

## Wijma: destroying Cameroon's rainforests

### Cameroon's Forest of the Great Apes

**"The timber that goes from Mount Elephant to Wijma's sawmill, and that is later transported to the Netherlands, is at least as grey as the three-piece suits of the [Wijma] directors. These directors can claim to have a soul as white as cream, but the butter is dripping along their ears."**

*J-P Mentens, Hakken in Kameroen (Cutting in Cameroon), 2001*

The lowland rainforest of Cameroon forms part of Africa's stunning Forest of the Great Apes. One of the world's last remaining strongholds of species such as lowland gorillas, chimpanzees and forest elephants, this forest supports many thousands of species of plants and animals and is home to around 12 million forest-dependent people. But today, their future is under threat, as illegal and destructive logging companies encroach deeper and deeper into this fragile forest.<sup>1</sup>

In recent years, a number of reports published by the Cameroonian government and the World Bank have revealed the predominance of illegal activities within Cameroon's logging industry;<sup>2</sup> activities which cost the Cameroonian government millions of dollars each year in lost revenue.<sup>3</sup> In the last three years, numerous timber companies have been fined for illegal practices such as tax evasion, logging outside legal boundaries, logging after permits have expired, cutting undersized trees and logging in unallocated concession areas.<sup>4</sup>



July 2001: new logging road in East Cameroon

One of the main factors driving this corrupt, destructive and economically inefficient industry is the demand from the international marketplace – that is, the demand from importing nations who choose to ignore what is going on in the forest and carry on with business as usual.

### Houthandel Gebroeders Wijma & Zonen B.V. (GWZ)

The Dutch logger and importer Wijma (GWZ) specialises in highly durable timber for marine engineering projects, but also deals in wood for housing, roads, utility building and other specific applications. An important part of Wijma's trading activity is focused on the West African species Azobé (*Lophira alata* – also known as Ekki or Bongossi), and it operates one of the world's largest Azobé sawmills, located in Kampen in the Netherlands.

Throughout the world ancient forests are in crisis. Some 80% of the world's original ancient forest cover is already gone; illegal and destructive logging poses the single greatest threat to what remains. The uncontrolled international trade in ancient forest products fuels this destruction. As part of its campaign to protect what is left of the world's ancient forests, Greenpeace is carrying out investigations into logging companies involved in illegal, destructive and abusive activities and is calling on consumers, trading partners and governments around the world to stop their role in driving this unscrupulous industry.

**"A disastrous partnership of loggers and hunters in the Congo basin ... [means that] in as little as ten years... the world's second-biggest tropical forest could be emptied of large mammals; and Africa's great apes – gorillas, chimpanzees and bonobos – could become extinct."**

*The Economist, 12 January 2002*



Wijma deals with some of the most notorious loggers in Cameroon

Through contacts with timber agents and sawmills, Wijma also buys timber from the ancient rainforests of Latin America (Surinam, Guyana, French Guiana, Brazil) and Southeast Asia (Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore),<sup>5</sup> as well as trading in non-tropical timber. The company owns subsidiaries and additional sawmills in Germany, Cameroon, Ghana and Ivory Coast; it also has trading activities in Liberia and sales offices in the US, France and the UK.

In its promotional literature, Wijma makes much of its Forestry Action Plan, which it claims it has developed to "produce its products in an environmentally acceptable way".<sup>6</sup> Wijma timber is often profiled as "reliable timber".<sup>7</sup>

But in practice Wijma is a global trader dealing with companies involved in illegal, destructive and socially disruptive forestry practices – including some of the most notorious loggers in Cameroon, and Liberian timber companies with documented involvement in large-scale environmental destruction, social conflicts and illegal arms trafficking.<sup>8</sup> Wijma claims to have stopped buying from certain Liberian timber companies; however, it has yet to clarify its current purchasing policy.

#### The Wijma Group in Cameroon

In Cameroon itself, Wijma's own logging activities can by no means be described as sustainable, and many of its trading partners have been involved in illegal logging activities and social conflicts.

Wijma has had a presence in Cameroon since 1968. It received its first concession (50,000ha) in the South Province in 1970. The company's last logging licence expired in August 1998, since when it has continued to log as a subcontractor in other allocated concessions and through a variety of short-term cutting permits. In the last couple of years, the company has also intensified its sourcing of Cameroonian wood from third-party companies.

For the most part these third-party suppliers themselves hold only short-term, small-scale logging licences – ventes de coupe and récupérations – that are subject to weak controls or none at all.<sup>9</sup> The récupération in particular is inherently flawed – no management plan is required, and there is no stipulation that trees below a certain diameter should not be cut down. Moreover it has been universally abused, being awarded to companies whose proposed projects were often poorly defined or entirely unspecified. The vente de coupe, meanwhile, is widely abused by operators: one report found that "The vast majority of ...ventes de coupe seems to involve illegal practices (absence of title, expired title, but above all exceeding the boundaries of the cutblock)."<sup>10</sup> Wijma is now heavily dependent (both directly and via its third-party suppliers) on such short-term logging permits, which are completely at odds with the requirements of sustainable forest management. Consequently most of the Cameroonian timber traded by the company over the last four years has come from highly destructive sources.

Table 1: Companies belonging to Wijma in Cameroon

Company	Description
Wijma (GWZ)	GWZ currently operates three ventes de coupe in the country's South Province. In January 2002 GWZ was awarded a 72,705ha concession (UFA 11-002). <sup>11</sup>
Compagnie Forestière de Kribi (CFK)	Controlled by Wijma, <sup>12</sup> CFK operates at least two ventes de coupe in the South Province. CFK is also operating the 42,000ha concession UFA 09-021, previously controlled by COFA (see below). In early 2002, CFK was awarded a 51,204ha logging concession (UFA 09-013). <sup>13</sup>

**"The GWZ group controls the whole production chain from base material (round logs of west African forests) to semi-finished products (sawn timber and timber structures). So we are able to handle and monitor the product in an environmentally acceptable way during the whole production process."**

**"GWZ will take all possible steps to ensure that its own production off the forests [in Africa] is ecologically sustainable, economically viable and socially acceptable. GWZ has committed itself to the ITTO target of achieving by the year 2000 at the latest a sustainable management of tropical forests."**

*Wijma/GWZ leaflet Forest management in West Africa*

Société de Transformation Industrielle de Kumba (STIK)

STIK, which is largely controlled by Wijma,<sup>14</sup> has a sawmill at Kumba.

In addition to these companies belonging to Wijma in Cameroon, the company has also been closely linked, via its CFK subsidiary, to another company – COFA (Compagnie Forestière d'Assam). CFK created a partnership with COFA to log the 41,956 ha concession UFA 09-021<sup>15</sup>. Some of the logs were exported directly by Wijma, while the rest were processed in the CFK sawmill and exported by Wijma/CFK. In the summer of 2001, Wijma took over the management of this concession.

[Photos GWZ/COFA; CFK]

Table 2: Some of the companies linked to Wijma (Cameroon) through current or recent (1999 – 2001) timber sales

Company	Description
FMEJL	Wijma's mills are supplied partly through the efforts of the company's middleman Kremer. One of the recent timber supplies that Kremer organised for Wijma came from a highly controversial logging operation carried out by local company EJL at Mount Elephant, a forest area inside the buffer zone of the Campo Ma'an National Park. Kremer had organised this deal via the little-known Cameroonian company FM. <sup>16</sup>
Boitex	Awarded several récupérations over a number of years, the Cameroonian logging company Boitex is a supplier to Wijma. <sup>17</sup>
Panagiotis Marelis	Operating at least one vente de coupe and a number of récupérations, this Greek company was an important supplier to Wijma in 2000. <sup>18</sup> P. Marelis now also controls a 138,675ha concession (UFA 10-062).
Soforoc	A Cameroonian company that has been operating various ventes de coupe and two récupérations, Soforoc is known to have sold timber to Wijma. <sup>19</sup>
Mba Mba Georges (MMG)	MMG has a sawmill in Kribi which, according to a French report, was built with technical assistance from Wijma. <sup>20</sup> MMG has operated various short-term cutting licences and obtained concession 00.003 in 2000. Some of the timber produced by MMG is sold to Wijma. <sup>21</sup>
Cameroon United Forest (CUF)	CUF has operated at least one récupération and controls a 38,347ha concession (UFA 09-019). Wijma has confirmed to Greenpeace that CUF is a regular supplier. <sup>22</sup>
Dimitrios Nikolas Karayannis (DNK)	In recent years this Greek company has been operating various short-term titles. <sup>23</sup> The company also has a sawmill at Ebolowa (annual capacity 24,000m <sup>3</sup> ). DNK is at present a regular supplier to Wijma. <sup>24</sup>
SEPFCCO	SEPFCCO holds vente de coupe 11.06.12 in the South-West province (awarded in 2000), and is a supplier to Wijma. <sup>25</sup>
Hazim (SFH)	A Lebanese logging company involved in large-scale illegal logging activities. <sup>26</sup> Wijma has bought timber from Hazim, although it claimed recently to be reassessing its business relationship with the company. <sup>27</sup>



GWZ logs from a récupération in Cameroon – no forest management plan is required



GWZ logs from concession UFA 09-021 previously held by COFA

Illegal logging, social conflict and environmental destruction

Evidence compiled by Greenpeace reveals that both Wijma's own logging companies (GWZ, CFK and STIK) and many of its suppliers – including Boitex, Panagiotis Marelis, MMG, CUF, SEPCO, DNK and Hazim – have recently been involved in repeated illegal forestry activities in Cameroon. Offences range from felling outside allocated cutblocks, and other forms of unauthorised logging, to failing to pay stumpage fees. Although many of the illegal and environmentally destructive logging activities of Wijma's suppliers are widely known and well documented in Cameroon, the company continues to buy from the operators concerned. Meanwhile, Wijma customers contacted by Greenpeace seem convinced that they are being supplied with timber from responsible forest management operations.

Many of Wijma's trading partners are involved in the provoking of social conflicts, since unauthorised logging almost invariably results in economic losses for the communities on whose land the operations are carried out. Hazim's well-documented illegal logging activities have caused a very considerable loss in economic revenues for local communities because local taxes were not paid. Money lost for local development of the Messok district (where some of Hazim's largest illegal operations have taken place) has been estimated at US\$2.8 million, and money that should have gone to neighbouring communities at around US\$0.7 million.<sup>28</sup>

The Cameroonian company MMG provoked considerable social conflict in the Kribi area when its illegal logging operation destroyed large parts of a proposed community forestry operation. Local populations felt cheated and have not been compensated for the economic damage MMG has caused to their communities.<sup>29</sup> Similarly, villagers at Mekok have repeatedly expressed concern over CUF's logging operations in their proposed community forests.<sup>30</sup>

Between November 2000 and January 2001, the little-known company FM, represented by a Mr Ewondo Etoundi, negotiated an agreement with villagers to log in the Mount Elephant region of the Campo Ma'an National Park buffer zone in exchange for CFA (Central African Francs) 1,000 (US\$1.33)<sup>31</sup> per cubic metre. The village received an initial payment for 300m<sup>3</sup> of wood. A second payment for 1,000m<sup>3</sup> never materialised, but by this time the logging operation had finished: the villagers had been cheated, and their forest is now heavily degraded and its potential for ecological tourism drastically reduced. Wijma's middleman Mr Kremer was identified as a key actor behind this questionable timber deal that served to supply the company's nearby sawmill at Bidou.<sup>32</sup>

Table 3: Some recent illegal activities of Wijma and its suppliers

Company	Illegal activity
Wijma Group Wijma (GWZ)	In January 2002, Wijma was fined CFA 1,836,415 (US\$2,442) for cutting protected trees without authorisation and for cutting undersized trees. <sup>33</sup>  In addition, MINEF's provincial control brigade proposed that Wijma director Mr Bertein should pay CFA 2,500,000 (US\$3,325) for transporting timber without legal documents. Wijma was assured it would not be taken to court if the fines were paid before 30 January 2002. <sup>34</sup>
STIK	In January 2002, MINEF's Central Control Unit notified STIK that all its activities (logging and wood processing) were to be suspended due to the company's complicity in fraudulent logging practices carried out in a forest reserve by the company Helena Bois. <sup>35</sup>
CFK	In December 1999, MINEF found COFA exploiting an unauthorised cutblock within its concession (UFA 09-021).

**"We cannot allow bad management of the forests, which would directly harm the supply of logs.**

*\* Wijma website (accessed 23 September 2001)*



*October 2001, Kampen – Hazim sawn timber in Wijma timberyard; in December, Wijma promised to clarify its business relationship with Hazim*

	<p>Although the illegal exploitation was carried out by Wijma's CFK subsidiary, Wijma's director Francis Urbaniak refused to sign the investigator's violation report.<sup>36</sup> In March 2000, COFA was fined CFA 10 million (US\$13,300) and suspended for three months.<sup>37</sup></p>
Boitex	<p>In 2000, Greenpeace received information from local MINEF officials that Boitex had been logging outside its legal boundaries in ARB-247. However, Greenpeace is not aware whether Boitex has been sanctioned for this.</p> <p>In March 2001, Boitex's licence was suspended temporarily for non-payment of stumpage fees.<sup>38</sup></p>
Panagiotis Marelis	<p>The company has received a number of récupérations through a dubious discretionary process.<sup>39</sup></p> <p>In 2001, it was found guilty of logging beyond the boundaries of ARB-027.<sup>40</sup></p>
MMG	<p>Throughout 2000, MMG was involved in illegal logging in a proposed community forestry area of around 1,600ha. MMG's timber harvest from this illegal logging operation was estimated to be worth CFA 1.6 million (US\$2,128).<sup>41</sup></p>
CUF	<p>In July 2001, local villagers at Mekok complained that CUF had been logging in their area and requested compensation.<sup>42</sup></p> <p>In a report financed by DFID (the UK Department for International Development) and other agencies, a team of independent experts reported illegal logging by CUF in a then unallocated concession 09-023.<sup>43</sup></p>
SEPFCO	<p>In January 2002, SEPFCO was fined CFA 14 million (US\$18,620) for unauthorised logging.<sup>44</sup></p>
DNK	<p>In January 2001, DNK was fined more than CFA 31 million (US\$41,230) for unauthorised logging beyond the boundaries of its vente de coupe.<sup>45</sup></p>
EJL	<p>The Cameroonian company EJL was found guilty of illegal logging on Mt. Elephant,<sup>46</sup> an important tourism area in the buffer zone of the Campo Ma'an National Park. The case is under further investigation in order fully to assess the economic damage. Villagers felt cheated when they realised they had only received a fraction of the money that was promised them. The Azobé and Iroko (<i>Milicia excelsa</i>) timber from this illegal logging operation was bought by Wijma and processed in the sawmill at Bidou.<sup>47</sup></p>
Hazim	<p>Hazim and its subsidiaries have been sanctioned repeatedly for illegal forestry practices in its own concession and in areas where it operates as a subcontractor – as well as in areas to which it has no legal access at all. Lost revenue to the Cameroonian government due to Hazim's illegal activities is estimated to run to millions of dollars.<sup>48</sup></p>



CFK timber – this Wijma subsidiary illegally logged in an unauthorised cutblock



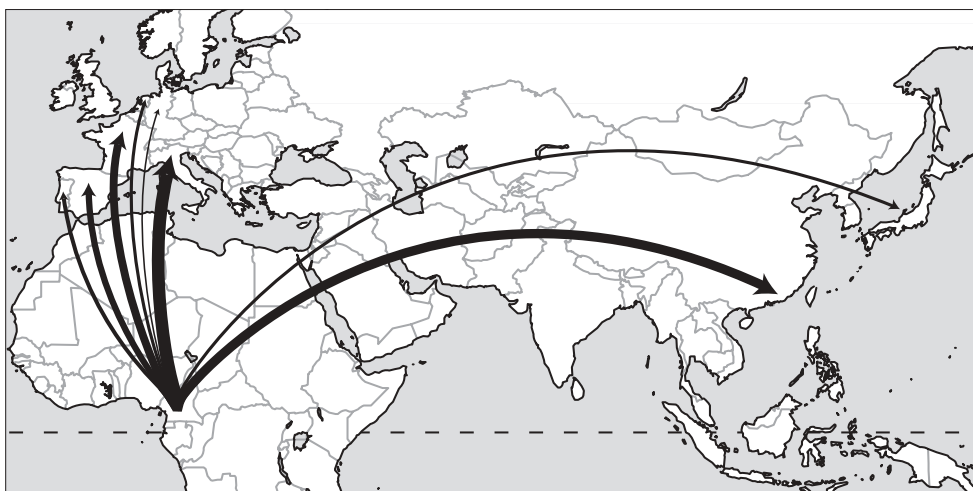
October 2001, Kampen – DNK and STIK sawn timber in Wijma timberyard; both DNK and STIK were recently found guilty of illegal logging practices

The Cameroonian government and the international donor community have done too little to curb the illegal and destructive activities of Wijma and its third-party suppliers. But Wijma's dealings with companies that operate illegally are not restricted to Cameroon. Wijma has also been found to be buying from a number of particularly notorious companies in Liberia, including Gus Kouwenhoven's OTC (Oriental Timber Company) and RTC (Royal Timber Corporation), both of which are responsible for causing social conflicts and forest destruction and have been linked either directly or through Mr Kouwenhoven with the illegal trafficking of arms to Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Sierra Leone.<sup>49</sup>

When challenged by Greenpeace, Wijma initially denied its business relationships with these companies<sup>50</sup> but later announced that it might reconsider its purchasing policies with Liberia.<sup>51</sup> Today, Wijma still has not fully clarified its current purchasing policy regarding products from Liberia, despite requests that it do so.

Meanwhile, as importing nations and companies continue to ignore Wijma's illegal activities and those of its suppliers, the company's logs and timber go on flooding the international market.

### European imports driving destruction



*The international market for Cameroon's timber*

French and other European logging companies traditionally dominated the logging industry in the forests which once stretched across sub-Saharan Africa from Senegal to Uganda.<sup>52</sup> But with the extensive depletion of the rainforests in West Africa (especially the Ivory Coast, Ghana and Nigeria), coupled with growing world demand for tropical timber, many logging companies – not only from Europe but also from elsewhere – have increasingly been attracted to the ancient forests of Cameroon.

As industrial logging has continued to expand into the last intact ancient forests of Eastern Cameroon, Europe has remained a strong influence driving both this industry and the destruction of the country's remaining rainforests. While sources on trade data vary considerably, recent figures show that the EU is currently responsible for a minimum of 52% of Cameroon's annual timber exports.<sup>53</sup> Based on these conservative data, the most significant EU importer is Italy (19.9%) followed by Spain (14%), France (9.8%) and Portugal (5.6%).

Wijma has a particular role in supplying Azobé timber for major infrastructure projects (government-led and otherwise), including railway systems and marine engineering works. Significant volumes of the group's logs and timber have been used in major construction projects around the world, including:

- an Azobé boardwalk constructed at Disneyland in Orlando, Florida, USA in 1997;
- thousands of Azobé railway ties for the New York Transit Authority, Miami Metro, Chicago Transit Authority, Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority and Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (Boston) in 2000;

- Azobé bridges and piers for "Holland Village" near Nagasaki, Japan, during the 1990s;
- 29 Azobé lock gates on the Kennet and Avon Canal in southern England;
- various Azobé bridges and building projects in The Netherlands, Italy, France, and Germany throughout the 1990s to the present day.

Additional companies known to be buying logs and timber from the group include: in Germany, the door manufacturers Garant, Neuform and Prüm, the parquet producers Höhns and Grabo, and the retailer Klöpferholz; in The Netherlands, the door industry supplier DPW te Paske; in the UK, the importers International Timber, James Lathams and Timber Connection; and many more as far afield as China.

Any public authority or company buying timber from Wijma should be aware that much of the timber sold by the group comes from highly destructive – and often illegal – forestry operations and from companies responsible for causing social conflicts. Moreover, at a time when governments are starting to review their procurement policies with the aim of avoiding timber from illegal logging operations, they should insist that Wijma provides clear evidence of the origin and the legality of the timber it is offering for sale.



GWZ log with markings effaced



Cameroon's logging industry is dominated by illegalities – to the cost of the forest

## Greenpeace call for action

Wijma and many of its Cameroonian and Liberian suppliers have been implicated in illegal and destructive logging, and their role in causing social conflict has been exposed. In the run-up to the United Nations' forthcoming Ancient Forest Summit,<sup>54</sup> Earth Summit II<sup>55</sup> and beyond, Greenpeace is urging governments of all importing countries to bring an immediate end to their role in the destruction of Cameroon's forests by committing to the following principles:

- **stop the destruction**  
by stopping any further industrial activities in intact ancient forest until responsible plans for forest conservation and sustainable use have been agreed.
- **clean up the timber trade**  
by ensuring that timber is produced and traded in a legal and ecologically responsible way;  
by refusing to trade with companies known to be operating illegally or destructively;  
and by demanding that all wood and wood products entering national ports must come from legal and well-managed forest operations according to high social and ecological standards.<sup>56</sup>
- **come up with the money**  
by providing at least US\$15 billion each year to pay for forest conservation and sustainable development.

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<sup>1</sup> Sizer and Plouvier (2000).

<sup>2</sup> MINEF (1999a, 1999b); Milol and Pierre (2000); Durrieu de Madron and Ngaha (2000).

<sup>3</sup> Milol and Pierre (2000); Auzel et al. (2001).

<sup>4</sup> MINEF (1999a, 1999b); Cameroon Tribune (2000, 2001b, 2001d, 2002).

<sup>5</sup> Wijma leaflet (undated) Bois divers.

<sup>6</sup> Wijma Forestry Action Plan.

<sup>7</sup> Wijma promotional videos and information leaflets.

<sup>8</sup> UNSC (2000, 2001) - both cited in Greenpeace (2002b).

<sup>9</sup> A vente de coupe is a three-year permission to cut up to 2,500 ha of forest and/or a given volume of logs, usually in non-permanent forests. It requires no management plan. A récupération is an authority to fell trees to make way for specific development projects over a predetermined area, or to remove trees destroyed by natural causes. Source: Loi No. 94-1 du 20 janvier 1994 portant régime des forêts, de la faune et de la pêche, Article 73 (1). Not only are the ventes de coupe and the récupérations destructive logging operations by nature, these cutting titles are almost universally abused to log much larger areas and/or timber volumes than officially allowed.

<sup>10</sup> Milol and Pierre (2000). This World Bank-financed report revealed that up to 90% of ventes de coupe in Cameroon's East Province are operated illegally.

<sup>11</sup> MINEF – Commission interministerielle d'attribution des concessions forestières (2002).

<sup>12</sup> Cameroon Tribune (2001a).

<sup>13</sup> MINEF – Commission interministerielle d'attribution des concessions forestières (2002).

<sup>14</sup> Cameroon Tribune (2001a, 2001e). Wijma acknowledges a partnership with STIK (Cameroon Tribune 2001a) but MINEF sources have informed Greenpeace that Wijma effectively controls the company. Legal notices for Wijma and STIK appeared together in the Cameroon Tribune (2001e). The relationship between STIK and GWZ dates from 1998 and the “financial, technical and commercial partnership” was already reported by Carret (1999).

<sup>15</sup> MINEF (1999b).

<sup>16</sup> Mentens (2001).

<sup>17</sup> Greenpeace observations, 2000 – Boitex logs from ARB-247 carrying the Wijma logo.

<sup>18</sup> Greenpeace observations, 2000 – P. Marelis logs from ARB-331 carrying the Wijma logo.

<sup>19</sup> Greenpeace observations, 2000 – Soforoc logs from VC 09-03-22 and ARB-258 carrying the Wijma logo.

<sup>20</sup> Carret (1999).

<sup>21</sup> Carret (1999).

<sup>22</sup> Wijma (2001b).

<sup>23</sup> These titles include vente de coupe VC 09-02-72 and récupération ARB-335.

<sup>24</sup> Greenpeace photographed DNK sawn timber with the GWZ logo on several occasions in 2001.

<sup>25</sup> SEPFECO logs with GWZ markings were photographed by Greenpeace in 2000.

<sup>26</sup> Greenpeace (2002a).

<sup>27</sup> In a Greenpeace press release (11 November 2001) Greenpeace denounced Wijma's business relationship with Hazim.

In their reply (Wijma 2001a: 16 November 2001) Wijma denied that they were currently buying from Hazim. However, during a Greenpeace visit to Wijma's logyard in Kampen, the Netherlands on 5 December 2001, considerable volumes of sawn timber from Hazim and some Hazim (SFH/SFIW) logs were observed. Confronted with this Wijma formulated a more cautious response (Wijma 2001b: 19 December 2001), remaining vague about their relationship with Hazim and promising to clarify their position in the short term. They have yet to do so.

<sup>28</sup> Auzel et al. (2001).

<sup>29</sup> “E.A.” (2001).

<sup>30</sup> Anonymous (2001).

<sup>31</sup> Mentens (2001).

<sup>32</sup> Mentens (2001).

<sup>33</sup> Cameroon Tribune (2002).

<sup>34</sup> MINEF (2002).

<sup>35</sup> MINEF – Unité centrale de contrôle (2002).

<sup>36</sup> MINEF (1999b).

<sup>37</sup> Cameroon Tribune (2000).

<sup>38</sup> Cameroon Tribune (2001c).

<sup>39</sup> Cameroon Tribune (1999). Although the awarding of new récupérations was suspended indefinitely from 30 July 1999, Panagiotis Marelis was awarded further such licences in December 1999 and March 2000.

<sup>40</sup> Cameroon Tribune (2002).

<sup>41</sup> “E.A.” (2001).

<sup>42</sup> Anonymous (2001).

<sup>43</sup> Auzel et al. (2001).

<sup>44</sup> Cameroon Tribune (2002).

<sup>45</sup> Cameroon Tribune (2001d).

<sup>46</sup> Cameroon Tribune (2002).

<sup>47</sup> Mentens (2001).

<sup>48</sup> See Greenpeace (2002a) and references cited therein.

<sup>49</sup> See Greenpeace (2002b) and references cited therein.

<sup>50</sup> Wijma letter to Greenpeace (2001a: 16 November 2001).

<sup>51</sup> Wijma letter to Greenpeace (2001b: 19 December 2001).

<sup>52</sup> See references (Van Dorp 1995, Debroux and Karsenty 1998) cited in Greenpeace International (1999).

<sup>53</sup> Estimates vary from 52% (ITTO 2000) to 83% (figures cited in Forests Monitor 2001).

<sup>54</sup> The Ancient Forest Summit is the sixth Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It will be held in April 2002, in The Hague, The Netherlands and will have a mandate to agree a ten-year programme on forests in preparation for Earth Summit II.

<sup>55</sup> Earth Summit II is the United Nations' World Summit on Sustainable Development, which will take place in Johannesburg in August/September 2002.

<sup>56</sup> The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is currently the only international certification and labelling system that uses globally-endorsed ecological performance standards, ensures a traceable chain of custody from production to final consumption and brings together a broad range of environmental, social and economic stakeholder interests.