



**GREENPEACE<sup>®</sup>**

**Africa's forests under threat:**

**Socfin's plantations in**

**Cameroon and Liberia**

***May 2016***

## Socfin's persistent threats to forests

On 23 February 2016, Greenpeace France published a report titled *Africa's forests under threat: Investigation of the investments of the Bolloré Group and its Belgian partner Hubert Fabri*,<sup>1</sup> which shed light on the threats that the Société Financière des Caoutchoucs (Socfin) represents for African tropical forests by its refusal to commit to a zero deforestation policy.

Socfin is not well-known to the general public but has been operating in Africa for over a century.<sup>2</sup> It is one of the leading oil palm and rubber tree plantation operators on the continent. Heading up Socfin's shareholdings are two figures of African business: Vincent Bolloré, France's ninth-richest person,<sup>3</sup> and the Belgian businessman Hubert Fabri. Socfin has announced plans to extend its plantations in a dozen countries, mostly African nations, threatening forests that are essential for the preservation of climate balances, biodiversity and the living conditions of local populations.

In its report *Africa's forests under threat*, Greenpeace revealed the content of its map-based analyses and its field surveys conducted on Socfin's concessions in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and in São Tomé and Príncipe, and demonstrated that Socfin's concessions included primary forests but also secondary or regenerating forests that store large quantities of

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Front cover image  
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carbon. This investigation confirmed the need for Socfin to adopt immediately and implement a zero deforestation policy, applicable to all its businesses and subsidiaries in the countries in which it operates.

In response to Greenpeace's report, Socfin published a press release on 4 March 2016<sup>4</sup> in which it attempted to justify its position and accused Greenpeace of spreading undocumented and erroneous information. Not only does Greenpeace stand by all the information and analyses published in its report,<sup>5</sup> but this case study also adds that forest areas in Cameroon and Liberia are also threatened by Socfin's business. Socfin's refusal to adopt a zero deforestation policy represents a major threat for forests in the countries in which the company operates – and the situation is critical.

To conduct this new case study on Socfin's oil palm and rubber tree plantations, Greenpeace has analysed a wealth of cartographic and satellite data and completed an in-depth field survey in Cameroon in March 2016.

### Focus on the natural rubber sector

The cultivation of rubber trees to produce natural rubber is a key contributor to deforestation. Recent studies suggest that 4.3 to 8.5 million hectares of new plantations would be necessary to meet demand for natural rubber by 2024, and that the impact of these monocultures on forests would be comparable to that of oil palm plantations.<sup>6</sup> In view of its significant impact on forests, the natural rubber sector must commit to zero deforestation practices, just as the palm oil sector has. Indonesian plantation owner Barito Pacific committed to a zero deforestation policy in 2015.<sup>7</sup> In the same year, Barito and Michelin, global tyre leader, created a joint venture aimed at producing zero deforestation natural rubber in Indonesia, by applying the High Carbon Stock (HCS) Approach. Michelin has also published its "Natural rubber procurement policy"<sup>8</sup> which attests to a zero deforestation vision but which remains to be made operational as part of a specific supply policy based on the HCS methodology. According to information ascertained by Greenpeace, Michelin is one of Socfin's key customers. Socfin, in its 2013 Sustainability Report,<sup>9</sup> highlighted Michelin's "Supplier Quality Assurance" certification for some of its concessions.

Ultimately, the development of the tyre sector (which accounts for the main consumption of rubber<sup>10</sup>), towards an acknowledgement of the issue of deforestation increases Socfin's risk of being sidelined through non-compliance with its main customers' procurement policies.

### **Socfin's rejection of the High Carbon Stock Approach (HCSA) methodology, the only zero deforestation standard currently in operation**

In order to implement a zero deforestation policy, it is necessary to rely on a proven, strong and coherent methodology used to map the forest areas requiring conservation actions. This is why companies and NGOs developed the High Carbon Stock Approach (HCSA) methodology set out in a toolkit<sup>11</sup> published in March 2015. In February 2011, the leading Indonesian palm oil producer, Golden Agri Resources (GAR), published the first "Forest Conservation Policy" based on the HCSA methodology. Then, between 2012 and 2015, most of the major multinationals that consume palm oil (Nestlé, Unilever, Procter & Gamble, Mondelez, Ferrero, Neste Oil, L'Oréal, Carrefour, Danone, etc.) and traders in the sector (NBPOL, Wilmar, Cargill, Asian Agri, AAK, ADM) published zero deforestation supply policies based on this HCSA methodology. Subsequently, between 2013 and 2015, the main producers and traders followed the example of GAR (and of APP, the Indonesian leader in paper production) by publishing zero deforestation policies, all also based on the HCSA methodology. The High Carbon Stock Approach has therefore become the de facto zero deforestation standard in the sector. With more than two thirds of palm oil trade already committed, as well as the main pulp producers in tropical areas (APP and APRIL), companies in the rubber sector<sup>12</sup> are now adopting this methodology.

Yet Socfin decided to remain on the sidelines of this drive, rejecting the only operational zero deforestation standard to date. Indeed, to justify its lack of zero deforestation commitment, Socfin claims to have "*translated its commitments into a document entitled "Zéro deforestation" dated 30 October 2015*"<sup>13</sup>. Greenpeace has already replied to Socfin that a simple declaration of intent with not one reference to a methodology that can articulate this commitment is worthless. In addition, Socfin's "*Sustainability Policy*"<sup>14</sup> published on 31 July 2015 remains considerably lacking and falls below current sector standards<sup>15</sup> as it does not contain any criteria that specifically tackle the issue of deforestation.

In its press release in response to Greenpeace's report, Socfin spoke of the HCS Approach in the following terms: "*The "standards" Greenpeace refers to, are not based on any scientific facts, neither are their definitions of "level 0 of deforestation" or of the "forest."*" However, the HCS steering group<sup>16</sup> brings together the major players in the plantation sector (such as Wilmar, Musim Mas, GVL, GAR, Cargill), and also NGOs (such as WWF, the Rainforest Alliance, the Forest Peoples Programme and the Rainforest Action Network) and consumer companies such as Unilever, Procter & Gamble and BASF, and has set up a "science advisory committee"<sup>17</sup> tasked in particular with ensuring the approach's scientific foundations.

In short, Socfin has followed the line of denigrating the HCS standard to free itself more effectively from the restrictions and responsibilities that its so-called zero deforestation commitment<sup>18</sup> would imply. By deciding to ignore any reference to the HCS methodology in its sustainability policy<sup>19</sup>, Socfin accepts the risk of continued conversion of natural forests into plantations.



*A view of Socapalm plantation near Kribi. Recent developments within swamp areas have been made at the expense of local communities and natural corridors. Cameroon, March 2016.*  
© Micha Patault / Greenpeace

### Dense and mosaic forests: definitions

**Dense forests** are those for which a simple analysis of a satellite image enables us to conclude that they are in all likelihood High Carbon Stock (HCS) forest areas in which conversions into plantations must be prohibited as part of a zero deforestation policy. At the time of going to press, Socfin's plantation policy does not guarantee their non-conversion.

**Mosaic forests** are those for which satellite analysis alone cannot be used to define the precise nature of these forest areas (HCS or non-HCS). This analysis must be conducted together with additional sampling measures on-site<sup>20</sup> in order to provide a precise mapping of the HCS forest areas.

### A lack of transparency

Mapping all of Socfin's concessions in Cameroon is a task made more complicated due to Socfin's lack of transparency with regard to the exact location of its concessions and its expansion plans. This vagueness has not prevented Greenpeace from drawing up maps that are as realistic as possible of the majority of the concessions and from identifying possible extensions that threaten forests. This was achieved through an in-depth field mission and many interviews conducted in Cameroon.

### Socfin, a key player in Cameroon's tropical plantations sector

According to the latest available figures of the FAO,<sup>21</sup> Cameroon produces approximately 250,000 metric tons<sup>22</sup> of palm oil<sup>23</sup> and 56,000<sup>24</sup> metric tons of natural rubber<sup>25</sup> per year. These plantations are mainly located in the forest areas in the south of the country,<sup>26</sup> in an area of “dense humid forests”<sup>27</sup>. Socfin has been operating in this area since 1999<sup>28</sup> via various subsidiaries of Socfinaf, Socfin’s “African holding company”. It owns three plantation companies there: Socapalm, Safacam and the Société des Palmeraies de la Ferme Suisse (SPFS). With a turnover of more than €95 million for its three plantation subsidiaries, Socfin recorded profits of more than €11 million in 2014 thanks to its operations in Cameroon.<sup>29</sup> In total, via its various subsidiaries in Cameroon, Socfin announces around 75,000 hectares of concessions including almost 45,000 hectares of plantations, roughly 85% of which are oil palms. It would be an understatement to say that Socfin is a key player on the tropical plantation market in Cameroon.



*Guillaume Ngobe, a local activist, standing near an ancient tree in an area of dense natural forest threatened by Safacam's expansion plans. Dizangué, Cameroon, March 2016.  
© Micha Patault / Greenpeace*

# SOCFIN'S CONCESSIONS IN CAMEROON PALM OIL & RUBBER PLANTATIONS

## SOCFIN CONCESSIONS

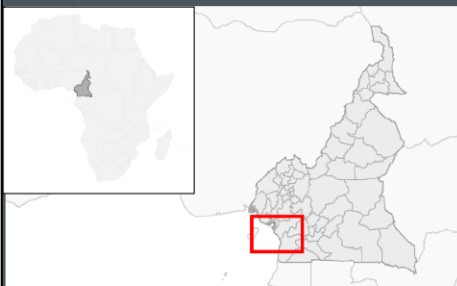
- Socapalm
- Safacam (operated by Socapalm)

## PROTECTED AREAS

- Wildlife reserve
- National park

## SETTLEMENTS

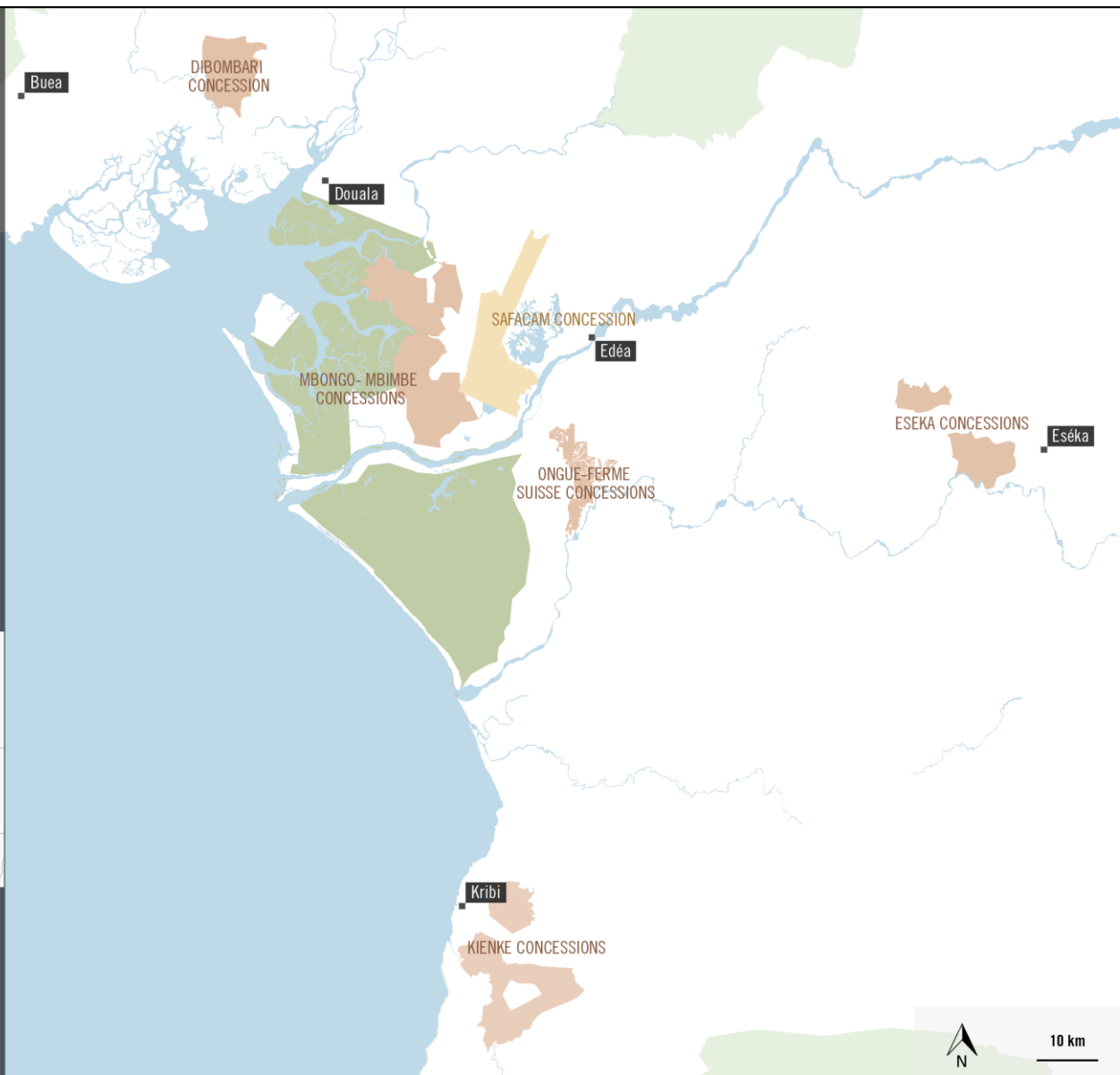
- Main cities



**SOCFIN CONCESSIONS** : WRI Forest Atlas Of Cameroon 2013 (Dibombari/Ferme Suisse/Eseka), Ocean & Sanaga-Maritime Cadaster Delegations (Mbongo/Mbimbe/Safacam/Kienke/Ongue). **PROTECTED AREAS** : WRI Forest Atlas Of Cameroon 2013. **SETTLEMENTS** : WRI Forest Atlas Of Cameroon 2013.

MAP PRODUCTION : 03/05/2016, Greenpeace.

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### The Safacam rubber plantation in the Dizangué region

Safacam is a tropical plantation company that has been operating in the Dizangué region since 1897<sup>30</sup> and managed by Socfin since 2000.<sup>31</sup> It is currently Socfin's main subsidiary in Cameroon producing natural rubber. According to Socfin's data, Safacam owns a concession of 15,000 hectares, including 5,300 hectares of palm trees and 4,300 hectares of rubber trees.<sup>32</sup> According to the cadastral map of the Safacam concession which Greenpeace was able to view, the concession may cover 18,000 hectares of which 10,000 hectares are already planted.

Today, the Safacam concession still covers 2,700 hectares of dense forest and 4,400 hectares of mosaic forest, a large section of which is threatened by Socfin's expansion plans, in the absence of a zero deforestation plantation policy.

According to the Cameroon forestry ministry, a "*vente de coupe*" (sale of standing volume) of 2,160 hectares was allocated to the company Kieffer & cie<sup>33</sup>, and this sale is located between two Socfin concessions. Yet in Cameroon, it is common practice for the allocation of these sales to precede the conversion of forests into plantations, following the extraction of commercial tree species. According to information ascertained by Greenpeace in Cameroon, these 2,160 hectares allegedly correspond to a plan to extend Safacam's rubber tree plantations. This area which includes dense forests and smallholdings is therefore directly under threat today. In

addition, according to statements by residents interviewed by Greenpeace, the local communities have, on several occasions, stopped the felling work conducted outside the perimeter of the area sold.

### Socapalm's concessions in the region of Mbongo and Mbimbé (oil palms)

Socapalm, which is the "major player of the oil palm industry in Cameroon"<sup>34</sup>, owns several concessions located in the Sanaga-Maritime administrative department. According to information from the Cameroon cadastre which Greenpeace was able to view, the company is alleged to own almost 30,000 hectares of concessions in the Mbimbé and Mbongo areas. In total, the oil palm plantations currently stretch over a surface of around 13,500 hectares, i.e. 48% of the concession. Unplanted areas are made up of dense forest (4,800 ha) and mosaic forest (3,100ha). If Socapalm decided to extend its plantations within its concession, those areas of forests would come under threat.

South of the concession, Greenpeace was able to observe clearing work which began in 2014. A road has already been opened by bulldozer to delimit the future extension (see map). This clearing work was stopped in 2015 but should it resume, 600 hectares of forests would be potentially in danger.



**CAMEROON**  
**SOCAPALM - PALM OIL PLANTATION IN MBONGO /MBIMBE**  
**SAFACAM - RUBBER PLANTATION IN DIZANGUE**

**ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES**

Safacam/Socapalm concessions

**LAND USE**

- Suspected current extensions of plantation on dense forests
- Mosaic forests
- New road for future extension of plantation
- Waterbodies & associated wetlands
- Agro-industrial plantations
- Dense forests
- Other

**SETTLEMENTS**

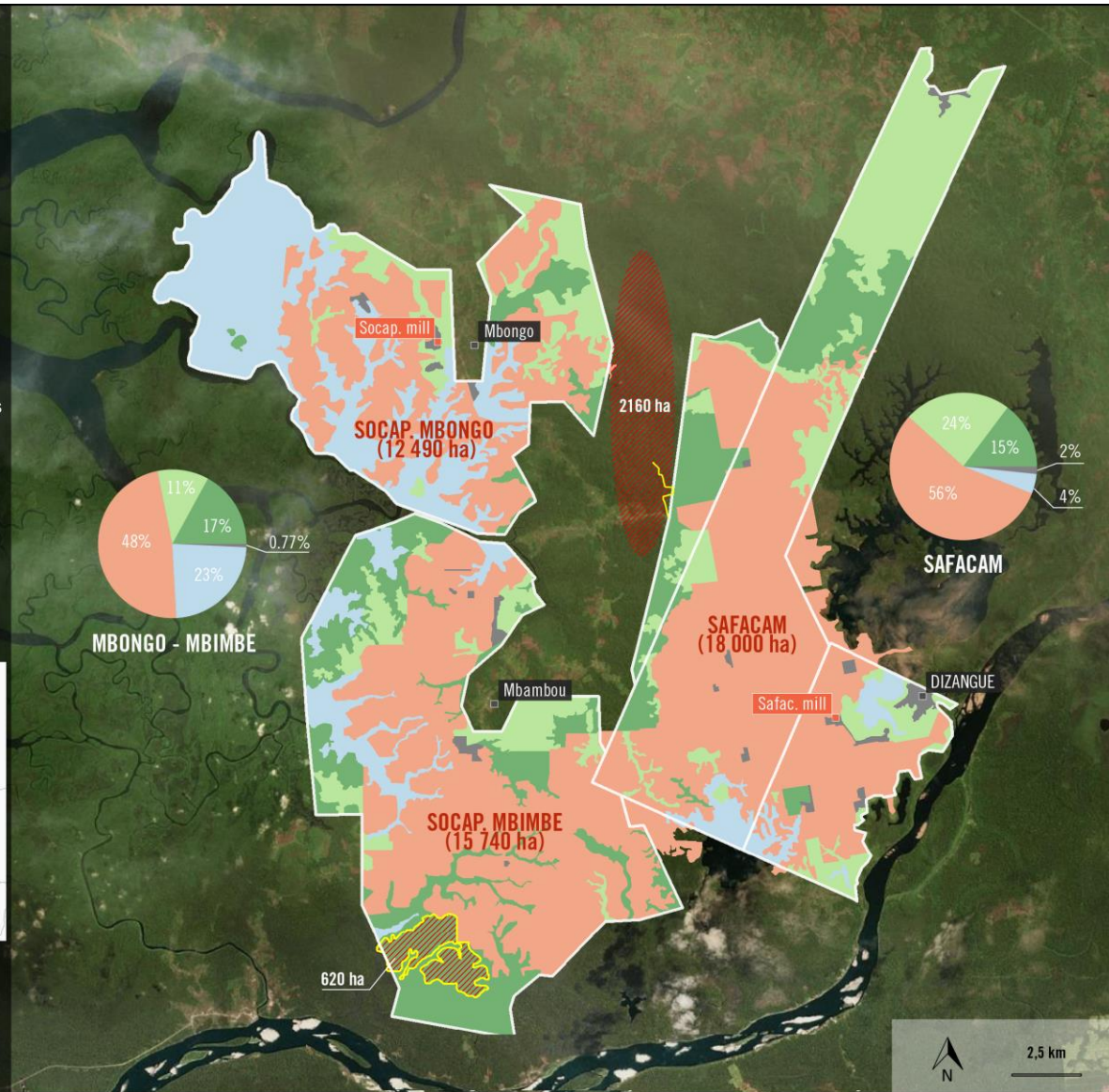
- Towns/Villages
- Safacam/Socapalm settlements



**ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES** : Cadastre delegation of Sanaga-Maritime region, march 2016 update. **LAND USE** : Greenpeace France based on march 2016 field research and Landsat 8 - 2016 - NASA and the U.S. Geological Survey. **SETTLEMENTS** : based on march 2016 field research and WRI Forest Atlas Of Cameroon 2013. **BACKGROUND IMAGE** : Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community.

MAP PRODUCTION : 22/04/2016, Greenpeace.

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### Socapalm's concession in Kienké (oil palms)

Located near Kribi and made up of two separate parts, Socapalm's concession in Kienké stretches over around 20,000 hectares. This concession was acquired by Socfin in 2000. The area already planted represents approximately 12,300 hectares. Unplanted areas located within the concession are made up of dense and mosaic forests.

Greenpeace's investigations have shed light on recent plantation extensions within the concession in so-called swamp areas. In tropical regions, swamps can be defined as basins or "floodplain discharge chutes which represent elementary drainage pathways"<sup>35</sup>. These humid areas are fragile, fertile and complex environments which are alternately submerged; they are essential for the preservation of ecosystems (land irrigation, water purification, erosion prevention, etc.) and for the protection of the many animal and plant species which live there. Consequently, these areas (also called riparian zones) must be considered as having "High Conservation Value" and must be provided with a conservation plan. Within the Kienké concession (and Greenpeace observed the same situation on Socapalm's Dibombari concession), Socfin had not developed plantations in swamps, probably deeming them technically difficult to access. Yet recently, when the plantation was regenerated, Socfin started to clear and drain these areas in order to extend its plantations there over 1,800 hectares.

These new plantations, albeit located within the concession, are still extensions for which Socfin should have conducted prior environmental and social impact assessments, particularly as local communities had been practicing subsistence farming in these areas until now. These extensions, made without impact assessments (and without consulting the local communities) run against all international standards, including those of the RSPO<sup>36</sup> which prohibit the conversion of HCV areas in general, and of humid areas in particular: "Riparian buffers are not to be planted"<sup>37</sup>.



*A view of Socapalm plantation near Kribi. Recent developments within swamp areas have been made at the expense of local communities and natural corridors. Cameroon, March 2016. © Micha Patault / Greenpeace*

# CAMEROON SOCAPALM - PALM OIL PLANTATION IN KIENKE CONCESSION

## ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES

 Kienke concession (20 400 ha)

## LAND USE IN KIENKE CONCESSION

 Exploited swamps after 2010 (>1 830 ha)	 Mosaic forests (2 300 ha)
 Agro-industrial plantations (12 300 ha)*	 Waterbodies
 Dense forests (4640 ha)	 Other

## SETTLEMENTS

 Towns/Villages

 Socapalm settlements

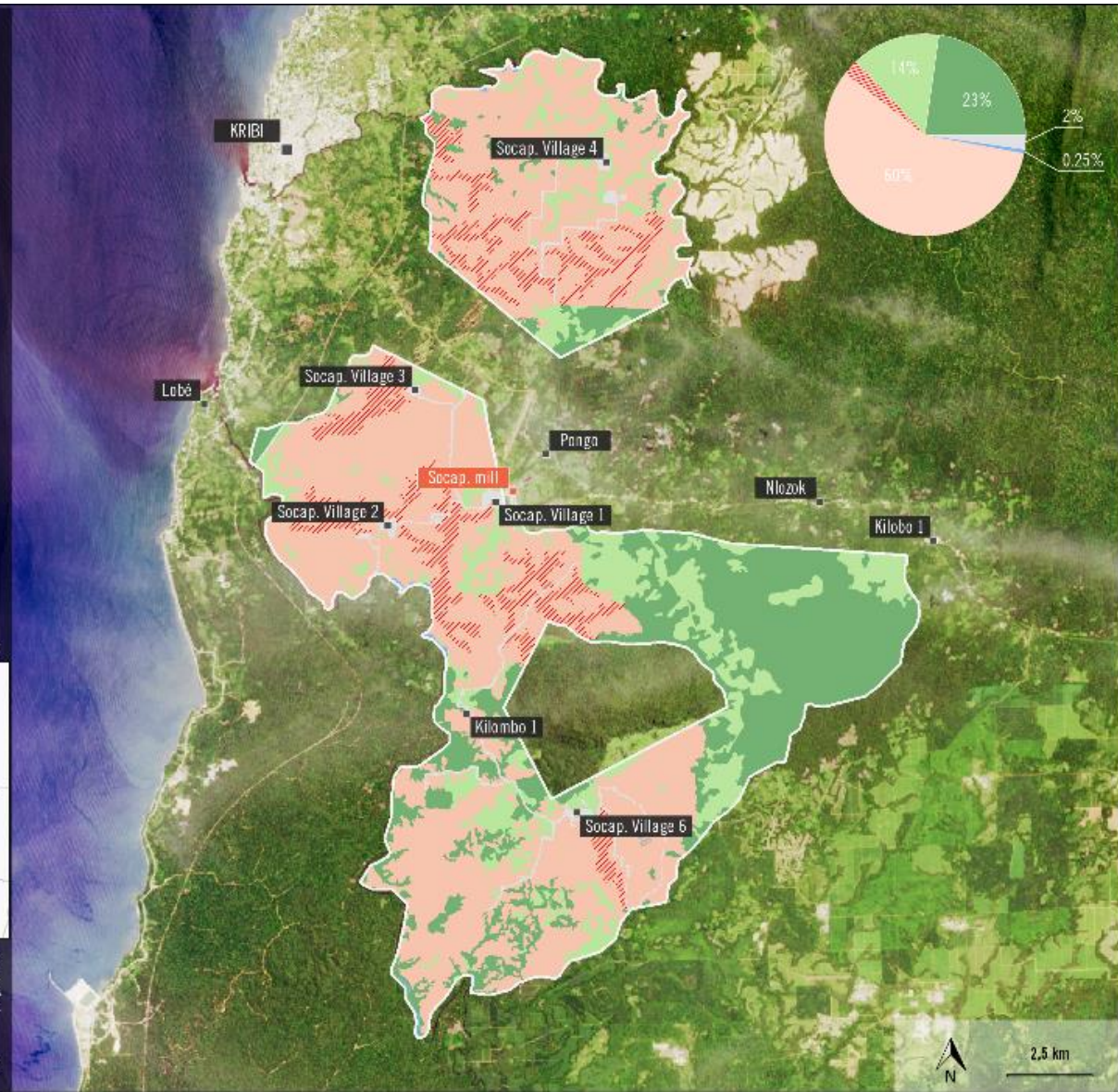
\* Exploited swamps included



**ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES** : Cameroon's village wa (10000 ha) (based on 02/2012) (World March 2015 update). **LAND USE** : Greenpeace France based on March 2016 field research and Jardest 8 - 2015 - INSA and the U.S. Geological Survey. **SETTLEMENTS** : based on March 2016 field research and WPI Forest Atlas Of Cameroon 2013. **BACKGROUND IMAGE** : LandSat 8 - 24/05/2015 - NASA and the U.S. Geological Survey.

MAP PRODUCTION : 2016/2016 - Greenpeace

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### Focus on the LAC plantation in Liberia

Liberia, a small country in West Africa that is still mostly covered in forest, produces around 63,000 metric tons<sup>38</sup> of natural rubber each year. Socfin has been operating in Liberia since 1998<sup>39</sup> and through its two subsidiaries Liberian Agricultural Company (LAC) and Salala Rubber Corporation (SRC) owns almost 130,000 hectares of concessions,<sup>40</sup> including more than 18,000 hectares<sup>41</sup> of rubber tree plantations.


The satellite analyses conducted by Greenpeace have demonstrated that within the LAC concession (121,000 hectares<sup>42</sup>) there are no fewer than 40,900 hectares of dense forest and 62,900 hectares of mosaic forest. The LAC concession is located at the heart of what remains of the ancient Upper Guinean forest, which stretched from Togo to the east of Sierra Leone, and which is considered to be “one of the highest global conservation priorities due to its high levels of endemism, species rarity and the extreme and immediate threats facing its survival”<sup>43</sup>. It is therefore essential that Socfin publishes and implements a zero deforestation plantation policy to ensure the non-conversion of HCS forests within the concession.

According to the environmental and social due diligence assessment conducted in June 2015 by Environmental Resources Management (ERM),<sup>44</sup> expansions of Socfin’s rubber tree plantations began in the early 2000s and continued year after year.






According to Greenpeace’s analysis, since 2000 approximately 3,400 hectares of dense and mosaic forests have been converted into plantations.<sup>45</sup> Yet Socfin does not intend to stop there. According to an undated map of the LAC concession, available in this same study, Socfin seems to have many expansion plans for its rubber tree and oil palm plantations. These areas, located within the concession, could reach 26,300 hectares and would threaten 4,900 hectares of dense forest and 21,400 hectares of mosaic forest. Yet for these forests, satellite analysis alone does not enable us to define precisely the nature of these forest areas (HCS or non-HCS) and sampling measures on-site<sup>46</sup> would be required. Prior to expanding its plantations in these areas, Socfin should absolutely conduct a cartographical analysis and a field study to map precisely all High Carbon Stock forest areas. Furthermore, this same map indicates that Socfin may be planning to develop plantation projects for small-scale producers on a surface area of 16,300 hectares. While Socfin seems to have identified an area of around 43,600 hectares of dense and mosaic forests to be protected (“forest reserve”), there remains, however, 12,500 hectares of dense forest located outside this reserve that are therefore potentially under threat.

# LAC - LIBERIA RUBBER PLANTATION

## ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES

 LAC concession (121 180 ha)

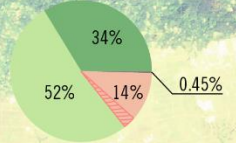
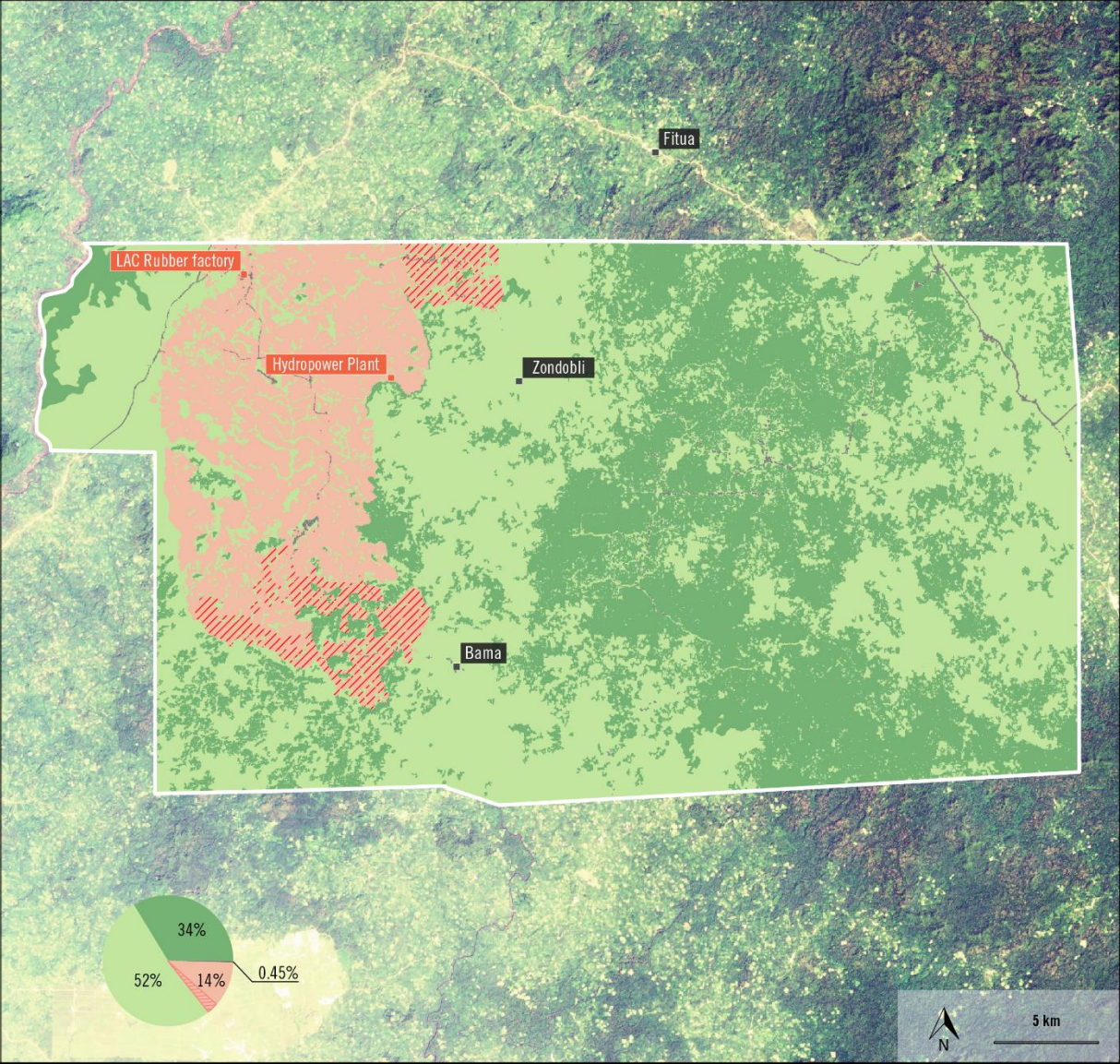
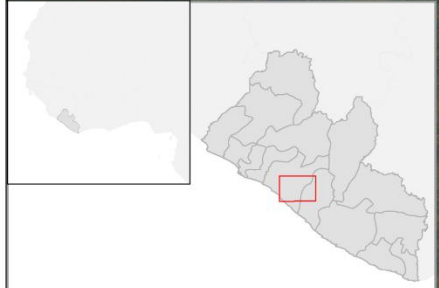
## LAND USE

-  Extension of plantations on Dense and Mosaic Forest since 2000 (3 400 ha)
-  Mosaic forests (62 900 ha)
-  Agro-industrial plantations (16 800 ha\*)
-  Other
-  Dense forests (40 900 ha)

## SETTLEMENTS

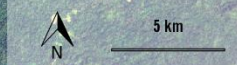
-  Towns/Villages
-  LAC settlements

\* Extension of plantations included



**ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES** : Socfin&ERM, Environmental and Social Due Diligence Assessment, July 2015. **LAND USE** : Greenpeace France based on Landsat 7/8 - 2000, 2015, 2016 - NASA and the U.S. Geological Survey. **SETTLEMENTS** : based on Socfin&ERM Environmental and Social Due Diligence Assessment - July 2015, and Google Earth. **BACKGROUND IMAGE** : Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community.

MAP PRODUCTION : 26/04/2016, Greenpeace.



This same impact assessment also stated many cases of non-compliance with the standards of the International Finance Corporation (IFC). In particular, many discrepancies concern the Performance Standard 6 on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources, such as the lack of a biodiversity management plan, the absence of biologists present on the concession to develop and monitor the implementation of this plan, the absence of a prior baseline assessment of the biodiversity values of the concession and the lack of knowledge (value, location, etc.) on Areas of Critical Habitat and High Conservation Value (HCV) within the concession.

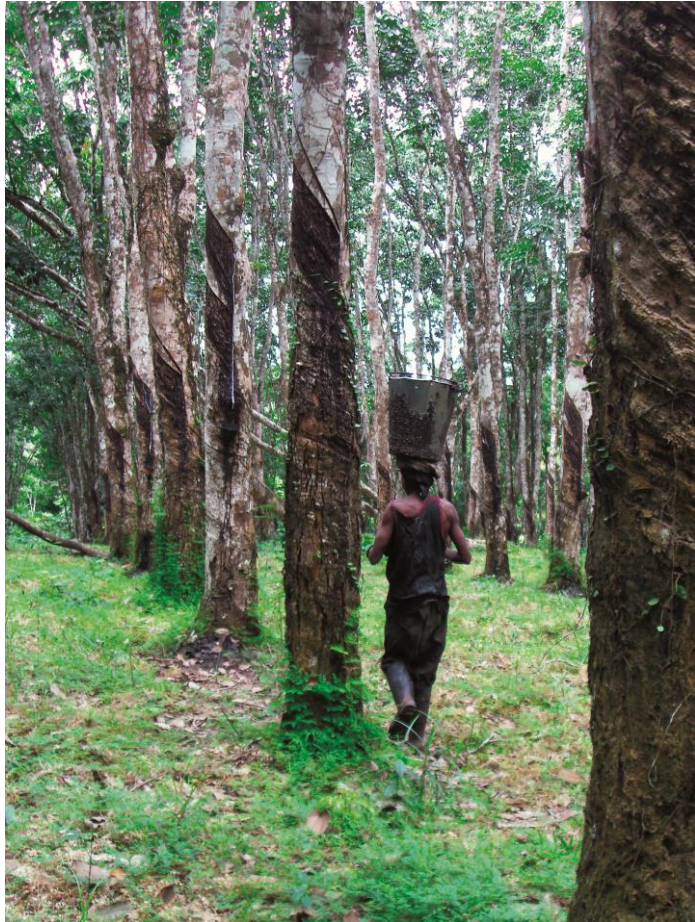
In Liberia, Socfin will have to comply with regulation developments. In 2014, the Liberian and Norwegian governments signed a bilateral agreement<sup>47</sup> aimed at protecting forests, in particular by developing zero deforestation agriculture. The agreement states that Liberia should pass legislation limiting agri-industrial projects such as rubber tree plantations to non-wooded areas. These new provisions condition the authorisation to “do business in Liberia” upon a prior “commitment to zero deforestation practices”.<sup>48</sup> The Liberian government is not alone in taking measures to combat deforestation, in this country where food security and forests were under threat from the expansion of industrial plantations. For example, the IFC finances a project to replant and renovate former plantations by rubber farmers of the

Firestone company in Liberia. The IFC requires all project stakeholders to commit to zero deforestation.<sup>49</sup>



*Local community at the edge of the Liberian Agricultural Company (LAC) plantation. Liberia, 2012.*

© ReAct



Worker at the Liberian Agricultural Company (LAC) rubber plantation, a Socfin's subsidiary in Liberia, 2011. © ReAct

### Human rights and social conflicts ignored by Socfin

Influential in the plantations sector, Socfin has had some media coverage<sup>50</sup> in recent years, though it would have preferred to avoid the spotlight being thrown on the many social conflicts that have erupted within and around its concessions. Some local communities living near plantations in several countries have come together to form the “International alliance of villages surrounding the Socfin-Bolloré plantations”.<sup>51</sup> Workers and residents have denounced in particular violations of their customary land rights, the low levels of compensation granted, the harshness of working conditions for agricultural workers and the threat to their food security.

Yet for Socfin,<sup>52</sup> these social conflicts “*do not reflect the reality*” and are “*a mere fantasy*”. The many legal proceedings linked to Socfin (against Socapalm in Cameroon,<sup>53</sup> Socfin-KCD in Cambodia<sup>54</sup> and SOC in Sierra Leone<sup>55</sup>) and the statements collected by Greenpeace during its field studies in São Tomé, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Cameroon, refute these categorical assertions.

## Recommendations

### ➤ Recommendations addressed to Socfin

Socfin must bring itself up to the level to many companies in the sector who have undertaken zero deforestation commitments and adopt current best practices. By refusing to adopt a zero deforestation policy aimed at protecting all High Carbon Stock forests and all High Conservation Value areas, Socfin is acting counter to the upward trend for progress launched in the oil palm sector in recent years, and to consumers' demands to stop contributing to deforestation and climate change. Socfin is thereby risking cutting itself off from most of the global market.

#### **Greenpeace requests Socfin to:**

- Immediately adopt and implement a zero deforestation policy for Socfin's business and investments based on the HCS approach methodology,
- Refrain from any new clearing operations until a zero deforestation policy has been adopted,
- Resolve ongoing social conflicts concerning existing plantations as swiftly as possible,
- Provide regular and transparent updates of progress made in the implementation of such a policy,
- Support the adoption of zero deforestation regulations in the countries in which it invests, Release all their concessions maps and all the maps of their supply areas.

#### **More specifically, Socfin's zero deforestation commitment must:**

- Apply to all its businesses and subsidiaries in all countries and to all raw materials,
- Provide for the non-conversion of High Carbon Stock (HCS) forests as defined in the High Carbon Stock Approach toolkit,<sup>56</sup>
- Ensure the non-conversion of High Conservation Value (HCV) areas as defined by the HCV Resource Network,<sup>57</sup>
- Prohibit the conversion of peatlands and ensure their protection,
- Respect the free, prior and informed consent of local populations affected by plantations and include the creation of participative mapping on a community level to ensure their food security and sustainable living conditions,
- Respect human rights, in particular labour laws and customary land rights,
- Implement an effective conflict resolution mechanism, including compensation and land restitution measures,

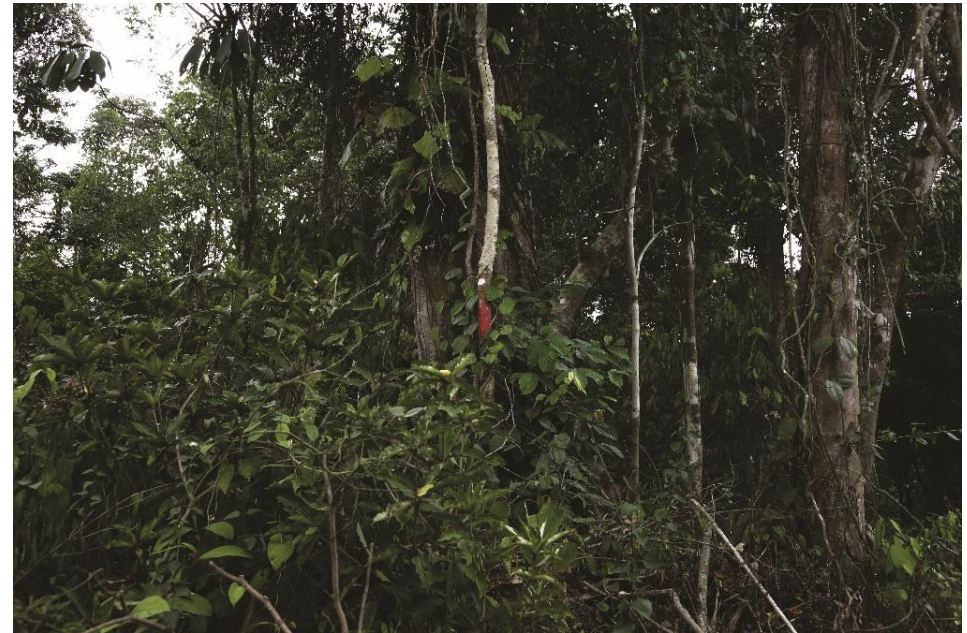
Socfin must also publish a credible action plan aimed at resolving the many social conflicts concerning its existing plantations.



➤ **Recommendations addressed to Socfin customers, palm oil and natural rubber consumers**

**Greenpeace requests all of Socfin's customers, palm oil and natural rubber consumers, to:**

- Demand that Socfin commits without delay to a zero deforestation policy protecting HCS forests, HCV areas and the free prior and informed consent of local communities,
- Condition the continuation of their commercial relations with Socfin on the implementation of a zero deforestation policy based on the High Carbon Stock (HCS) Approach methodology.



*Marking on a tree in preparation for clearing operations in a natural forest for the expansion of the Socapalm palm oil concession in Mbimbé. Socfin's subsidiaries in Cameroon run almost 60,000 ha of concessions. Cameroon, March 2016.*

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<sup>1</sup> Africa's forests under threat: Investigation of the investments of the Bolloré Group and its Belgian partner Hubert Fabri, Greenpeace, February 2016:

[http://www.greenpeace.org/africa/Global/africa/publications/forests/2016/AFRICA'S\\_FORESTS\\_UNDER\\_THREAT\\_1.pdf](http://www.greenpeace.org/africa/Global/africa/publications/forests/2016/AFRICA'S_FORESTS_UNDER_THREAT_1.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Information available on the Socfin website:

<http://www.socfin.com/Public/Timeline.php?ID=1059&ancestor1=1051>

(last consulted on 18 April 2016)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.challenges.fr/classements/fortune/fiche/vincent-bollore;85.html>

<sup>4</sup> Press release by the Socfin company, Socfin, March 2016:

[http://www.socfin.com/Files/media/News/2016-03-04-ReleaseSocfin\\_Greenpeace.pdf](http://www.socfin.com/Files/media/News/2016-03-04-ReleaseSocfin_Greenpeace.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Greenpeace's response to Socfin's press release is available upon request

<sup>6</sup> Eleanor Warren-Thomas, Paul M. Dolman & David P. Edwards (2010), Increasing demand for natural rubber necessitates a robust sustainability initiative to mitigate impacts on tropical biodiversity, Conservation Letters, online.

<sup>7</sup> Barito Pacific website (last consulted on 18 April 2016): <http://www.barito-pacific.com/index.php/news/detail/77>

<sup>8</sup> Michelin website (last consulted on 18 April 2016):

[http://en.purchasing.michelin.com/content/download/633/6707/file/NR%20Procurement%20Principles\\_%20ENG%20BD.pdf](http://en.purchasing.michelin.com/content/download/633/6707/file/NR%20Procurement%20Principles_%20ENG%20BD.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> Sustainability Report 2013, Socfin website (last consulted on 18 April 2016): <http://www.socfin.com/Files/media/News/SustainabilityReport-2013.pdf>

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<sup>12</sup> Barito group of companies responsible plantation and forest policy March 1st, 2015: <http://www.barito-pacific.com/index.php/news/detail/77>

<sup>13</sup> Press release : Socfin The Socfin Group is committing itself to integrate a « Zero Deforestation » policy, Octobre 2015 :

<http://www.socfin.com/Files/media/News/0DeforestEN2.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Socfin Group Sustainability Policy, Socfin, Août 2015 :

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<sup>15</sup> See for example: Golden Agri Resources, "GAR Social and Environmental Policy", [http://www.goldenagri.com.sg/pdfs/misc/GSEP\\_-\\_GAR\\_Social\\_and\\_Environmental\\_Policy.pdf](http://www.goldenagri.com.sg/pdfs/misc/GSEP_-_GAR_Social_and_Environmental_Policy.pdf); Wilmar, "No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation Policy", <http://www.wilmar-international.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/No-Deforestation-No-Peat-No-Exploitation-Policy.pdf>; Musim Mas, "Sustainability Policy",

<http://www.musimmas.com/qws/slot/u50045/Downloads/MM%20Sustainability%20Policy.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> List of members of the High Carbon Stock steering group:

<http://highcarbonstock.org/members/>

<sup>17</sup> List of members of the Science Advisory Committee: University of Kent (Matthew Struebig), University of Hawaii (Kim Carlson), University of Adelaide (Lian Pin Koh), Consulting social scientist (Philippa Atkinson), Imperial College London (Robert Ewers), ETH Zürich (Jaboury Ghazoul), University Paul Sabatier (Jerome Chave), University of York (Jennifer Lucy) and Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (Florian Siegert)

<sup>18</sup> Press release: Socfin The Socfin Group is committing itself to integrate a "Zero Deforestation" policy, October 2015:

<http://www.socfin.com/Files/media/News/0DeforestEN2.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> Socfin Group Sustainability Policy, Socfin, August 2015:

<http://www.socfin.com/Files/media/Downloadables/Socfin-Group-SE-Policy2.pdf>

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<sup>21</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

<sup>22</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Statistics Division, FAOSTAT website

<http://faostat3.fao.org/browse/Q/QC/E>

<sup>23</sup> 2014 figures

<sup>24</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Statistics Division, FAOSTAT website

<http://faostat3.fao.org/browse/Q/QC/E>

<sup>25</sup> 2013 figures

<sup>26</sup> South-West and Coastal Regions

<sup>27</sup> Ndjogui TE, Nkongho RN, Rafflegeau S, Feintrenie L and Levang P. 2014. *Historique du secteur palmier à huile au Cameroun*. Document occasionnel 109. CIFOR, Bogor, Indonesia (in French).

<sup>28</sup> Socfin, 2014 Sustainability report:

<http://www.socfin.com/Files/media/News/Sustainability-report-2014-def.pdf>

<sup>29</sup> Socfinaf, 2014 annual report (in French):

<http://www.socfin.com/Files/media/Downloadables/SAF-RA-2014-sans-lien.pdf>

<sup>30</sup> Ndjogui TE, Nkongho RN, Rafflegeau S, Feintrenie L and Levang P. 2014. *Historique du secteur palmier à huile au Cameroun*. Document occasionnel 109. CIFOR, Bogor, Indonesia (in French).

<sup>31</sup> Socfin, 2013 sustainability report:

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<sup>32</sup> Socfinaf, 2014 annual report (in French):

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<sup>33</sup> Ministry of Forests and Wildlife, operational rights as at 30 March 2015, "vente de coupe" (sale of standing volume) number 07 03 301. However,

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<sup>34</sup> Ndjogui TE, Nkongho RN, Rafflegeau S, Feintrenie L and Levang P. 2014. *Historique du secteur palmier à huile au Cameroun*. Document occasionnel 109. CIFOR, Bogor, Indonesia (in French).

<sup>35</sup> Raunet (1985) quoted by Lavigne Delville Ph., Boucher L. and Vidal L., 1996 "Les bas-fonds en Afrique tropicale humide : stratégies paysannes, contraintes agronomiques et aménagements" in Pichot et al eds. *Fertilité du milieu et stratégies paysannes sous les tropiques humides*, actes du séminaire international, CIRAD, pp. 148-161 (in French)

<sup>36</sup> RSPO NEW PLANTING PROCEDURE, 2015 and RSPO Principles and Criteria for the Production of Sustainable Palm Oil, 2013

<sup>37</sup> RSPO NEW PLANTING PROCEDURE, 2015

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<sup>41</sup> Socfinaf, 2014 annual report (in French):

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<sup>42</sup> Liberian Agricultural Company (LAC), Liberia; Environmental and Social Due Diligence Assessment, Final Report, July 2015, ERM

<sup>43</sup> Liberian Agricultural Company (LAC), Liberia; Environmental and Social Due Diligence Assessment, Final Report, July 2015, ERM

<sup>44</sup> Liberian Agricultural Company (LAC), Liberia; Environmental and Social Due Diligence Assessment, Final Report, July 2015, ERM

<sup>45</sup> Liberian Agricultural Company (LAC), Liberia; Environmental and Social Due Diligence Assessment, Final Report, July 2015, ERM

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<sup>47</sup> Letter of Intent between the Government of the Republic of Liberia and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway on “Cooperation on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+1) and developing Liberia’s agriculture sector”:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/b8b93fa03bda4ac893d065d26d64075b/letterofintentliberia.pdf>

<sup>48</sup> “Adopt, through a consultative process, a legal framework to govern Liberia’s agricultural sector, including safeguards ensuring zero deforestation, protections for the environment, FPIC and respect for the land rights of people living in proposed investment areas.” and “For the purposes of this Partnership ‘ambitious zero deforestation commitment’ shall be understood to meet a standard no less than that committed to by palm oil trader Wilmar. See <http://www.wilmar-international.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/No-Deforestation-No-Peat-No-Exploitation-Policy.pdf>”

<sup>49</sup> IFC Projects Database, Project n° 36348. Rubber Renovation Program, Summary of Investment Information:  
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<sup>51</sup> Website of the NGO ReAct: [http://en.projet-react.org/web/react\\_en/37-plantations-bollore.php](http://en.projet-react.org/web/react_en/37-plantations-bollore.php) (last consulted on 24 August 2015)

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<sup>54</sup> Laetitia Van Eeckhout (2015), “Des paysans cambodgiens assignent en justice en France le groupe Bolloré”, LeMonde.fr, 29 July 2015 (in French): [http://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2015/07/29/spoliee-de-sa-terre-une-population-autochtone-du-cambodge-assigne-le-groupe-bollore-en-justice\\_4703542\\_3244.html](http://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2015/07/29/spoliee-de-sa-terre-une-population-autochtone-du-cambodge-assigne-le-groupe-bollore-en-justice_4703542_3244.html)

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<http://news.trust.org/item/20160205115329-tv1tv>

<sup>56</sup> HCS Approach Steering Group, Eds (2015), “The HCS approach toolkit” Version 1.0, Kuala Lumpur, HCS Approach Steering Group:  
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<sup>57</sup> HCV Resource Network website: <https://www.hcvnetwork.org/about-hcvf/the-six-high-conservation-values> (last consulted on 24 August 2015)

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Greenpeace is an independent global campaigning organisation that acts to change attitudes and behaviour, to protect and conserve the environment and to promote peace.

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