



## Non authorized timbers logging in the ASSGRIMEN Community Forest located in the centre region

April 2020

A total of 193.3043 m<sup>3</sup> of unmarked wooden logs from various species has been observed during an independent external observation or **Independent Forest Monitoring (IFM)** mission in the ASSGRIMEN community forest, located in the centre region. This IFM has been carried out by the organisation Ecosystèmes et Développement (ECODEV), according to the **Standardized External Independent Monitoring System (SNOIE) procedures**.

Logging activities of unmarked wooden logs in the community forest and precisely in the zone named as 30, meaning close (5m) to a water course and on very sloppy areas; the obstruction of an unknown water course through exploitation activities are all being operated violating existing laws. Indeed, actors of this logging are presumed guilty of infractions related to non-compliance with intervention standards in forest environment and logging in community forest without authorization. These observed facts are developed in violation of the provisions of article 15<sup>1</sup> from chapter 4 of forest intervention standards, article 128<sup>2</sup> of the law N° 81/013 of November 27th 1981 on the regime of forests, wildlife and fishing and articles 65<sup>3</sup>, 156<sup>4</sup>, paragraph 3 of the law 94/01 of January 20th 1994 on the regime of forests, wildlife and fishing.

*\*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. **Article 15:** «The holder of a logging permit must keep intact a wooded edge of a width of 30 m, measured from the natural high-water line, by the sea, a river, a lake or swamp”.
2. **Note:** «This measure protects the banks from erosion and prevents sediment from entering the water. It protects mangroves, gallery forests in the humid savannah zone and riparian forests or riparian ecotones in the Sudano-Sahelian zone from degradation”.
3. **Article 128:** «is punished with a fine of 500,000 francs to 2,000,000 francs and imprisonment of 3 months to 2 years or one of these two penalties only, whoever:
  - Carries out fraudulent logging
4. **Article 65 :** Any violation of the provisions of this law or of the regulatory texts adopted for its application, and in particular the violation of the prescriptions of a management plan for a permanent or community forest, or the violation of (...) achievements clauses of the specifications lead either to the suspension, or in the event of recidivism, the withdrawal of the exploitation title or if necessary, of the approval under the conditions fixed by decree ”.
5. **Article 156 paragraph 3:** «unauthorized logging in a forest in the national or community estate, in violation of articles 52, 53 and 54, without prejudice to damages on the timber exploited as provided for in article 159»



A copy of the denunciation rapport has been submitted to forest administration in March, 16th 2020. The investigation's mission led by ECODEV on the operating site enabled the observation of indices characterizing 10 timbers from different species; namely Red Padouk, Tali, Sapelli, Ayous, Iroko, Ilomba, white Doussié, Fraké, Ngollon and a non-botanically identified specie suspected being harvested illegally.

It was therefore observed on the operating site 19 unmarked stumps of different species disseminated in the community forest and 34 unmarked logs of various species, representing a total volume of 193. 3043 m<sup>3</sup> in the 02 forest parks distributed as follow: 15 logs in park 1 and 19 logs in park 2.

The suspected forest operator of this presumed illegal forest exploitation was not identified. Its name is unknown by the community and the forest administration of Haute Sanaga's Division. From interviews of Metep community members, exploitation in the ASSGRIMEN community

Forest seems to have started 03 months ago. It seems the operator came to the village through a native son. And according to the personnel of forest division office of the locality joined through phone by the monitoring team, this community forest does not possess logging documents for the 2020 financial year, specifically the Annual logging Certificate.

ECODEV's investigation mission was triggered following a FLEGT event Watch de Visio Terra, showing referenced satellite images: DEF-ET-001 et DEF-ET-002– CMR-FODER06 – Zone 1 UFA 08001 on areas monitored by the Association Forêts et Développement Rural (FODER). This was implemented through the financial support of the Project: "Citizen Voices for Change: Forest Monitoring in the Congo Basin (CV4C Project), implemented in Cameroun the Association Forêts et Développement Rural (FODER) and its partner.

## List of exploited species observed during this presumed illegal logging

Type of species concerned by the presumed illegal logging	number of observed wooden logs	cubing of woods
Tali	06	23,3011 m <sup>3</sup>
Doussié blanc	03	11,9230 m <sup>3</sup>
Iroko	08	50,7294 m <sup>3</sup>
Padouk	07	47,7500 m <sup>3</sup>
Ayous	08	51,5016 m <sup>3</sup>
Fraké	01	7,0724 m <sup>3</sup>
Ngollon	01	7,0268 m <sup>3</sup>
	<b>Total Volume of Cubed wood</b>	<b>193,3043 m<sup>3</sup></b>

### Download the following forest monitoring report

[https://oiecameroun.org/images/documents/rapports/006\\_RO-SNOIE\\_ECODEV\\_Bibey\\_Post-CTE\\_10302020.pdf](https://oiecameroun.org/images/documents/rapports/006_RO-SNOIE_ECODEV_Bibey_Post-CTE_10302020.pdf)

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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