



Système Normalisé  
Observation Indépendante Externe



Forêts et Développement Rural  
Pour un Monde meilleur



## 428,108 m<sup>3</sup> of wood seized by the forestry administration following a control mission to Ngwei triggered by a report on the reporting of the Standardized System of Civil Society Independent Forest Monitoring

March 2020

Following the transmission to MINFOF of a joint report denouncing alleged illegal logging activities in the forests of the national domain (FDN) of the villages Ngwei and Mapubi, produced by the organizations SUHE and PAPEL following the approach of Standardized System of Civil Society Independent Forest Monitoring (SNOIE<sup>1</sup>), a control mission of the MINFOF Regional Brigade of the Littoral, was carried out in October 2019 on the site of the denunciation. During the fact-finding mission, the facts alleged to be unlawful denounced in the above-mentioned report were revealed.

During the mission, forest administration controllers seized fraudulently exploited wood. Thus, a total of 428,108 m<sup>3</sup> of wood was confiscated by the forestry administration. These fraudulently exploited woods consisted of 11 logs of Ekop beli (*Monopetalanthus letestui*) with a total volume estimated at 107,710 m<sup>3</sup>; 903 pieces of sawn timber from Ekop beli with a total volume estimated at 64.66m<sup>3</sup> and 16 logs of various species of wood not skidded with a total volume estimated at 255.738 m<sup>3</sup>.

The IFM mission carried out by SUHE and PAPEL was triggered following a Forestlink<sup>2</sup> alert from August 6 to 10, 2019. This fact-finding mission had enabled the team to observe several indications of illegality. Thus, it had been documented on the working site::

- Forty-four (44) unlabelled strains including 28 strains of Ekop Beli, 09 strains of Bilinga (*Nauclea diderrichii*) and 07 strains of Azobé (*Lophira alata*);
- Ten (10) logs not skidded near their stumps including 03 Azobé balls, 04 Bilinga balls and 03 Ekop Béli balls for a total volume estimated at 138,074m<sup>3</sup>;

\*Standardized External Independent Monitoring System (SNOIE) is an independent forest monitoring approach ISO 9001: 2015 certified since April 2018 and implemented by the organizations FODER, PAPEL, CEDLA, ECODEV and TI-C

1. Forestlink is a real-time tracking system (STR) that allows communities, wherever where they are in the world, to record and transmit geo-referenced information on suspected illegal activities in forests".

- Three (03) parks containing eleven (11) Ekop Beli logs bearing no mark cubing 146,233m<sup>3</sup>;
- Two hundred and forty-eight (248) pieces of Ekop Béli cubing 17,433m<sup>3</sup> cut with a chainsaw;
- Three (03) camps that housed the saw chain sawing team of sawn wood and a machine (bulldozer) camouflaged in the forest used for industrial logging.

During the control mission of the forestry administration and the IFM mission, the alleged perpetrators of this illegal logging could not be

identified. However, the testimonies gathered through the interviews during the IFM mission overwhelm various actors from traditional chiefdoms, local administration and individuals from village communities for complicity. From the analysis of the facts observed during the control mission and the IFM mission, the authors are engaged in unauthorized exploitation in the forests of the national domain (FDN) in violation of the provisions of article 53 of the forestry law of 20 January 1994 establishing the forestry, wildlife and fishing regime; facts punished by article 156 (3) of the same law.



*All the opinions expressed in this publication are those of FODER. They do not absolutely match the point of view of donors and technical and financial partners.*

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Suède  
Sverige



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