate training or sanctions in the case of poor performance.	Reduction of corruption and the minimalist approach within MINFOF	Underway
High	Equipment training, allocation and tracking of law enforcement equipment made available to MINFOF	There is a real problem with the lack of equipment for law enforcement officers. Nevertheless, it is vital that equipment be effectively tracked so that it is not put to other uses (e.g. vehicles must be available to officers in the field, and not put for personal use).	<p>More operational forest law enforcement</p> <p>Prevention of equipment embezzlement</p>	Slight

A detailed summary of this year's conclusions and recommendations can also be found at the end of this report.



Out-of-court settlements over the past twelve months

The problem of out-of-court settlements is regularly addressed by the Independent Monitor; one of its ten principal recommendations was to cap out-of-court settlement reductions at 25% (see table 3). However, during the year in question, the out-of-court settlement reduction rate averaged 60.8% for 12 settlements reached, corresponding to loss to the state of FCFA 352 282 672 (€537 051).

Table 3: Out-of-court settlements from March 2007 to March 2008

Date	Offender	Infraction(s)	Notification Amount (FCFA)	Out-of-court Settlement Amount (FCFA)	% of reduction
02 May 2007	SEEF	Inadequate field documents (not completed daily)	600 000	525 000	13%
02 May 2007	Société Eloungou Toua	Unmarked stumps of felled trees Timber abandoned in the forest not declared on DF10	4 048 870	3 624 435	10%
02 May 2007	Monsieur Ambata Basile	Unauthorised logging in a communal forest	5 233 000	2 733 000	48%
02 August 2007	SIBC	Complicity with unauthorised logging in a communal forest	8 550 000	2 200 000	74%
02 August 2007	CABANNES Née SOPPO	Unauthorised logging operations in a communal forest	5 113 872	2 800 000	45%
02 August 2007	NSU GIDEON	Unauthorised logging operations in a communal forest	5 233 000	2 050 000	61%
02 August 2007	S N COCAM	Fraudulent use of documents issued by the forestry services	6 200 000	3 720 000	40%
09 August 2007	IFTCA	Unauthorised logging in a state forest Fraudulent use of log marks Unmarked limits of AEB 0294 Fraudulent use of documents issued by the forestry services	492 000 000	170 000 000	65%
30 January 2008	Mrs NGO TOUCK	Unauthorised logging operations in a communal forest Unmarked stumps	2 500 000	1 925 000	23%
30 January 2008	SCDS	Unauthorised logging operations in a communal forest	43 425 455	32 569 090	25%
30 January 2008	GAD	Felling of a species below minimum exploitable diameter Unmarked stumps	1 100 000	825 000	25%
30 January 2008	COMMUNE GARI GOMBO	Fraudulent use of documents issued by the forestry services	5 000 000	3 750 000	25%

The persistence of large reductions in settlement amounts for penalties can make illegality financially profitable for loggers. These practices must be avoided so that sanctions are dissuasive and to prevent repeat offences. Beyond the impact of illegal logging on resource sustainability, these practices can also make legal loggers relatively less competitive.

Principal observations:

- Twelve (12) out-of-court settlements were reached in 4 settlement meetings
- The average reduction for the year was 60.8%
- The largest reductions were those affecting the largest fines

REALISATION OF ACTIVITIES IN THE TWELFTH QUARTER (7 December 2007 – 6 March 2008)

Expected result: analysis of forest law enforcement mechanisms and procedures, and verification of their compliance with laws and regulations

Within the National Law Enforcement Brigade (BNC), the 12th quarter suffered from habitual deficiencies following a new series of nominations in MINFOF: truncated service handover, information losses and leaks, and problems assigning offices, the consequence of which was a new period of adaptation and settling-in for those in charge at the BNC—the third period of this type in three years—and a starting over from zero in many areas.

In principle, MINFOF is responsible for training new teams and transmitting files. Because of MINFOF's lack of action and an adequate system, the Independent Monitor was obliged, during this transition and learning period, to fulfil the role of primary advisor to the BNC by default for diverse tasks such as producing the official communiqué on forest-related infractions, preparing Reading Committee meetings, and scheduling and preparing field visits.

The BNC sent four law enforcement teams into the field during the month of December even though these missions had not been scheduled during a coordination meeting between the BNC and the Independent Monitor. The BNC heads of mission did not hold any preparatory meetings for any of their respective missions before going into the field. This was tolerated given the arrival of new staff inexperienced in law enforcement. Following this, the operating procedure between the BNC and the Independent Monitor was restated several times, and a new series of three field visits was launched in February after having been scheduled during a coordination meeting. However, some team leaders forgot to hold preparatory meetings.

For instance, the Independent Monitor learned that a BNC team was going on a law enforcement mission when the head of mission telephoned it on a Sunday afternoon to inform it that a field visit would take place at 8:00 A.M. the next day, Monday 11 February. The Independent Monitor refused to take part in this mission without holding a preparatory meeting or information exchange beforehand.

The next day, Monday, the Independent Monitor contacted the BNC about the matter, mentioning that it considered the settling-in

period to be over, and demanded that the procedures set up by the government of Cameroon to improve forest law enforcement and governance be followed. Shortly thereafter, the other two heads of mission invited the Independent Monitor to attend a preparatory meeting, thus re-establishing a procedure whose enforcement had lapsed considerably since the latest nominations.

Conclusions

- The new series of nominations and staff rotation at the BNC triggered a new lapse, detrimental to the quality of the law enforcement service's activities as well as the independent monitoring of these activities that the government of Cameroon wished to implement.
- The settling-in period for the new team in charge of law enforcement must be reduced to a minimum.

Recommendations

- The Independent Monitor recommends that it be involved in all service handovers at the BNC.
- The Independent Monitor recommends that MINFOF set up an effective handover system, and that a training dossier be created for new officers assigned to the BNC.



Team of officers from the delegation of the Haute Sanaga, December 2007



Theme 1: Data processing and taxation

Background

In order to master logging activity data, the government of Cameroon, through MINFOF and MINFI, has various tools to allow it to manage its forest resources and the associated revenues. For instance, MINFOF has SIGIF, forest accounting software in which data on all declared felled timber and the volume of each of these trees are entered. For their part, the DGE and the PSRF have accounting and financial software in which total declared felled volumes and the amount of the felling tax corresponding to these volumes are entered. All these structures operate under a self-declaration system in which permit holders must produce monthly felling declarations by the 15th of the following month at the latest. Compiling and then cross-checking all these data should allow accurate collection of forestry taxes and duties.

Situation observed

SIGIF is a database containing most of the forestry-related information. The software is installed at headquarters in Yaoundé and in the East and South Province delegations. All the data must be centralised for processing. By the start of March 2008, the 2007 data had not yet been centralised. At PSRF and the DGE, no 2007 data were available in March 2008.

Even sometimes incomplete, these three programmes are sufficient to master the payment of felling taxes if the necessary compilations and cross-checks are done. However, within these services, all in-house compilation depends entirely on the personal initiative of the managers assigned to these programmes. For its part, the cross-checking of data from the various services is practically nonexistent inasmuch as none of the government services, directorates or inspectorates write any verification reports on this subject.

Commentary

These programmes are, therefore, used mainly to record cubic metres and CFA francs. However, cross-checking these data is what allows one to know exactly what amounts to collect. In self-declaration systems in which no cross-checking is done, economic operators could be tempted to voluntarily under-declare so as to reduce the taxes they must pay, being certain that they can do so with impunity. It would be wise to establish a series of decision-making protocols that would compare data from each service and highlight discrepancies that require more in-depth examination.

Conclusion

- There is almost no cross-checking of operators' declarations to verify the proper payment of their felling taxes.

Recommendation

- MINFOF or MINFI should establish a logging data and payments verification procedure.

Theme 2: Factors limiting data analysis

Background

Forest exploitation and taxation information management programmes such as SIGIF are valid computer tools to manage the flow of data well and facilitate the collection of duties and taxes. MINFOF and MINFI therefore have all the necessary software available to them.

Situation observed

The data recorded in the programmes are rarely compiled (intra-service) or cross-checked (inter-service). There is no verification protocol on this subject. In addition, one can note that the human resources authorised to compile and cross-check such data are extremely limited. Indeed, these operations require mastery of computer software such as Excel or Access, which seems to be lacking among several MINFOF officers. These services are, on the other hand, well-supplied with computer equipment.

In SIGIF, the centralisation of East and South Provinces data is very late. The Forest Directorate states that data entry is not complete in the provinces due to a lack of resources. The provinces, however, have indicated that data entry is complete and ready to be transmitted to the Centre with the help of a USB drive or by email, but that they are waiting for a mission to be set up. An identical situation applies to the PSRF, which also has regional branches.

Commentary

The limited knowledge of computers among MINFOF staff is explained primarily by the fact that current staff come from a generation of engineers for whom computer skills were neither taught nor used intensively during their university training. It would be advantageous to establish a continuing education programme in order to remedy this serious gap. Similarly, particular care must be given to the profiles of managers in charge of managing

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these programmes. Nominating someone with limited computer knowledge to the head of SIGIF, for example, would be counter-productive.

When it comes to data centralisation, it is surprising to see that the problem resides in transferring files by Internet or in transporting a USB drive, given that there is a high frequency of exchange between the Ministry and the decentralised services and, thereby, transmitting these data very rapidly is highly possible.

Table 4: Compliance with law enforcement procedures

IM Report No	Subject	Preparation	Completion	Official Notification	BNC Reports
81	CUF FMU 09 019, FIPCAM FMU 09 017, GAU-S Partner: WIJMA FMU 09 022 SABM FMU 08 002	x	x	x	Unknown
82	Checkpoints	N/A	N/A	N/A	Unknown

Expected Result: improved law enforcement operations by the appropriate MINFOF services

Mission planning

A coordination meeting was held on 31 January and chaired by the Head of the Law Enforcement Brigade. Mission scheduling and litigation follow-up were discussed. However, no minutes of this meeting have been written to date.

Table 5: Alleged forest law infractions

Ref. No.	Summary of Allegations	Location	Action Undertaken by the Monitor	MINFOF Reaction
08-01	A logger is alleged to be felling timber outside the limits of his TRP	Minta Upper Sanaga	Inclusion of this site in the Ambassadors' field visit	
08-02	The economic operator cited in 08-01 is alleged to have felled more than 40,000 cubic metres of timber in the forest reserve identified by GFW as 08-007a	Upper Sanaga	Exchange of information with GFW, the BNC and the cartography division	Cartography service mission
08-03	A subprefect is alleged to have granted a TRA	Meyomessala, Dja and Lobo	Inclusion in a future mission schedule	

Conclusion

- The analysis of forestry and taxation data is seriously handicapped.

Recommendations

- A continuing education programme on data analysis software should be elaborated.
- MINFOF's and the PSRF's East and South Province delegations should transmit their data regularly at the end of each month to their respective central services.

Registry of complaints and denunciations

Table 5 summarises the complaints, denunciations and allegations of forest law infractions or irregularities received by the Independent Monitor during the 12th quarter.

N.B: It is important to emphasise that the allegations listed in table 5 require verification and do not equate to formal charges against the companies mentioned. The mission reports on the verification of allegations must be read to establish the facts.



Missions conducted

Table 6 presents the missions conducted during this quarter. Details on each mission are presented later in this report.

Table 6: Missions conducted

Type	Report No.	Dates	Departments/Provinces
Joint	081	From 13 to 24 December 2007	Ntem Valley, Mvila, Upper Sanaga South and Centre Provinces
Joint	082	From 13 to 22 February 2008	Mbam and Kim, Lékié, Upper Sanaga Centre Province

Joint BNC/Independent Monitor missions

Table 7: Summary of principal observations during these missions

Report No. Date	Holder Permit	Observations in the Field
081 from 13 to 24 December 2007	CUFFMU 09 019	Lack of intervention planning documents Abandoned timber not recorded on DF10 Poor record-keeping Use of date of hauling to the log pond instead of felling date Unmarked stumps and timber
	FIPCAM FMU 09 017	Abandoned timber not recorded on DF10 Poor record-keeping Declarations not in compliance
	GAU-S Partner: WIJMA FMU 09 022	No irregularities seen in this FMU
	SABM FMU 08 002	In the absence of those in charge, the mission could not conduct its investigations in this permit where activities had been stopped
082 from 13 to 22 February 2008	Checkpoints	Mission report in preparation



Mission to investigate timber recovery permits, Mbam et Kim, February 2008

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Missions in the South and Centre Provinces: These field visits took place shortly before the Christmas holidays. Neither scheduled nor prepared, they were several MINFOF officers' first missions as BNC law enforcement officers. Partially as a result of this, the BNC and the Independent Monitor viewed these missions as training exercises for these new officers.

Field Visits to Checkpoints: After holding preparatory meetings with two Heads of Mission, the Independent Monitor accompanied one of these teams on the field visit to checkpoints. It took place from 13 to 22 February.

Ambassadors' Field Visit: This mission (see theme 3) took place on 31 January and 1 February 2008. It was conducted at the initiative of several ambassadors whose goal was to become more familiar with the realities of logging in Cameroon. The ambassadors thus asked the Independent Monitor of Forest Law Enforcement and Governance to facilitate this field visit because of its knowledge of the field. The Monitor therefore proposed an itinerary for the visit, which was accepted.

Drafting of the IM-REM's reports

During the 12th quarter, the Independent Monitor wrote reports No. 080 and 081, and is in the process of finalising report No. 082.

Reading committee meetings

The Reading Committee did not meet during the 12th quarter. At the end of the quarter, the following reports were submitted to the Reading Committee for study.

It is appropriate to note that when the minutes of the previous Reading Committee meeting, which took place on 28 August 2007, reached the Independent Monitor, it contained a serious omission in regard to report No. 067 on the subject of three

Table 8: IM Reports Submitted to the reading committee

Report No.	Number of Permits	Date of Submission
074	1	13/09/07
075	7	13/09/07
076	7	13/09/07
077	TRP – 23 permits	15/11/07
078	Port of Douala	15/11/07
079	1	16/01/08
080	4	16/01/08
081	4	06/02/08

displacements of sales of standing volume. The minutes in question stated that all references to these displacements should be removed from the Independent Monitor's report, whereas a consensus had been obtained during the Reading Committee meeting to reformulate certain passages and add a recommendation, without however removing the observations in regard to the displacements. No corrections were made to these minutes during the quarter, despite a letter addressed to the Minister detailing this point in the 11th quarter.

Publication of mission reports

No new reports were published during the quarter.

Currently, three mission reports have not been able to be published. They are reports R-045 (Ing. F.), R-057 (GAD) and R-067 (AFRIGRUM, EFM and Tchebayou/SIM).

Conclusions

- The BNC conducted several field visits without previously scheduling or preparing them.
- The Reading Committee has not met for more than six months.
- The Upper Sanaga department continues to be the source of several allegations of illegality.

Recommendations

- The BNC should follow the procedures for collaboration with the Independent Monitor in regard to field visits.
- Reading Committee meetings should be held more regularly.



Analysis of documents at the WIJMA operations base in Ma'an, December 2007

Theme 3: Ambassadors' field visit to TRPs

Background

Diverse parties take an interest in logging in Cameroon. They are, notably, members of the private sector, national civil society, international NGOs, and donor countries or organisations. The Independent Monitor has a mandate to contribute to all of the above mentioned parties' good knowledge of the forest sector. In this framework, a number of ambassadors from countries that support Cameroon's efforts to strengthen its forest sector asked the Independent Monitor to accompany them on a visit to a logging site.

Situation observed

From 31 January to 1 February 2008, accompanied by the Independent Monitor and MINFOF officers, the European Commission Head of Delegation in the Republic of Cameroon, the Italian ambassador to Cameroon, Canada's High Commissioner in Cameroon, and a senior French diplomat visited a logging site in Ntui, in the Mbam and Kim Department. The visit focused mainly on TRPs or 'small permits' for several reasons.

'Small permits' or TRPs are generally granted with an eye to the opening of a road, plantation or any development project. They have various names, notably Timber Recovery Permit (TRP), Timber Removal (TR), Timber Removal Authorisation (TRA), Timber Salvage (TS_TR), or Road Opening Permit (ROP).

These permits are characterised by a high degree of illegality. The last field visits by MINFOF law enforcement officers and the Independent Monitor revealed that the incidence of illegality

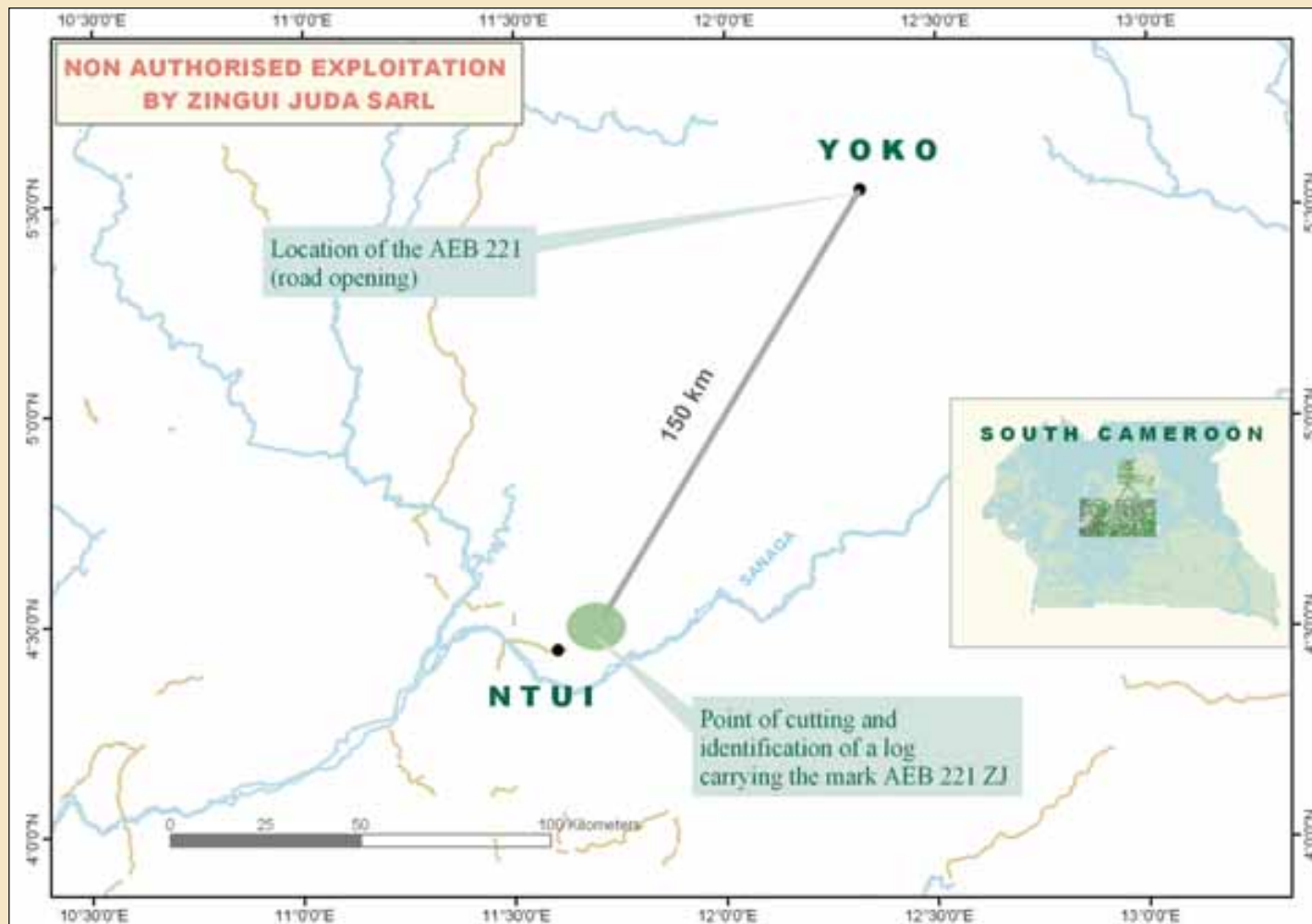
in 'small permits' zones is more than 80%. Cases of permit displacement, logging outside permit limits, and fraudulent use of log marks are the most frequent infractions within these permits. On a logging site in Ntui, the ambassadors found a stump with the log mark of TRP 0221 issued to the private limited company ZINGUI JUDA, a TRP located in Yoko more than 150 km from the Ntui site as shown in the following photo and maps.

At this time, it was also emphasised that TRPs currently produce more than 300 000 cubic metres of timber per year; it is therefore erroneous to continue to call them 'small permits'. This category of permits is believed to have become the second largest source of timber in Cameroon, behind FMUs.



Log with marks from TRP number 0221, found 150 km away from the forest title allocated to the company ZINGUI JUDA Sarl. This log was discovered during the mission with the Ambassadors, Mbam et Kim, 1 February 2008

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Unauthorized logging by the company ZINGUI JUDA Sarl. Mission with the Ambassadors, Mbam et Kim, 1 February 2008

It also turns out that these small permits are not the subject of an effective issuance, monitoring, filing or revenue payment system, whereas FMUs and sales of standing volume have an issuance, monitoring, filing and payment system—the Computerised Forest Information Management System (SIGIF)—at the Forestry Revenue Securement Programme (PSRF) and the Ministry of Finance’s Division of Major Enterprises (DGE). TRPs also have no clearly established follow-up framework, and the elements of the file on each permit are often scattered among the Forest Directorate, the SEGIF, or in MINFOF Provincial Delegations. Several of these elements (maps, site locations, timber inventories, impact assessments, etc.) are often missing from the files. None of these permits appear on the maps elaborated jointly by MINFOF and Global Forest Watch. Collecting the duties and taxes pertaining to these permits is a laborious task.

Commentary

Small permits or TRPs are rapidly increasing in number, quantity of timber produced, and illegality. Of course, they are legal permits, but their exploitation causes problems. Almost all of the timber obtained through these permits is exported and very few permit-holders pay taxes. Major and urgent measures are indispensable, especially at this time when FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement negotiations are underway. The trafficking in or poor use of transport permits is one of the things that contribute to the current TRP situation.

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Conclusion

- Failure to convene Reading Committee meetings over a long period of time granted de facto impunity to companies caught red-handed. Without Reading Committee meetings, the capitalisation of the Independent Monitor's recommendations is practically nonexistent. What is more, this situation gives an erroneous image of the forest sector in Cameroon because the publication of documented cases is blocked.

Recommendation

- The Reading Committee should be convened as a matter of urgency so as to allow publication of the Independent Monitor's mission reports.

Theme 5: Roadside inspection of timber

Background

The forest law enforcement system in Cameroon includes inspection of logging sites, in processing units, and finally roadside inspections along timber removal routes. These roadside inspections are conducted by the MINFOF departmental delegations at checkpoints that they set up in their jurisdictions, and by the PSRF. Their role is to verify the legality of the timber transported. Despite this system, the IM's latest missions revealed serious procedural deviation in the use of transport documents (transport permits) issued to the holders of logging permits.

Situation observed

Timber marking, one of the elements of forest law enforcement upstream from checkpoints, is not done in the field in compliance with the regulatory requirements in force. Timber is marked several kilometres from the logging site. This situation fosters the laundering of illegally felled timber by preventing its detection at checkpoints.

Vehicles transporting timber circulate without transport permits and still manage to convey timber to its destination requiring the crossing several checkpoints. This fact is an indicator that probable collusion could exist between the people assigned to perform roadside verifications and the owners of the timber in question.

The activities at checkpoints are also affected by interventions from 'superiors'. On several occasions, acting officers at

checkpoints informed the IM of the problem that, as soon as a vehicle is immobilised (even for valid reasons), interventions burst forth from all sides in order to liberate it. As checkpoints are the lowest rung on the law enforcement ladder, one can easily understand the degree of pressure to which these officers are subjected.

The structures conducting law enforcement-related activities along transport routes operate like an unconnected, heteroclite ensemble. This situation is manifest, among other things, by the lack of communication channels, the wide variability in data collected, and the insufficient use of these data. The structures in charge of roadside timber inspection do not have tools that would allow them to rapidly verify the information provided to them by transporters. These structures are in fact data collection points more than law enforcement points.

Timber transporters are not sufficiently informed of the risks (potential penalties) they run transporting fraudulently logged timber.

Commentary

The poor operation of the upstream system combined with the internal problems of roadside timber inspection make this type of law enforcement inoperative in Cameroon. In other words, this means that timber of fraudulent origin can cross checkpoints with or without documentation and reach the port. Seen from this angle, timber inspection along transport routes is akin to merely an additional annoyance for transporters that does not contribute much to the fight against fraudulent practices.



Timber seized following unauthorised logging in the national forest estate, Walla Haute Sanaga, 24 September 2007



Conclusion

- In its current configuration, the timber inspection system along transport routes is not uniform and lacks effectiveness.

Recommendations

- All departmental delegates should be instructed to establish checkpoints on the strategic roads in their respective territories of jurisdiction.
- The Central Administration should keep a log of all checkpoints.
- Synergy should be created between MINFOF and PSRF checkpoints. This can be done by harmonising data collection methods, providing MINFOF checkpoints with a stamp to mark each transport document travelling through each checkpoint, and requiring following checkpoints to verify that documents have indeed been stamped. This can limit the use of transport documents outside their intended itineraries.
- Checkpoints should be provided with an updated list of valid and operational permits as well as the corresponding timber marks. This verification could also reduce the unverified use of timber marks.
- The data collected by MINFOF checkpoints should be compiled weekly in the departmental processing and promotion sections with the aim of the BNC producing quarterly reports analysing this data.

Theme 6: Timber exports via the Port of Douala

Background

This year, Cameroon formally began the negotiations to establish a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the European Union in the framework of the FLEGT process. Following this, if such an agreement is reached, the two parties will agree on what constitutes legal timber, which shall be the only timber authorised for sale on the European market. This link between the APV and international trade means that timber exports are one of the key issues that both parties must examine. In this context, it is appropriate to draw MINFOF's attention in particular to the situation in the nerve centre of Cameroon's timber exports, the port of Douala, which was recently visited by several law enforcement missions in which the Independent Monitor took part.

Situation observed

Timber enters the port of Douala by three principal routes. First, timber arrives by lorry, passing the PSRF-MINFOF checkpoint located at the entry to the port where the following is verified:

- The compliance of the timber transported with its transport document, the transport permit;
- The validity of the tax discharge; and
- The validity of the source permit indicated on the transport document.

After this verification, the timber enters the port and is stored either in the SEPBC's commercial log pond or in a few private log ponds owned by companies such as CFC/SEBC and SEFAC/SEBAC.

Second, timber reaches the port by railroad (CAMRAIL) and goes directly to the SEPBC's log ponds or other private log ponds. This timber does not go through the checkpoint located at the entry to the port and arrives in the port with a transport note, copies of which are not given to the MINFOF Provincial Delegation.

Finally, timber reaching the port of Douala in sealed containers goes directly to the container terminal managed by DIT (Douala International Terminal). This timber is not inspected by MINFOF services at the port because, once sealed ("empotés"), the containers are not opened again until they are shipped. The sealing ("empotage") of containers outside the port is supposed to be done in the presence of customs agents and MINFOF officers, who are supposed to verify the content of the containers before signing the sealing certificates.

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Following this mission, the law enforcement teams noted the following:

- Unauthorised species, timber on which all the taxes have not been paid, timber from inactive, inexistent or invalid permits and timber whose documentation indicates incorrect sites of origin all of which manages to be exported from the port of Douala.
- Timber transport permits are frequently used outside of their prescribed itineraries.
- MINFOF officers assigned to the port do not have the necessary logistic and material resources to adequately perform their jobs. Indeed, given the frenetic pace of arrivals—practically 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and very often several loads at a time—Forest Post II law enforcement staff (5 people), without transportation within the port, without adequate logistics and without night duty staff, are simply not present every time timber is loaded. Their work is limited to verifying timber in the log ponds.
- SEPBC, COMCAM, DIT, SIGIF and PSRF data are not regularly cross-checked.
- MINFOF officers are not present every time timber is loaded or containers are sealed so as to ensure that the specified timber is really the timber loaded.
- Some operators export more than their allotted quotas.
- Sawmills and mobile sawmills (such as Lucas Mills) appear to be at the centre of the mechanism to launder a large quantity of illegal timber exports in a sawn wood format.

Commentary

Monitoring the traceability of timber is an important stage for the viability and success of the FLEGT process. The goal is to ensure the source of timber exported and sold on international markets. This goal makes the port of Douala a nerve centre in the process and justifies current efforts to eradicate some of the problems at this export point. Indeed, in recent months, the MINFOF has suspended the timber export operations of 27 people whose timber was of suspicious origin. The Ministry has also signed a circular on the verification of the use of transport permits, the principal tool in the laundering and fraudulent export of timber. These efforts, while praiseworthy, still need to be consolidated with many other measures, notably regular cross-checking of each operator's export data against their production.

Conclusions

- Timber of illegal origin is exported from the port of Douala.
- The fraudulent use of transport permits remain the principal tool used to export illegal timber via the port of Douala.
- MINFOF's services at the port do not have the capacity and resources to keep up with the rapid pace of timber shipments.
- Several databases exist but their regular non-use by MINFOF renders them ineffective against the export of illegal timber.
- The traceability of exported timber is inadequate to provide credibility to the FLEGT process.
- Containers are sealed without MINFOF officers present.

Recommendations

- MINFOF should set up a specialised service in charge of distributing and tracking timber transport documents.
- The MINFOF services' human and material resources in the port of Douala and the city itself should be increased.
- Measures to verify the timber to be placed in containers prior to loading should be implemented.
- MINFOF officers should be able to be present at every sealing as required.
- Data from COMCAM, SEPBC, DIT, SIGIF and PSRF should be cross-checked every quarter.

Expected Result: improved forest law enforcement report follow-up, including pursuit of litigation

Follow-up of mission reports

Following a joint mission in the port of Douala in October 2007, 27 companies were suspended for failing to respond to MINFOF's invitations to contact ministry officials. Similarly, 24 companies were summoned so that they could demonstrate the source of their timber as being legitimate. The communiqués dated 15 February 2008 on this subject can be found in an appendix.

Analysis of the official communiqué on forest-related infractions

The following analysis is the Independent Monitor's commentary on Communiqué No. 0120/MINFOF/CAB/BNC dated 29 February 2008 detailing forest litigation.

Generally speaking, the analysis reveals that the number of cases listed in the official communiqué on forest-related infractions is clearly growing. However, problems remain when it comes to the inclusion of all issued statements of offence in the published communiqué, the slow pace of litigation, and the pursuit of litigation initiated by the decentralised services.

Litigation missing from the new communiqué of February 2008

- 1) **APS, TRA 0886, No. 002/PVCI/MINFOF/BNC dated 10 October 2005** for non demarcation of the boundaries of the road to open, logging beyond the authorised distance of 160 metres from each side of the median, logging outside authorised itineraries
- 2) **BALENG GILBERT, No. 048/PVCI/MINFOF/DP-LT/BPC** for unauthorised logging in a communal forest
- 3) **SEEF, No. 081/PVCI/MINFOF/CAB/BNC dated 09 January 2007** for poor keeping of sawmill entry documents
- 4) **SFCS, No. 071/PVCI/MINEF/CAB/UCC dated 09 May 2005** for a subcontracting agreement with TOLLAZI without MINEF approval
- 5) **SIBM, No. 127/PVCI/MINFOF/CAB/BNC dated 19 December 2007** for poor keeping of logging documents and abandoning timber in the forest
- 6) **SEPFCS, No. 128/PVCI/MINFOF/CAB/BNC dated 21 December 2007** for unauthorised logging in a communal forest
- 7) **EFMK, No. 129/PVCI/MINFOF/CAB/BNC dated 17 December 2007** for failure to comply with general logging regulations and lack of marks on logs in the log pond

- 8) **SCTB, No. 130/PVCI/MINFOF/CAB/BNC dated 04 January 2008** for activities not in compliance with the management plan
- 9) **ANDA Gaspard, No. 131/PVCI/MINFOF/CAB/BNC dated 25 November 2007** for unauthorised logging in a communal forest
- 10) **Abong Mbang et Fils, No. 132/PVCI/MINFOF/CAB/BNC dated 26 November 2007** for fraudulent use of transport permits
- 11) **Abong Mbang Car, No. 133/PVCI/MINFOF/CAB/BNC dated 27 November 2007** for unauthorised logging in a community forest
- 12) **GAZA, No. 134/PVCI/MINFOF/CAB/BNC dated 04 December 2007** for unauthorised logging in a communal forest and fraudulent use of transport permits
- 13) **TRC, No. 135/PVCI/MINFOF/CAB/BNC dated 17 December 2007** for poor keeping of sawmill entry documents, and 364 cubic metres of timber processed but not recorded on the sawmill entry documents



Field documents not filled in daily by the company CUF, December 2007

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These cases of litigation, which had been listed in the previous communiqués under various headings, are missing from the recently published communiqué. In addition, litigation cited on the list of cases represented by lawyers is not listed with litigation transferred to the courts or in the process of being transferred. This is the case for **SFCS** and **SAMBA Antoine**. The same is true for the companies **CBC** and **ETOGC**, whose cases are said to be in the hands of lawyers (see note in the communiqué) but are not found under the heading of cases transferred to the court or in the process of being transferred, nor under the heading of litigation transmitted to lawyers.

Cases misclassified

- 1) **GIC MBIELABOT** has been shifted from the heading ‘company having received initial notification’ to the heading ‘cases in reconstitution’.
- 2) The heading ‘litigation with initial notification underway’ contains cases for which official statements of offence have not yet been issued because the parties concerned have not responded to the summons. This is the case for the companies **MMG**, **YEMELLI**, **ETF**, **EFTG**, and **EFMM**.
- 3) A new heading ‘cases in reconstitution’ has been added to the Official Communiqué on Forest-Related Infractions. It contains not only those cases which have all the necessary references to proceed with litigation (official statement of offence number, nature of the infraction, who committed the infraction, the amount of fines) but also those cases for which the companies in question have not answered the summons. Why have cases with properly issued official statements of offence—that is to say with all the necessary information—been placed under the heading ‘cases in reconstitution’?
- 4) The cases of the companies **SCDS**, **GAD**, **Mrs. NGO TOUCK** and the **Commune of Gari Gombo**, which have already been judged, appear under the heading ‘cases entered into out-of-court settlement’.

General remarks on litigation management

- 1) Litigation management is characterised by poor coordination among the various MINFOF directorates. Indeed, companies suspended from all activity by MINFOF or whose out-of-court settlement attempts have failed are simultaneously granted export permits, small permits, or felling areas. This is the case for the companies **SFW**, **SCIFO**, **SFCS**, **ETF**, and **Martial et Cie**.
- 2) Companies that do not respond to the summonses sent to them continue to receive all the authorisations necessary to conduct their logging activities. This is the case for the companies **MMG** and **EFT**.

Theme 7: Litigation involving individuals

Background

Every quarter, the Ministry of Forests and Fauna makes public information on the litigation it undertakes against companies active in the forest sector. These communiqués, known under the name of “sommier des infractions” (summary of infractions), have evolved over the years. Initially composed of five sections, the communiqué now has nine, reflecting its adaptation to changes in the sector, the national law enforcement strategy, and SIGICOF.

Situation observed

A retrospective examination of the MINFOF’s various communiqués since December 2005 allows one to note the growing and persistent appearance of litigation involving individuals. This trend reflects MINFOF’s difficulties concluding this type of litigation through either out-of-court settlements or the competent courts. As an example, the table below (table 9) compares the progress of litigation initiated against individuals between the communiqué dated 29 December 2005 and the communiqué dated 29 February 2008.

Forest-related litigation that is not closed by an out-of-court settlement has a maximum delay of 5 months before it is transferred to the court. Yet, in table 9, one finds cases initiated in 2005 (3 years ago) that have not yet reached the courts.

Commentary

Comparison of the communiqué published in December 2005 with the one published in February 2008 clearly shows that the number of cases involving individuals has increased sevenfold (13 in 2005 and 100 in 2008). The increase in this type of litigation calls for particular vigilance in regard to MINFOF’s difficulties concluding this type of litigation. MINFOF’s difficulties arise, notably, from the fact that the individuals who are issued official statements of offence by sworn officers are not generally licensed for logging. Consequently, their addresses are not known to MINFOF services. The other difficulty lies in the lack of a reliable filing system at the BNC, which is the source of the disappearance of certain litigation files.



Table 9: Progress in litigation involving individuals (Dec. 2005 – Feb. 2008)

Name	Litigation Status in December 2005	State of Progress in Litigation in 2008	Remarks
Ndzana Toua Maurice	Company whose final official notification of fines is underway	Precautionary suspension	
Mballa Seh Georges	Company whose final official notification of fines is underway		Missing from communiqué
Ngounou Wandja Marie Louise	Company whose final official notification of fines is underway		Missing from communiqué
Samba Antoine Felix	Company whose requests and demand for out-of-court settlement are under study	Litigation transferred to the court	
Ondoua Akono	Litigation transferred to the court	Litigation transferred to the court	
Mane Emmanuel Crispy	New litigation	Litigation transferred to the court	
Olomo Ndzie	New litigation	Case represented by a lawyer	
Nsangou Arouna	New litigation	Precautionary suspension	
Mbongo Otabela	New litigation	Precautionary suspension	
Gba Mbake	New litigation	Litigation transferred to the court	
Ambassa JP	New litigation	Dossier being transferred to the court	
Iloko Ikwa Ya Nono/sc Mbutila Guy	New litigation	Precautionary suspension	
Happi Francis	New litigation		Missing from communiqué

Conclusion

- MINFOF should find solutions to the problems that impact litigation initiated against individuals; if it does not, it runs the risk of finding its official communiqué on forest-related infractions filled with a large number of unsolvable cases.

Recommendations

- Litigation in general and cases initiated against individuals in particular should be treated promptly and within the timeframe outlined in the law.
- MINFOF should progress cases in the official communiqué on forest-related infractions by immediately transferring all cases that have exceeded the regulatory timeline to the competent courts.
- MINFOF should activate SIGICOF, a tool placed at its disposition three years ago.



REALISATION OF ACTIVITIES IN THE TWELFTH QUARTER (7 December 2007 – 6 March 2008)

Expected Result: improved dissemination of logging information validated by the Reading Committee

Facilitate consultation of information on the website www.minef.cm

MINFOF's website was out of order throughout the quarter. For already more than fifteen months, people active in Cameroon's forest sector have been deprived of this service which delivers relevant information, notably on the status of litigation, the list of valid and active permits, the list of community forests, and various communiqués and ministerial decisions.

Encourage the dissemination of information and exchange between representatives of civil society, the private sector and the services involved in law enforcement

During the 12th quarter, the Independent Monitor maintained regular contact with various parties involved in the forest sector in Cameroon.

Meetings with various interested donors

The Independent Monitor met several times with international partners and donors interested in the forest sector. The meetings of the CCPM (the 'Cadre de Concertation des Partenaires du MINFOF', an official dialogue structure) and the forest governance study steering committee, and bilateral exchange sessions served as a framework for most meetings between the Independent Monitor and donors.

Meetings with MINFOF and MINFI representatives

The Independent Monitor had several working sessions and meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Forests and Fauna. These included notably a meeting with the Minister, and several working sessions with the Secretary General, the Director of Forests, and the Inspector General. During one of the meetings with the directorates of forests, processing and community forests, the issue of following the Independent Monitor's recommendations was addressed and the decision was taken to examine the feasibility of applying these recommendations. The regular meetings with the Head of the National Forest Law Enforcement Brigade and its members also contributed positively to the proper flow of the Independent Monitor's work. Indeed, the relationship between the Independent Monitor and MINFOF has substantially improved.

The Independent Monitor has maintained contact in the framework of gathering data on forest taxation. This is an important stage insomuch as the persuasive nature of forest law enforcement depends in part on MINFI's capacity to collect the payments owed resulting from forest-related litigation.

Contact with communities and local and international NGOs

As it did during the previous quarters, the Independent Monitor maintained ongoing and fruitful contact with communities and local and international NGOs as well as with research institutes interested in the forest sector, notably CED, CIFOR and various other international agencies. In addition, several communities and village representatives have continued to contact the Independent Monitor to report infractions or request information.



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A detailed summary of this year's conclusions and recommendations can be found below. It provides some perspective on the observed trends. For instance, the effectiveness of the BNC's work depends on new initiatives noted (QR9), the paralysis caused by an office allocation crisis (QR10), non-compliance with law enforcement standards (QR11), and recurrent problems related to new nominations (QR12).

- Negligence in the mission planning and preparation procedure have been emphasised in all quarterly reports.
- The regularity of the Reading Committee is praised in QR10 but deplored in QR12.
- Observations pertaining to the issuance of official reports varied from quarter to quarter: encouraging (QR9), very few (QR10), only three (QR11), and none during the TRP mission despite the detection of flagrant infractions.

- The non-operation of MINFOF's website has regularly been emphasised (QR9, QR11).

On the other hand, in compliance with the wishes of MINFOF and several of its international partners, the Independent Monitor project has been extended for an initial period of 3 months, until June 2008, at which time a new extension is envisaged in order to prevent a break in the flow of information during the FLEGT VPA negotiation period.



Timber seized following unauthorised logging in the national forest estate, Walla Haute Sanaga, 24 September 2007

Operation of forest law enforcement and governance systems

► CONCLUSIONS

► RECOMMENDATIONS

General aspects	
The overall quality of the BNC's work has not improved. (QR10)	All BNC staff should take part in training exercises and receive qualitative monitoring in connection with the national law enforcement strategy. (QR10)
Missions are conducted without compliance with the standards of the forest and fauna law enforcement strategy. (QR11)	MINFOaF, and the General Inspectorate in particular, should set up a mechanism to monitor and evaluate the quality of work by law enforcement officers in the field. (QR11)
MINFOF's estimation techniques are very approximative and open to contestation, and there is no one single and mandatory method of estimating the volume of illegally logged timber. (QR9)	MINFOF should establish regulations on a single method of estimating illegally logged timber volumes, and this estimation method should be communicated to the decentralised services so that it can be included in their procedure manuals. (QR9)
Forest law enforcement was affected by an office allocation crisis within MINFOF. (QR10)	Administrative failures of this nature should be subject to inspection to ensure they do not happen again. (QR10)
BNC law enforcement officers do not always issue official statements of offence, even when they encounter flagrant infractions. (QR11)	Sanctions should be levied against officers who witness infractions but do not issue official statements of offence. (QR11)
Initiatives taken by heads of mission to improve law enforcement are to be encouraged. (QR9)	New initiatives should be evaluated during monthly coordination meetings. (QR9)
A new series of nominations and staff rotation at the BNC triggered a new lapse detrimental to the quality of the law enforcement service's activities as well as the independent monitoring of these activities that the government of Cameroon wishes to implement. (QR12)	The Independent Monitor recommends that MINFOF set up an effective handover system, and that a training dossier be created for new officers assigned to the BNC. (QR12)
Permit allocation	
The logging permit allocation commission's independent monitor is not transparent. (QR10)	MINFOF should call to order the logging permit allocation commission's independent monitor in regard to its transparency objectives. (QR10)
Timber recovery permits (TRPs) or "small permits"	
The current circular letter (dated 5 June 2007) eliminates inventories prior to the granting of small permits, and replaces the inventory-based sale price for standing timber to recover with a per-hectare payment rule based on the felling tax. (QR10)	<p>A new circular letter should be amended to reflect compliance required within the law. (QR10)</p> <p>Prior inventory of timber to be removed should be reinstated. (QR10)</p> <p>Standing timber to recover should be auctioned after inventory at the sale price set by the finance law, and not based on the felling tax and resource access fee. (QR10)</p>
The allocation of some TRPs raises several questions in regard to compliance with Cameroon's forest law. (QR11)	MINFOF should review the procedures applied in the allocation of all TRPs. (QR11)
The very small budgets allocated to taking inventories prior to the auction of TRP timber helps generate a major procedural violation. (QR11)	The budgets allocated to inventories related to the granting of TRPs should be increased. (QR11)

Operation of forest law enforcement and governance systems

► CONCLUSIONS

The granting of TRPs without prior inventories is very harmful to the Cameroonian state in terms of lost revenue. (QR11)

The extensive granting of TRPs in gallery forests should be rethought given its impact on the environment. (QR11)

TRPs continue to be one of the primary sources of serious logging illegalities in Cameroon. (QR12)

TRP illegalities have the potential to hinder the proper operation of a possible Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the government of Cameroon. (QR12)

Tax evasion is one aspect of the illegality that characterises TRPs. (QR12)

It is indispensable to have a single and reliable file with the geographic coordinates of all TRPs, as is currently the case for all other permits. (QR12)

Sales of standing volume

Fifteen sales of standing volume were displaced in violation of legal procedures. (QR10)

The holders of the said sales of standing volume, claimed to be located in sites without forest cover, do not have any right to compensation since they were supposed to visit the sites before applying and making any payments. (QR10)

The Inter-Ministerial Commission did not have the right to ratify the changes to the location of these sales of standing volume without launching a new notice of call for tender procedure. (QR10)

Cross-checking of declarations and taxation

There is almost no cross-checking of loggers' declarations to verify the proper payment of their felling taxes. (QR12)

The analysis of forestry and taxation data is seriously handicapped. (QR12)

► RECOMMENDATIONS

The law should be followed scrupulously in regard to inventories being prerequisites for the allocation of TRPs. (QR11)

Inventories should be reinstated as an indispensable condition in the TRP allocation process. (QR11)

Standards on logging in gallery forests should be elaborated and strictly enforced. (QR11)

The allocation of TRPs should be suspended until these new standards are adopted. (QR11)

All TRPs or 'small permits' found to be involved in illegal logging should be revoked. (QR12)

MINFOF should establish a new list of TRPs, removing from the list all those found not to be in compliance with forest law. (QR12)

MINFOF should revise the circular letter on the organisation of these 'small permits' so as to define all TRP monitoring stages clearly, from permit request to payment of all associated duties, and include an in-house verification form for each stage. (QR12)

A general tax audit should be initiated at the PSRF and the DGE with the aim of collecting all the taxes due following exploitation of TRPs over the past two years. (QR12)

MINFOF should initiate an internal administrative investigation to determine who was responsible for the displacement. (QR10)

Measures should be taken to compensate, according to the results of this investigation, the state and communities for these sales of standing volume. (QR10)

An investigation should be opened in regard to the responsibility of the companies concerned by the relocations granted and forest law infractions. (QR10)

MINFOF or MINFI should establish a logging data and payments verification procedure. (QR12)

A continuing education programme on data analysis software should be elaborated. (QR12)

MINFOF's and the PSRF's East and South Province delegations should transmit their data regularly at the end of each month to their respective central services. (QR12)

Operation of forest law enforcement and governance systems

► CONCLUSIONS

► RECOMMENDATIONS

Roadside inspection of timber	
In its current configuration, the timber inspection system along transport routes is not uniform and lacks effectiveness. (QR12)	<p>All departmental delegates should be instructed to establish checkpoints on the strategic roads in their respective territories of jurisdiction. (QR12)</p> <p>The Central Administration should keep a repertory of all checkpoints. (QR12)</p> <p>Synergy should be created between MINFOF and PSRF checkpoints. (QR12)</p> <p>Checkpoints should be provided with an updated list of valid and operational permits as well as the corresponding timber marks. (QR12)</p> <p>The data collected by MINFOF checkpoints should be compiled weekly in the departmental processing and promotion sections with the aim of the BNC producing quarterly reports analysing this data. (QR12)</p>
Illegal exports via the Port of Douala	
Timber of illegal origin is regularly exported from the port of Douala. (QR12)	Measures should be taken to verify the timber to be placed in containers prior to shipping. (QR12)
Transport permits remain the principal tool used to export illegal timber via the port of Douala. (QR12)	MINFOF should set up a specialised service in charge of distributing and tracking timber transport documents. (QR12)
MINFOF's services at the port do not have the capacity or means to keep up with the very rapid pace of timber shipments. (QR12)	The MINFOF services' human and material resources in the port of Douala and the city itself should be increased. (QR12)
Several databases exist but their regular non-use by MINFOF makes them ineffective against the export of illegal timber. (QR12)	Data from COMCAM, SEPBC, DIT, SIGIF and PSRF should be cross-checked every quarter. (QR12)
Containers are sealed without MINFOF officers present. (QR12)	MINFOF officers should be able to be present at every sealing as required. (QR12)
Field missions and investigations into logging activities	
Coordination meetings are sporadic and concern only mission scheduling. (QR9) (QR10) (QR11)	The BNC should devote more energy and time to coordination meetings with the Independent Monitor so that these meetings are regular, substantial and, thereby, beneficial. (QR9) (QR10) (QR11)
The search for basic information is not carried out properly during mission preparation. (QR10)	All BNC staff should take part in training exercises and receive qualitative monitoring in connection with the national law enforcement strategy. (QR10)
The community forest database is in a very impractical computer format. (QR9)	MINFOF databases should be assessed so as to identify easily correctible weaknesses. (QR9)

► **CONCLUSIONS**

► **RECOMMENDATIONS**

General aspects	
Some litigation is not listed in the publications. (QR9)	The litigation that has disappeared should return with an aim to promote normal pursuit of the procedures. (QR9)
Follow-up of litigation remains disparate, as the Independent Monitor has already pointed out in several of its previous publications. (QR9)	MINFOF should improve follow-up of forest litigation through the use of SIGICOF. (QR9)
Follow-up of litigation was dysfunctional during this quarter, in which there were no monthly litigation follow-up meetings as provided for in the terms of reference, no out-of-court settlements, and no Reading Committee meetings. (QR11)	MINFOF, and more specifically the National Brigade and the Legal Unit, should regularly organise monthly litigation follow-up meetings. (QR11)
One logger has been the subject of three separate denunciations. (QR11)	Particular attention should be paid to loggers who are denounced regularly. (QR11)
MINFOF should find solutions to the problems that impact litigation initiated against individuals; if it does not, it runs the risk of finding its official communiqué on forest-related infractions filled with unsolvable cases. (QR12)	<p>Litigation in general and cases initiated against individuals in particular should be treated promptly and within the timeframe outlined in the law. (QR12)</p> <p>MINFOF should clean up the official communiqué on forest-related infractions by immediately transferring all cases that have exceeded the regulatory timeline to the competent courts. (QR12)</p>
Official statements of offence	
The case cited in the Independent Monitor's report No. 052 on a joint mission conducted with the BNC in July 2006 has not yet been the subject of litigation. The same is true for reports No. 058 and 059. (QR9)	<p>The BNC should initiate litigation as soon as missions are complete. (QR9)</p> <p>The cases listed in the Independent Monitor's reports No. 052, 058 and 059 should be the subject of litigation. (QR9)</p>
During the first quarter, there was an encouraging trend in the number of official statements of offence issues following law enforcement missions. (QR9)	This trend should be maintained.
<p>MINFOF law enforcement officers continue to fail to establish official statements of offence in the field whenever someone in charge says they do not have the authority to sign this procedural document. (QR10)</p> <p>Loggers formally forbid their field agents from signing official statements of offence. (QR10)</p> <p>The forest litigation process is slowed because administrative summons are often difficult to serve. (QR10)</p>	MINFOF law enforcement officers should comply with the provisions of Article 90, paragraph 6 of the New Code of Criminal Procedure, which states that in the case of refusal to sign, the issuing officer only has to mention the refusal in the official statement of offence. (QR10)
Infraction nomenclature	
In some cases, infraction names are not in compliance with legal provisions. (QR9)	MINFOF should produce an infraction nomenclature guide for all law enforcement officers. (QR9)
Logging/transport documents	
MINFOF law enforcement officers, and more specifically the National Forest Law Enforcement Brigade, allow illegal logging to continue because they do not seize logging documents. (QR10)	In the case of flagrant illegal logging, MINFOF law enforcement officers, and more specifically the National Forest Law Enforcement Brigade, should seize logging documents (DF10, field documents, transport permits, etc.). (QR10)

► CONCLUSIONS

► RECOMMENDATIONS

MINFOF does not track the use of logging and transport documents. (QR11)

At the end of every year, MINFOF should follow up and recover all unused transport and logging documents to prevent them from being used to launder illegally logged timber. (QR11)

Large numbers of unused transport and logging documents remain in the hands of loggers, which creates the risk that they will be used to launder illegally logged timber. (QR11)

MINFOF should grant only the minimum necessary transport permits and other logging documents to loggers. (QR11)

Out-of-court settlements

There was a downward trend in out-of-court settlement reductions during the first quarter, which was a positive and persuasive trend. (QR9) However, this trend reversed later in the year (at 60.8%, the average reduction for the year was very high).

There should be a 25% cap on out-of-court settlement reductions.

Sanctions

MINFOF does not withdraw or suspend licences or permits, even for repeat offenders. This contributes to the non-dissuasive nature of forest sanctions. (QR10)

MINFOF should make regular use of logging licence or permit withdrawal and suspension measures when the legal conditions, such as repeat offences, are present. (QR10)

Operation of Independent Monitoring

► CONCLUSIONS

At the start of this third year, there was a longer and longer delay in the signature of Reading Committee meeting minutes. (QR9)

Reading Committee meetings were often convened only a few days before they were scheduled to take place, which has prevented several members from attending. (QR10)

Some members of the Reading Committee, especially donors, have been absent from Reading Committee meetings. (QR10)

Dissemination of information

The non-publication of the Independent Monitor's reports is tied to lengthy delays in the transmission of Reading Committee minutes to the Independent Monitor, and to the selective nature of the Reading Committee's examination of reports. (QR9)

The BNC's reports are not submitted to the Reading Committee. (QR10)

The reports by MINFOF law enforcement officers (BNC and others) are not made available to Reading Committee members. (QR10)

Some of the Independent Monitor's reports have been blocked because MINFOF law enforcement officers omitted certain facts in their mission reports. (QR10)

The minutes of the Reading Committee meeting on 28 August do not reflect the content of the resolutions taken during the meeting and this blocks the dissemination of information from the Independent Monitor. (QR11)

During the first quarter of the year, a degree of improvement was noted in the regular holding of Reading Committee meetings and in the signature of the publication discharge by the Minister. (QR9)

However, the Reading Committee last meet on 28 August 2007, 10 months ago. Reports covering more than 38 logging permits are waiting for a Reading Committee meeting. This state of affairs ensures impunity for the companies caught red-handed during these missions. (QR11) (QR12)

MINFOF website

MINFOF's website is still dysfunctional. (QR9) (QR11)

► RECOMMENDATIONS

The Reading Committee chair should be diligent about signing Reading Committee meeting minutes within a relatively short period of time. (QR9)

MINFOF should distribute notices of Reading Committee meetings at least one week before they are held. (QR10)

Reading Committee members should attend the meetings. (QR10)

The monthly schedule for Reading Committee meetings should be respected; reports should be examined in the order that they arrive at MINFOF; and minutes should be transmitted to the Independent Monitor in a timely manner. (QR9)

The Head of the BNC should attentively read the terms of reference for the Independent Monitor project so that he can fulfil the commitments made by the ministry. (QR10)

Copies of the reports by MINFOF law enforcement officers should be made available to all Reading Committee members in a timely manner. (QR10)

The Independent Monitor's reports should be published even when MINFOF law enforcement officers do not include all the facts observed on missions in their reports. (QR10)

The Reading Committee chair should diligently ensure that this body's conclusions are faithfully reproduced in the minutes. (QR11)

The Reading Committee should be convened as a matter of urgency so as to allow publication of the Independent Monitor's mission reports. (QR12)

MINFOF's website should be reactivated and updated. (QR9) (QR11)

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Communiqué on suspended companies

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Paix - Travail - Patrie

MINISTÈRE DES FORÊTS ET DE LA FAUNE

CABINET DU MINISTRE

BRIGADE NATIONALE DE CONTRÔLE

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
Peace - Work - Fatherland

MINISTRY OF FOREST AND WILDLIFE

MINISTER'S CABINET

NATIONAL BRIGADE CONTROL

N° 0114/RPR/MINFOR/CAB/BNC Yaoundé, 15 FÉV 2008

RADIO AND PRESS RELEASE

The following forest companies which have not reacted to the various invitations to get in touch with officials of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, following the seizure of their timber in the Douala Port in October 2007, are suspended from their activities, starting from the date of signature of the present radio and press release.



N°	Abbreviated Appellation	Full Name
1	AC	ARNAUD CORPORATION
2	SBC	BOIS ET METAL DU CAMEROUN
3	BK BUSINESS	BK BUSINESS
4	CAMES	CAMEROUN EXPRESS Sarl
5	CF	
6	EAW	ETTA AFRIC WOOD
7	EBC	ETS BILCOVE CAMEROUN
8	EFH	EFH
9	EGS	
10	EFR	ETS KR IMPORT EXPORT
11	ERTECO	ERTECO CAMEROUN
12	ETG	ETS ELOUNDOU
13	ETS BP	ETS BEMELINGUINE PAULINE
14	GGR	ETS GRE GC-R
15	FTH	SOCIÉTÉ FOTRAB Sarl
16	GWB	
17	KTB	ASSOCIATION BUSINESS KT BOIS
18	LL	
19	SCAPMET	
20	SFW	SOCIÉTÉ FORESTIÈRE WANDJA
21	SNP	SOCIÉTÉ NOUVELLE FORESTIÈRE
22	SNS	
23	SOCIAA	SOCIÉTÉ CAMEROUNAISE DES INDUSTRIES ALIMENTAIRES
24	TLC	
25	TT	
26	TTC	TECHNO TRANS Sarl
27	WI	



NGOLLE NGOLLE ELVIS

ANNEXES

Annex 2: Communiqué on administrative summonses

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN Paix - Travail - Patrie MINISTÈRE DES FORÊTS ET DE LA FAUNE CABINET DU MINISTRE BRIGADE NATIONALE DE CONTRÔLE	REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON Peace - Work - Fatherland MINISTRY OF FOREST AND WILDLIFE MINISTER'S CABINET NATIONAL BRIGADE CONTROL																																																																											
N° 0113 /CPR/MINFOR/CAB/BNC	Yaoundé, 15 FEV 2008																																																																											
<u>RADIO AND PRESS RELEASE</u>																																																																												
<p>The Minister of Forestry and Wildlife hereby invites the Economic Operators listed herebelow, and whose timber Products have been seized in October 2007, in the Douala Fort, to report to his services (Room 629 - Ministerial Building N° 2), on 22 February 2008 at the latest with all the documents likely to justify the origin of the timber Products under seizure. Failure to honour this invitation, they will automatically be all suspended from their activities.</p>																																																																												
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;">N° d'Ordre</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Abreviated Appelation</th> <th style="width: 70%;">Full Name</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">CWB</td><td>CAMEROUN WOOD BUSINESS</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">EGR</td><td>ETS GRECC R</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">EJB</td><td>ETS JA BOIS</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">ESTNO</td><td>STE FORESTIERE ESTNO</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">ETF</td><td>ETS TAGUETIEU ET FILS</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">ETS ARBO LIFE</td><td>ETS ARBO LIFE</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td style="text-align: center;">ETS BOLACAM</td><td>ETS BOLACAM</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td style="text-align: center;">ETS ZOK</td><td>ETS ZOK</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td style="text-align: center;">EZA</td><td>ETS ZINYAK ADOLPHE</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">FZ</td><td>FZ</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">IBACO</td><td>IBACO</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td style="text-align: center;">JDF</td><td>ETS DINO ET FILS</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td style="text-align: center;">NB</td><td>NATTON BOIS</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">14</td><td style="text-align: center;">RTLK</td><td>ROCKFIELD TRADING LTD CAMEROUN</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">15</td><td style="text-align: center;">SCIÉRIES KASA</td><td>LÈS SCIÉRIES KASA</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">16</td><td style="text-align: center;">SENWOOD</td><td>SENWOOD CAMEROUN LTD</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">17</td><td style="text-align: center;">SETABO</td><td>STE D'EXPLOITATION ET DE TRANSFORMATION AGRICOLE ET DU BOIS</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">18</td><td style="text-align: center;">SFSC</td><td>STE FORESTIERE ET DES SERVICES DU CAMEROUN</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">19</td><td style="text-align: center;">SHA</td><td>STE DES HACHES ET AFZELTA</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">20</td><td style="text-align: center;">TCS</td><td>TCS</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">21</td><td style="text-align: center;">TF BOIS</td><td>ETS T.F. BOIS</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">22</td><td style="text-align: center;">TRANSCAM</td><td>TRANSA TLANTIQUE CAMEROUN</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">23</td><td style="text-align: center;">TRECUM</td><td>TRANSPORT REPRESENTATION COMMERCIALE</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">24</td><td style="text-align: center;">WSS</td><td>ETS WOOD SUPPLY AND SERVICES</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	N° d'Ordre	Abreviated Appelation	Full Name	1	CWB	CAMEROUN WOOD BUSINESS	2	EGR	ETS GRECC R	3	EJB	ETS JA BOIS	4	ESTNO	STE FORESTIERE ESTNO	5	ETF	ETS TAGUETIEU ET FILS	6	ETS ARBO LIFE	ETS ARBO LIFE	7	ETS BOLACAM	ETS BOLACAM	8	ETS ZOK	ETS ZOK	9	EZA	ETS ZINYAK ADOLPHE	10	FZ	FZ	11	IBACO	IBACO	12	JDF	ETS DINO ET FILS	13	NB	NATTON BOIS	14	RTLK	ROCKFIELD TRADING LTD CAMEROUN	15	SCIÉRIES KASA	LÈS SCIÉRIES KASA	16	SENWOOD	SENWOOD CAMEROUN LTD	17	SETABO	STE D'EXPLOITATION ET DE TRANSFORMATION AGRICOLE ET DU BOIS	18	SFSC	STE FORESTIERE ET DES SERVICES DU CAMEROUN	19	SHA	STE DES HACHES ET AFZELTA	20	TCS	TCS	21	TF BOIS	ETS T.F. BOIS	22	TRANSCAM	TRANSA TLANTIQUE CAMEROUN	23	TRECUM	TRANSPORT REPRESENTATION COMMERCIALE	24	WSS	ETS WOOD SUPPLY AND SERVICES	
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LIST OF REM REPORTS ON INDEPENDENT MONITORING AVAILABLE ON WWW.REM.ORG.UK

Cameroon

Quarterly reports analysing forest law enforcement and the follow-up of infractions

Quarterly report n°1, March 2005 - June 2005
Quarterly report n°2, June 2005 - September 2005
Quarterly report n°3, September 2005– December 2005
Quarterly report n°4, December 2005 – March 2006
Quarterly report n°5, March 2006 – May 2006
Quarterly report n°6, June 2006 – August 2006
Quarterly report n°7, September 2006 – November 2006
Quarterly report n°8, December 2006 – February 2007
Quarterly report n°9, March 2007 – May 2007
Quarterly report n°10, June 2007 – August 2007
Quarterly report n°11, September 2007 – November 2007

Field mission reports including the results for investigations made on forest infractions

73 field mission reports covering over 160 forest exploitation titles have been published since March 2005.

Tanzania

REM scoping mission report to establish Independent Monitoring of Forest Law Enforcement and Governance, July 2006

Republic of Congo (Brazzaville)

REM scoping mission report to establish Independent Monitoring of Forest Law Enforcement and Governance, October 2005

Scoping mission reports, Congo Basin, 2008

Field mission reports, 2008

Democratic Republic of Congo (Kinshasa)

Recommendations from REM to the Independent Monitor of the conversion of old forest licenses into forest concessions, October 2004.



Reading Committee, Brazzaville, 4 and 5 February 2008 (participants: members of the Congo Brazzaville Independent Monitoring project, representatives of the Ministère de l'Economie Forestière, representatives of civil society).

ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

BNC	MINFOF's National Forest Law Enforcement Brigade (which replaced the MINFOF's Central Law Enforcement Brigade)
BPC	MINFOF's Provincial Forest Law Enforcement Brigade
CF	Community Forest
DF10	Field documents stating the volume and species of timber logged under valid permits.
DGE	Division of Major Enterprises
FMU	Forest Management Unit
GCI	Group of Common Initiative
GPS	Global Positioning System. A satellite-based navigation system that locates points on the Earth's surface with a high degree of precision.
IM	Independent Monitor (REM)
MINFOF	Ministry of Forests and Fauna
OSO	Official Statement of Offence
PSRF	Forestry Revenue Securement Programme
QR	REM Independent Monitor Quarterly Report
REM	Resource Extraction Monitoring
SEGIF	Forest Information Management Service
SIGICOF	Computerised Forest Infractions and Litigation Management System
SIGIF	Computerised Forest Information Management System
SSV	Sale of Standing Volume. A sale of standing volume authorises the exploitation of a precise volume of timber in a limited zone (2,500 ha) for a given period of time. This volume must not exceed the zone's annual exploitation potential.
ToR	Terms of Reference
TP	Transport Permit. An official document that each transporter of forest products must hold. It indicates the products' origin, quantity and characteristics.
TRP	Timber Recovery Permit
UCC	Central Law Enforcement Brigade, the former law enforcement structure that was replaced by the BNC (25 August 2005). See BNC.



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Timber yard resulting from illegal logging, AEB 0079, September 2007



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