



Palm oil's new frontier

How industrial expansion threatens Africa's rainforests

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Forests and people first

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View of PAMOL oil palm plantation
near the town of Mundemba,
Cameroon

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Executive Summary

Palm oil is the world's cheapest edible oil, and increasingly one of the most popular. As global demand continues to grow so has the vigorous search for land for new plantations by investors and industry.

When it is done well and is properly managed, palm oil production can be of potential benefit to the populations of developing countries by providing sustainable livelihoods. Oil palm cultivation also has a greater oil yield per hectare than any other oil crop, which in theory means it should require less land.

On the other hand, unchecked large-scale expansion of the industry could lead to environmental devastation, and precipitate social and economic havoc for African people. Some acquisitions put forests, ecosystems and the climate at risk, and threaten the livelihood of the people depending on the land. The impact upon local environments and the global climate of the widespread conversion of rainforest and peatlands for large oil palm plantations in Southeast Asia has been widely documented.¹

Countries in Africa now stand at a crossroads. They can choose to continue to allow corporations to encroach upon their lands and expand into their natural rainforests in pursuit of the illusion of short-term economic benefits. Alternatively African governments and African people can **choose the path of sustainable development** and put the protection of their natural resources and their livelihoods first. This should include having clear and efficient plans for land use, as well as strong safeguards leading towards sustainable equity and food sovereignty.

Governments, financial institutions and corporations all have a responsibility to formulate, implement and enforce environmental and social safeguards so that the path of destructive agricultural conversion can be diverted towards a green economy.

Introduction

Steering Africa towards a green economy

The world's biggest palm oil producers and investors have been turning their attention to Africa in recent years, seeking to acquire land to grow oil palms in what some experts have dubbed the "next frontier" of industrial agricultural production. This report charts the rapid expansion of the palm oil industry in western and central Africa by multinational companies through a series of large-scale plantation projects.

Several companies have already been granted a large number of concessions in various countries in the region. Most of these projects threaten areas of outstanding natural forest, including some in the Congo Basin, home of the second-largest tropical rainforest on Earth.

Africa has a long history of palm oil production, and it continues to have a central and symbolic role for local people and for local economies. But the sudden upsurge in land deals and investments conducted by palm oil companies for large-scale monocultures in western and central African countries – often through opaque deals – is likely to lead to large-scale deforestation, climate change, social abuses and the loss of farmland from local communities.

Investors need to act far more responsibly, while alternative development strategies that protect Africa's natural resources and support the livelihoods of local populations need to be formulated and advanced.

Palm oil, produced within well-managed and diverse agroforestry systems, would not only help ensure food security for millions of Africans, provide people with a living grow local economies, it can also help protect the region's last remaining rainforests. In turn, food production will become more diverse and more resilient, helping to offset the impact of climate change.²

A man working in an artisanal palm oil mill near Mundemba, Cameroon. More and more farmers avoid selling their oil palm fruits to PAMOL (the big state owned company in Mundemba) and prefer selling it to local artisanal mills. Some of them, like this one, have a significant production.



Global palm oil

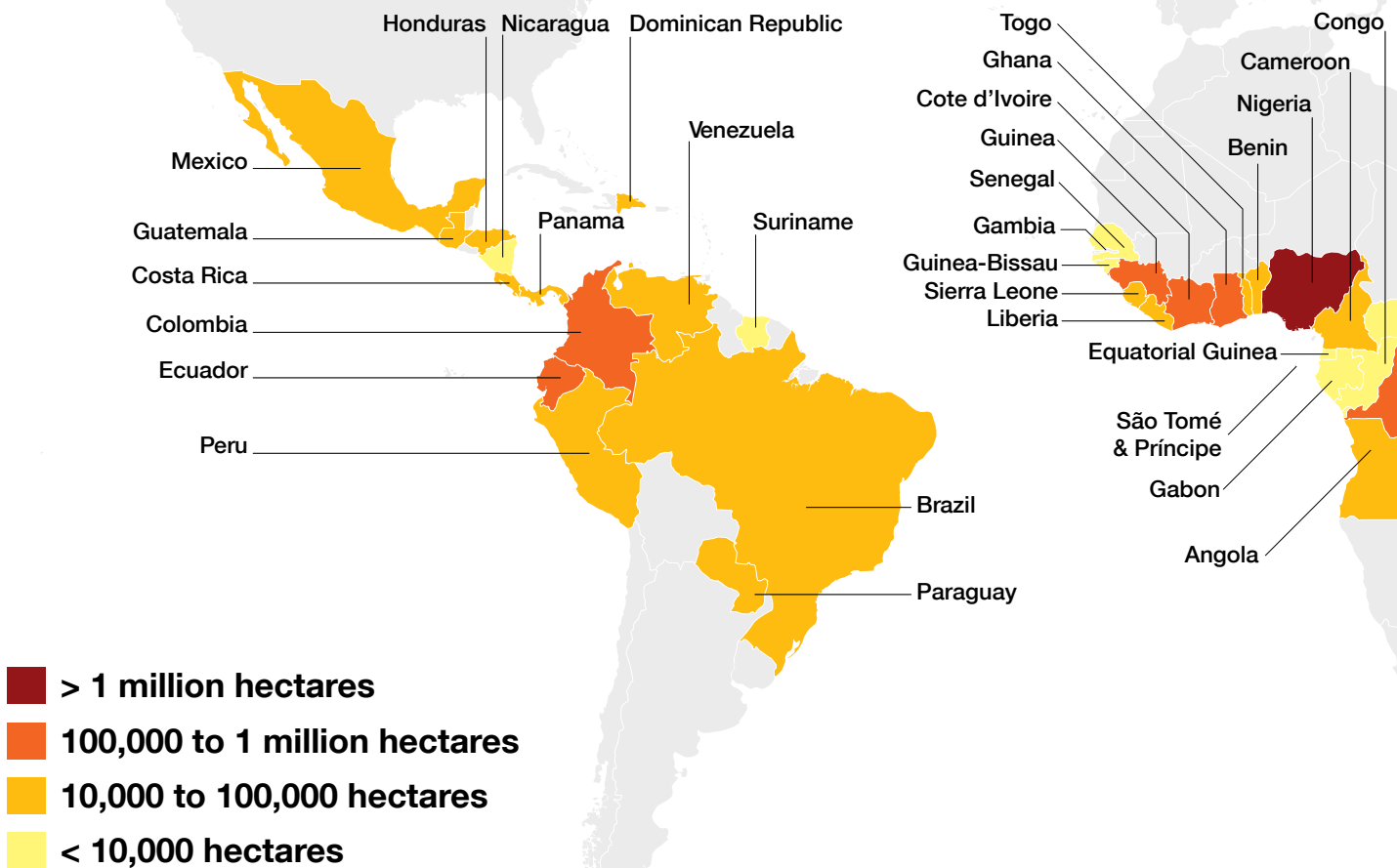
A booming business

The humble oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*) has served local communities for centuries. Its ashes can be used for fertiliser, its trunk for building houses, its leaves as roofing, and its roots for medicine. And, of course, the pulp from the tree's fruit produces palm oil used in applications as diverse as sauces, soap and biofuels.

Oil palm cultivation has a greater oil yield per hectare than any other oil crop. Between 2001 and 2006 the global average joint yield of palm and palm kernel oil was 4.2 tonnes per hectare. This compares with 0.4 for soybean oil and 0.6 for rapeseed oil.³ Industrial palm oil production has rocketed in recent times. Global output has been increasing – by about 2.5m tonnes a year on average – for the last 10 years⁴, reaching 50.5m tonnes in 2011.⁵

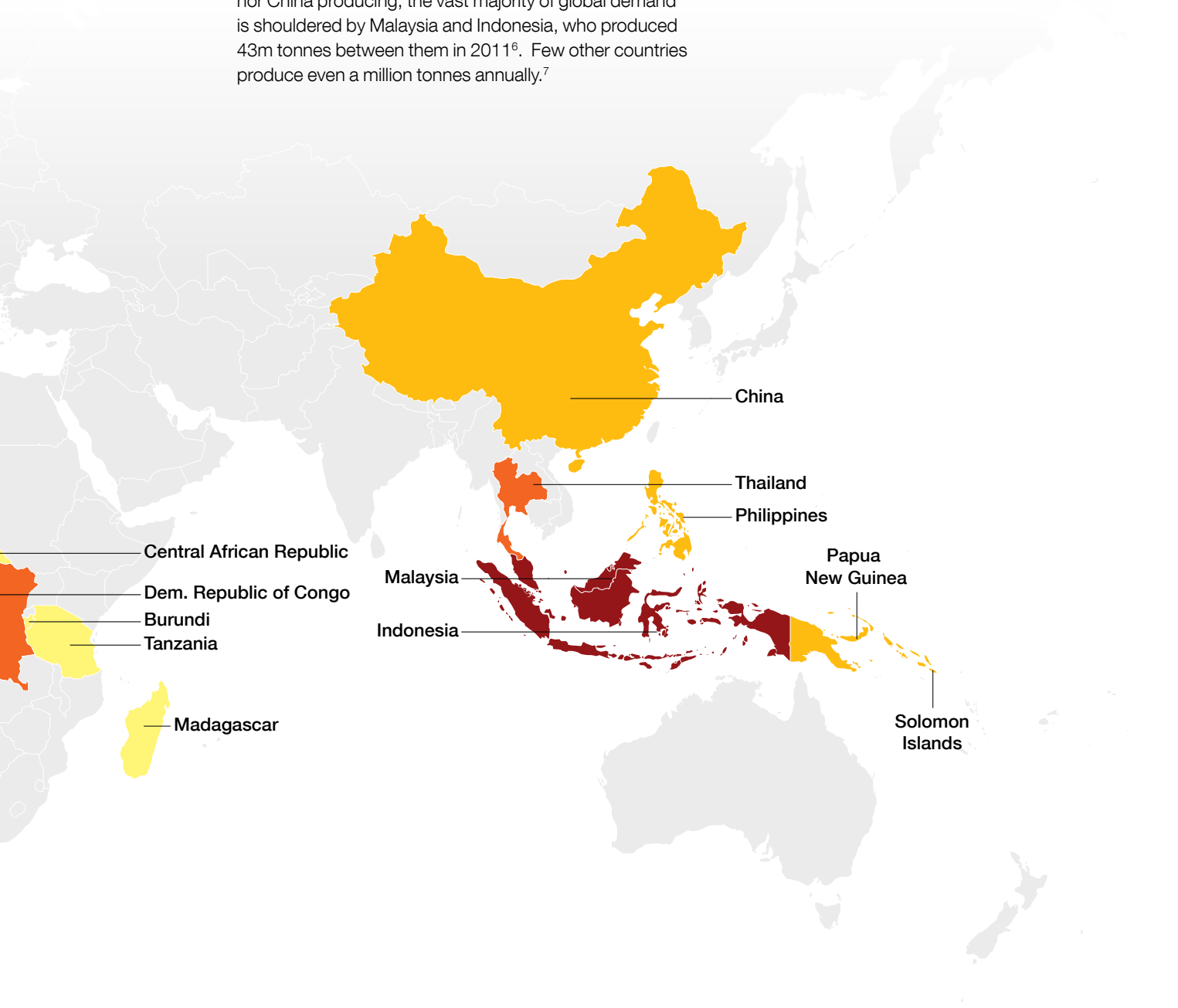
Figure 1

Map showing the extent of oil palm cultivation in 43 oil palm-producing countries in 2006



Source: Map based on FAO data reproduced from:
 Koh LP & Wilcove DS (2008). Is palm oil agriculture really
 destroying tropical biodiversity?
 Conservation Letters xx (2008) 1–5, doi:
 10.1111/j.1755-263X.2008.00011.x

Fuelling the demand have been the emerging economic powerhouses of India and China. India, however, is only a marginal producer in its own right, and with neither the EU nor China producing, the vast majority of global demand is shouldered by Malaysia and Indonesia, who produced 43m tonnes between them in 2011⁶. Few other countries produce even a million tonnes annually.⁷



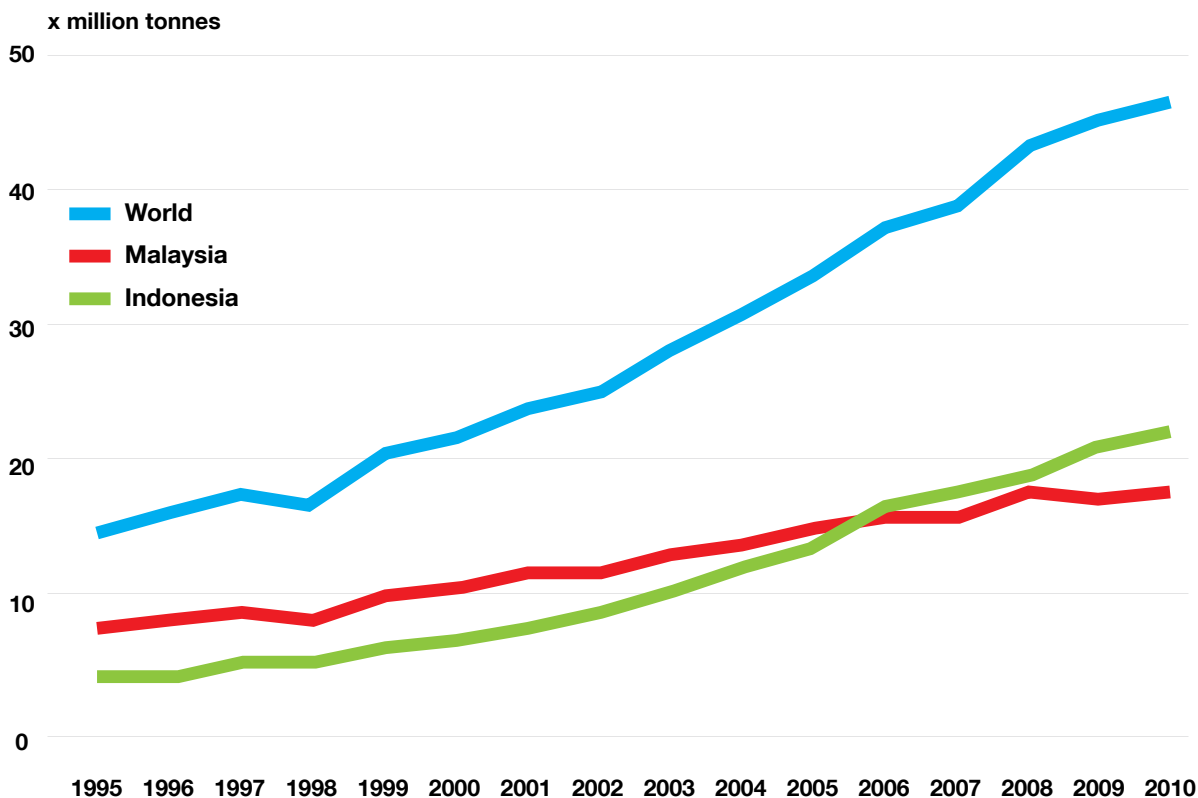
In Africa, where oil palm plantation developers have now focused their sights, only Nigeria currently generates any significant output, with approximately 930,000 tonnes a year.⁸

Under current market conditions, global demand exceeds supply and shows no sign of declining. Some experts estimate that by 2015 up to 63m tonnes of palm oil a year will need to be produced, an increase of 20m tonnes from the 2007-2008 period.⁹

A large part of this demand is down to a growing reliance on biofuels. Europe alone would require over a fifth of current global production of bulk vegetable oils to replace 10% of road transport diesel demand by 2020 as required by an EU law directive introduced in 2009.¹⁰

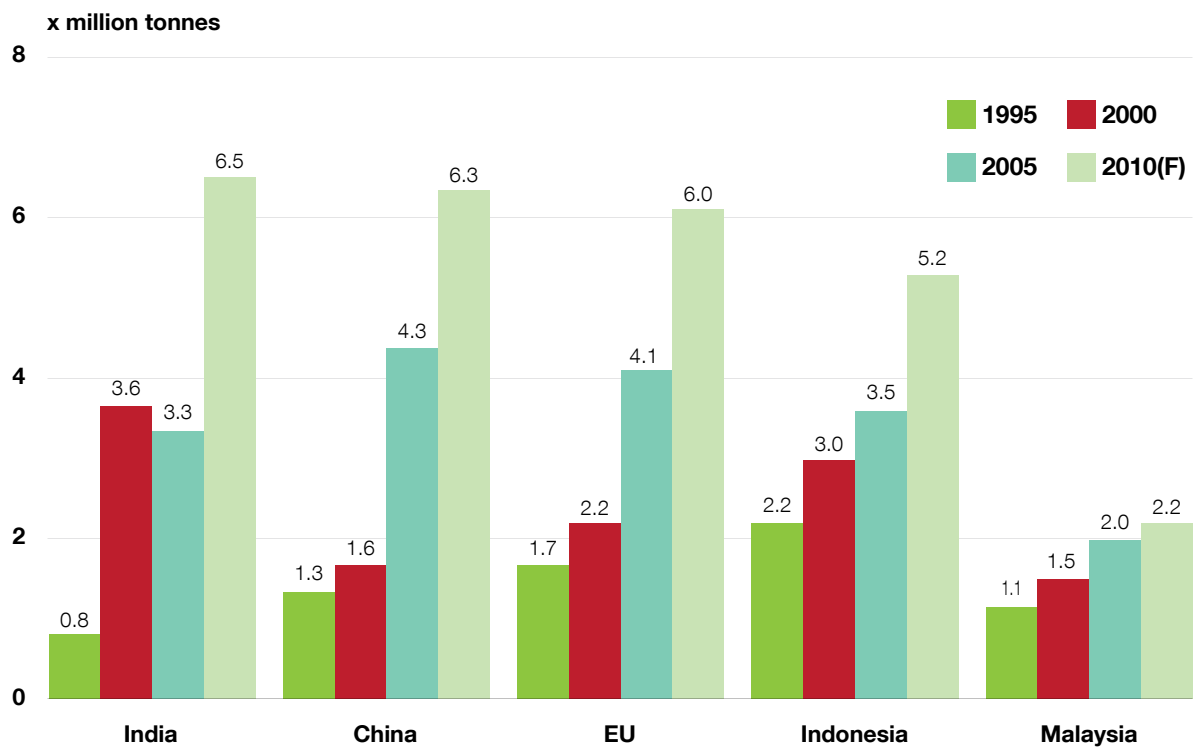
The production of biofuels puts pressure on agricultural land, which may lead either directly or indirectly to the destruction of natural ecosystems such as tropical forests. This can also imperil food security and people's livelihoods.

Figure 2
Global production and major sources of palm and palm kernel oil



Source: ISTA, EUROSTAT, Product Board MVO 2010 as presented in:
MVO (2010). Fact sheet Palm Oil, Productschap Margarine, Vetten en Oliën, November 2011.

Figure 3
Global consumption and major users of oil palm 1995-2010



Source: ISTA, EUROSTAT, Product Board MVO 2010 as presented in:
MVO (2010). Fact sheet Palm Oil, Productschap Margarine, Vetten en Oliën, November 2011.

RSPO – An imperfect solution

The Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) was formed in 2004. Its stated aim is to promote the use of sustainable oil palm products through credible global standards and through the engagement of stakeholders.

Greenpeace is not a member of the RSPO but has actively campaigned in recent years for a strengthening of the RSPO standard. At present, however, the standard is too weak to be able to call RSPO-certified palm oil “sustainable”.

The RSPO works upon the concept of High Conservation Value Areas (HCVAs). This fails to protect many forest areas. The RSPO has thus far largely failed to prevent deforestation or the drainage of carbon-rich peat lands. RSPO membership and certification do not therefore guarantee the link between a company producing palm oil and deforestation is eliminated.

For that to happen, the RSPO must strengthen its standards – particularly on greenhouse gas emissions and peatland protection – and also continue the work it has started on stricter implementation of the organisation’s existing principles and criteria. The organisation also lacks a sufficiently robust complaints procedure, a key component of any credible certification system. Until all these changes are made, the RSPO alone is not sufficient proof of a company’s environmental credentials.

Increased industrial palm oil expansion in Western and Central Africa will further test RSPO and its ability to deal adequately with environmental as well as social challenges and land rights issues on the continent.

Southeast Asia – learning the lessons of palm oil forest destruction

The global centre for palm oil production, the Southeast Asia region has a rich tradition of cultivation. The Dutch introduced oil palms to Indonesia in the middle of the 19th century¹¹, and Malaysia began production way in the 1910s, expanding cultivation in the 1960s¹². as a way of combating poverty. Thailand – although less suited to cultivation because of its lower humidity and less fertile land – started establishing plantations in the late 1970s, and more recently a larger part of its production has been designated for biodiesel.¹³

A 2007 report from the United Nations Environment Programme in 2007 found oil palm plantations to be the leading cause of deforestation in both Indonesia and Malaysia.¹⁴

In Indonesia, the world’s largest producer of palm oil¹⁵, rainforests and carbon-rich peatlands were destroyed at a rate of 1.1m hectares annually between 2000 and 2005¹⁶, endangering species including Sumatran tigers and orangutans. Rapid expansion caused Indonesia to become the third largest emitter of greenhouse gases on the planet.¹⁷ Oil palm plantation expansion in the country has in many cases forced indigenous and local communities off their land. The Indonesian organisation Sawit Watch says it is currently monitoring more than 660 land disputes.¹⁸

In May 2011, the government of Indonesia established a two-year moratorium on new concessions (permits) for the clearance of rainforests and peatlands, including for pulp and oil palm plantations.¹⁹ Also in 2011, Golden Agri Resource (GAR) – one of the world’s largest palm oil producers – pledged to stop clearing forest areas high in carbon, referred to as high carbon stock (HCS) forest, and renewed its commitments not to clear peatlands and forests of high conservation value.²⁰

Despite these encouraging steps the moratorium is restricted to areas of primary forest and peatland outside existing concessions. Greenpeace analysts have calculated that, in its current state, the moratorium will offer little additional protection to Indonesia’s forests and peatlands.



Palm oil in Africa

A native of western and central Africa, the oil palm has been central to the traditions and lives of communities wherever it grows naturally. Yet despite being the tree's natural habitat, the continent is not currently a major contributor – in global terms – to the production of palm oil.²¹

That was not always the case. As recently as the 1960s, countries in western and central Africa were the heart of the international palm oil industry, with Nigeria contributing 43% of the world's output.²² It is still the major African producer by some distance, but its output now accounts for just under 2% of the global total.²³

European colonisation was the catalyst for the introduction and development of large-scale plantation systems on the continent. In most cases this was achieved through the forced appropriation of land. Independence saw many of these plantations fall under state ownership, until the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund intervened in the 1990s.²⁴ Structural policy changes resulted in the privatisation of plantations and the return of control, in many cases, to foreign ownership.²⁵

Aside from the different centralised systems put in place by corporations and governments, traditional methods of oil palm cultivation have managed to survive and co-exist. Such processes involve harvesting fruits from either natural or semi-natural palm stands and converting them into palm oil either manually or in artisanal mills.

The scale of land grabbing and the threats posed

A large number of the concessions being granted to foreign developers in countries in western and central Africa can be viewed as part of a new global land grab, due to the contentious nature of many of the deals that would set them apart from straightforward land acquisition.

In a recent review of all land acquisitions by foreign investors globally since 2006, conducted by the NGO GRAIN, Africa was identified as a primary target in a wave of land encroachment. Asian and European-based investors account for two thirds of that activity.²⁶

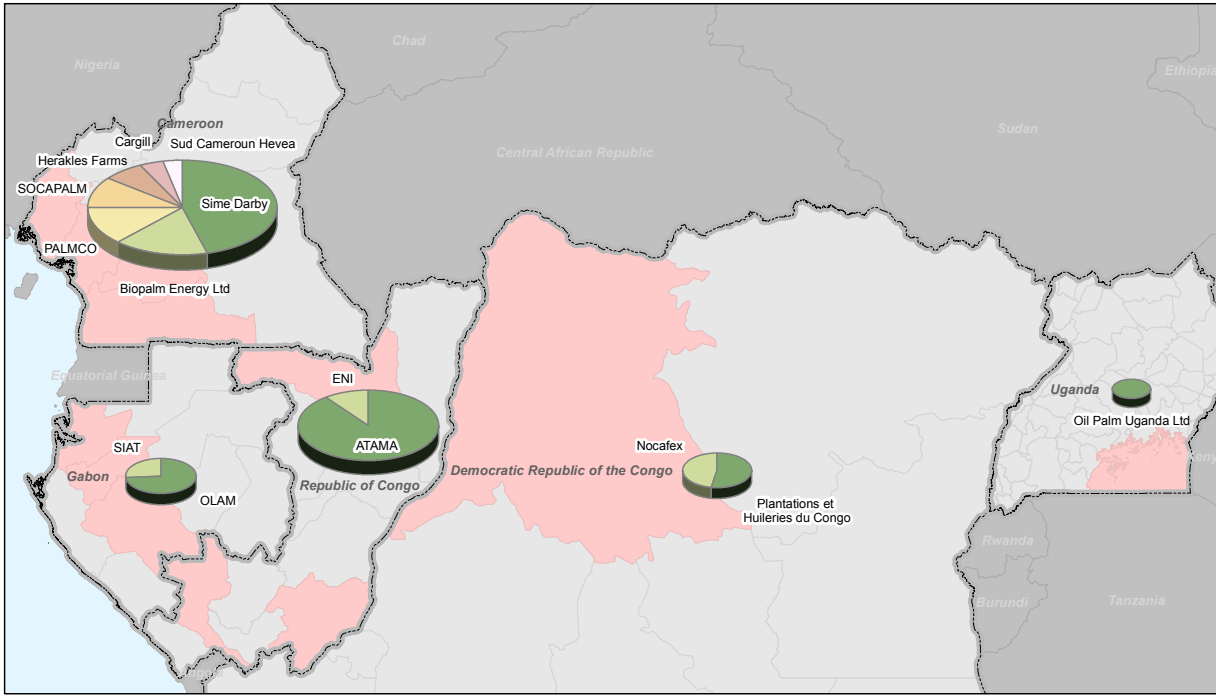
A recent report identified 56.2m hectares of land deals that have taken place in sub-Saharan African since 2000.²⁷

Recent research conducted by Greenpeace International identified an area of more than 2.6m hectares in 10 western and central African countries that is either earmarked or already home to large-scale oil palm plantation projects (see appendix).

The majority of these projects are at least partly planned for forested areas, as shown in case study maps, and many have already sparked resistance from local communities²⁸.

Of all the recent acquisitions one of the most notable is in Cameroon, where the US-based Herakles Farms is involved in a highly controversial project involving around 70,000 hectares. The project is set to affect the life of tens of thousands of people, and could destroy natural forests between five protected areas in one of the most ecologically sensitive areas of Africa.

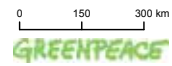
Some of the reported projects for palm oil development in Central Africa (2012)



Province affected by oil palm plantation projects



Proportions of oil palm plantation projects in the country. Circle size refers to the total area of all projects in the country (hectares)



The threat of large-scale deforestation and climate change: how ignoring the forests could put people and the climate at risk

Forests maintain ecological systems that are essential for all life on Earth. They are home to more than half of all land-based species of plants and animals, as well as millions of indigenous peoples and forest communities who depend on them for their survival.²⁹

Forests also regulate water flow and rainfall – even at long intercontinental distances – and play a vital role in stabilising the Earth's atmosphere and climate by capturing and storing large amounts of carbon, therefore allowing humans and other species to better adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The carbon stock in above-ground biomass of an Indonesian oil palm plantation is on average around 39 tonnes per hectare³⁰, while the African Tropical Rainforest holds around 150 tonnes per hectare in its above ground biomass³¹. Any further conversion of forests in order to establish oil palm plantations would result in more massive emissions of CO₂.

Issues of land tenure

Approximately 77% of land in sub-Saharan Africa falls under the definition of customary domain.³² This means land that was formally state-owned but has been used by local communities, often for generations, although these customary users actually have very limited rights.

The negotiations between African governments and potential investors often lack transparency. Customary land users are seldom involved in the signing of leaseholds with foreign corporations for plantations.³³

Such land deals often have a dramatic impact on local populations.³⁴ The loss of access to forests means the loss of food sources, fuel, water, farmland and income – all of which lead to the loss of livelihoods. Plantation development also reduces the amount of fallow land, with a direct impact on future fertility of farms.


Fake promises for economic development

International agencies, governments and foreign investors claim that investment in arable land in African countries will produce economic development through the creation of capital, infrastructure and jobs.³⁵ Consequently, these countries are urged to develop policies that facilitate a business climate conducive to attracting foreign direct investment in industrial agriculture, including for palm oil. The courting and impact of such foreign direct investment, however, can often be very controversial.

Research and analysis conducted in the field by the Oakland Institute of more than 30 land deals across seven different countries found that: “promises of economic development through land and agro-investment are often overstated. As it happens, large-scale land investment may improve some macroeconomic indicators of development, but actually result in undermined public resources, environmental and social costs to the host country, and loss of livelihoods or lost economic opportunities for citizens.”³⁶

“Analysis of various economic issues related to foreign investment in land demonstrates that opportunity for economic development is, in fact, limited.”³⁷

Leasehold rental rates are typically very low, with very little financial benefit for anyone, particularly at a local level.³⁸ The controversial agreement with Herakles Farms in Cameroon, for example, enables the company to rent the land from as little as \$0.5 US dollars per hectare, increasing by 2% a year.³⁹



“This is a lose-lose situation. Local people might lose their way of life; while the region’s great biological diversity will be put in great jeopardy.”

- Prof. Joshua Linder, Anthropologist, James Madison University

The Fabe Nursery, run illegally by Herakles Farms. Despite a judge issuing an injunction in August 2011 ordering a halt to all operations on the nursery, Herakles Farms was continuing to operate it illegally in February 2012 when this photo was taken.



Case Study: Herakles Farms, Cameroon

Wrong project, wrong place

For a stark example of the dangers posed by the new wave of oil palm land acquisitions in western and central Africa there is no need to look further than the attempts by Herakles Farms to develop a huge oil palm plantation in the southwest region of Cameroon.⁴⁰ According to the company itself, the vast majority of the concession is secondary and degraded forests.⁴¹ These forests have been identified as vital for endangered wildlife, in reality, and as foraging area, as well as serving as corridors to connect five crucial protected zones in the region.⁴²

In September 2009 the US firm Sithe Global Sustainable Oils Cameroon (SGSOC) signed a convention⁴³ with the country's government for clearing approximately 70,000 hectares in the southwest region of the country. The legality of this deal has been questioned.⁴⁴ Soon after, the project was sold to the US firm Herakles Capital Corp⁴⁵, a company with ties to the New York private equity giant Blackstone⁴⁶. Herakles Farms, a company affiliated with Herakles Capital⁴⁷, has been developing and managing the project ever since.

The terms of the convention grant the company extraordinary privileges, partially exempting it from complying with national law, and stating that in the event of any conflict between the convention and national law – with the exception of the Constitution – the convention will prevail.⁴⁸ The terms of the convention would effectively carve out a zone of legal extraterritoriality for the company, and supersede national law.⁴⁹

The SGSOC concession is located within the Guinean forest region of western Africa, which Conservation International has identified as one of the 25 most important biodiversity hotspots on Earth.⁵⁰

Herakles says that no planting will occur on primary or high conservation value forest (HCV)⁵¹, but satellite images of the region clearly indicate that more than 70% of the proposed concession area has density of forest cover comparable to that of the iconic Korup National Park, which borders the area⁵².

An assessment conducted by the Ghana Wildlife Society on behalf of Herakles claiming the area consisted mainly of degraded secondary forest⁵³ was also rejected by the HCV Resource Network as completely inadequate in certain areas.⁵⁴

Despite claims by the company that the local environment will be protected and the project will be a force for social good in the region⁵⁵, the proposed plantation has attracted fierce criticism and opposition from local residents and NGOs⁵⁶. One local NGO took SGSOC to court in 2011 for illegally clearing forest to create oil palm nurseries before completing an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment, or receiving a Certificate of Environmental Conformity from the Cameroonian government, as required by law.⁵⁷

The company ignored a court decision ordering it to cease work, which resulted in the imposition of a fine.⁵⁸ In February 2012, one of Africa's leading environmental NGOs, the Yaoundé-based Centre pour l'Environnement et le développement (CED), issued a report questioning the legality of the 2009 convention signed by SGSOC.⁵⁹ The report also underlines that, under a 1976 law regulating the allocation of state land, a Presidential Decree is required for the allocation of a concession over 50 hectares, a requirement with which SGSOC has apparently failed to comply.⁶⁰

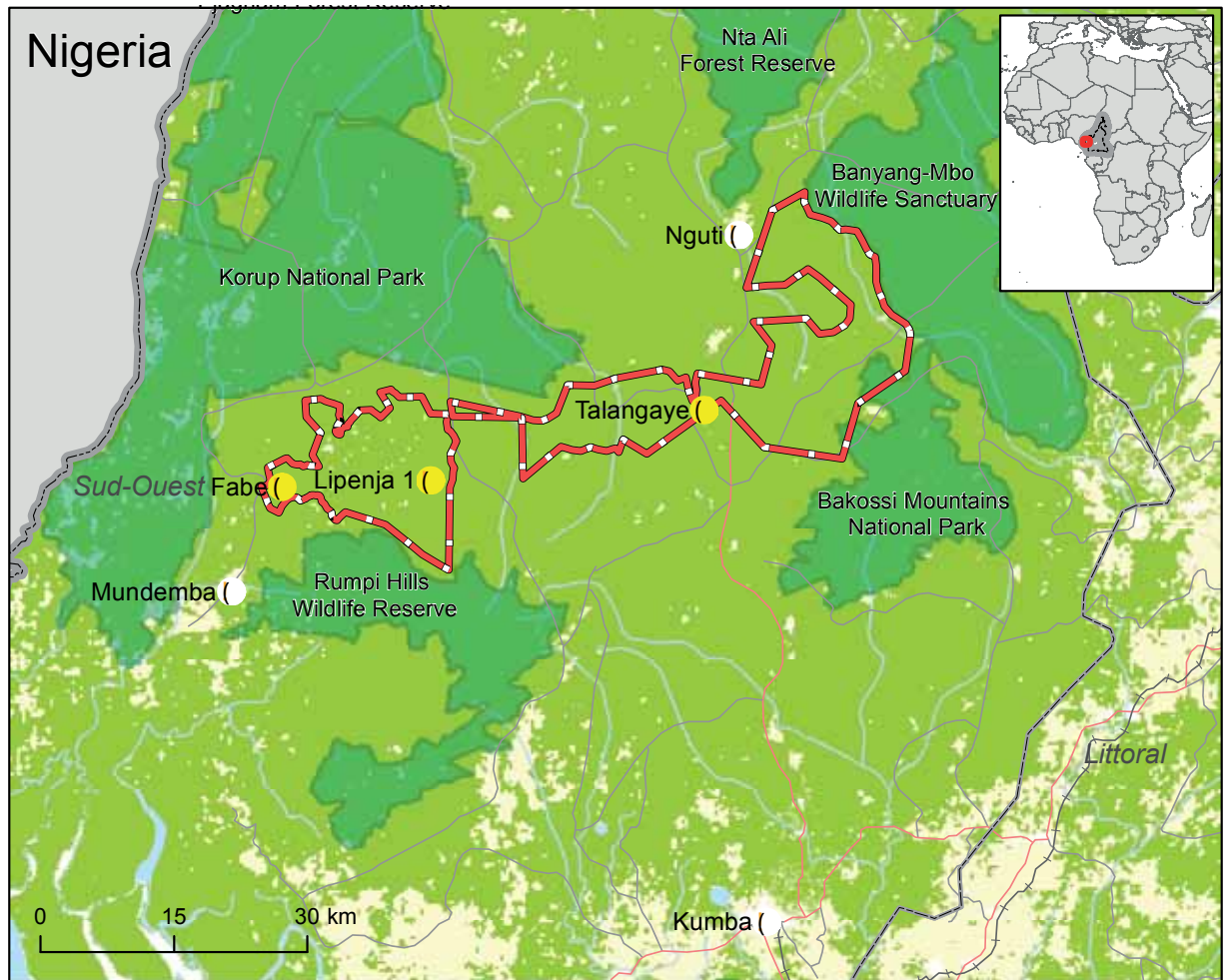
As usual, it will be ordinary Cameroonians who stand to lose most from such a land grab. People living in the region have received little or no information about the project. The company has held limited public meetings and has failed to convey the potential impacts of the proposed plantation in ways that are readily understandable.⁶¹

According to professor Joshua Linder, an anthropologist at James Madison University who has conducted research in the region for over a decade, "This is a lose-lose situation. Local people might lose their way of life; while the region's great biological diversity will be put in great jeopardy."⁶²

The Herakles Farms oil palm plantation project is the wrong project in the wrong place. Greenpeace is among the many voices calling for this project to be stopped before it is too late for the people and the ecosystems of Cameroon.



Herakles Farms oil palm concession area in the southwest of Cameroon



- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| Transport | Natural valuable areas | Land use and forest cover* |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --- Railroad — Primary route — Secondary route — Administrative borders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protected areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Croplands Open forests (20-40% tree canopy density) Dense forests (more than 40% tree canopy density) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nursery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned oil palm concessions |

* On the basis of Modis Vegetation Continuous Fields (Hansen, 2003) and GlobCover project (ESA, 2008)

Disclaimer: The concession area indicated is based on various information received by Greenpeace.

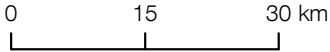
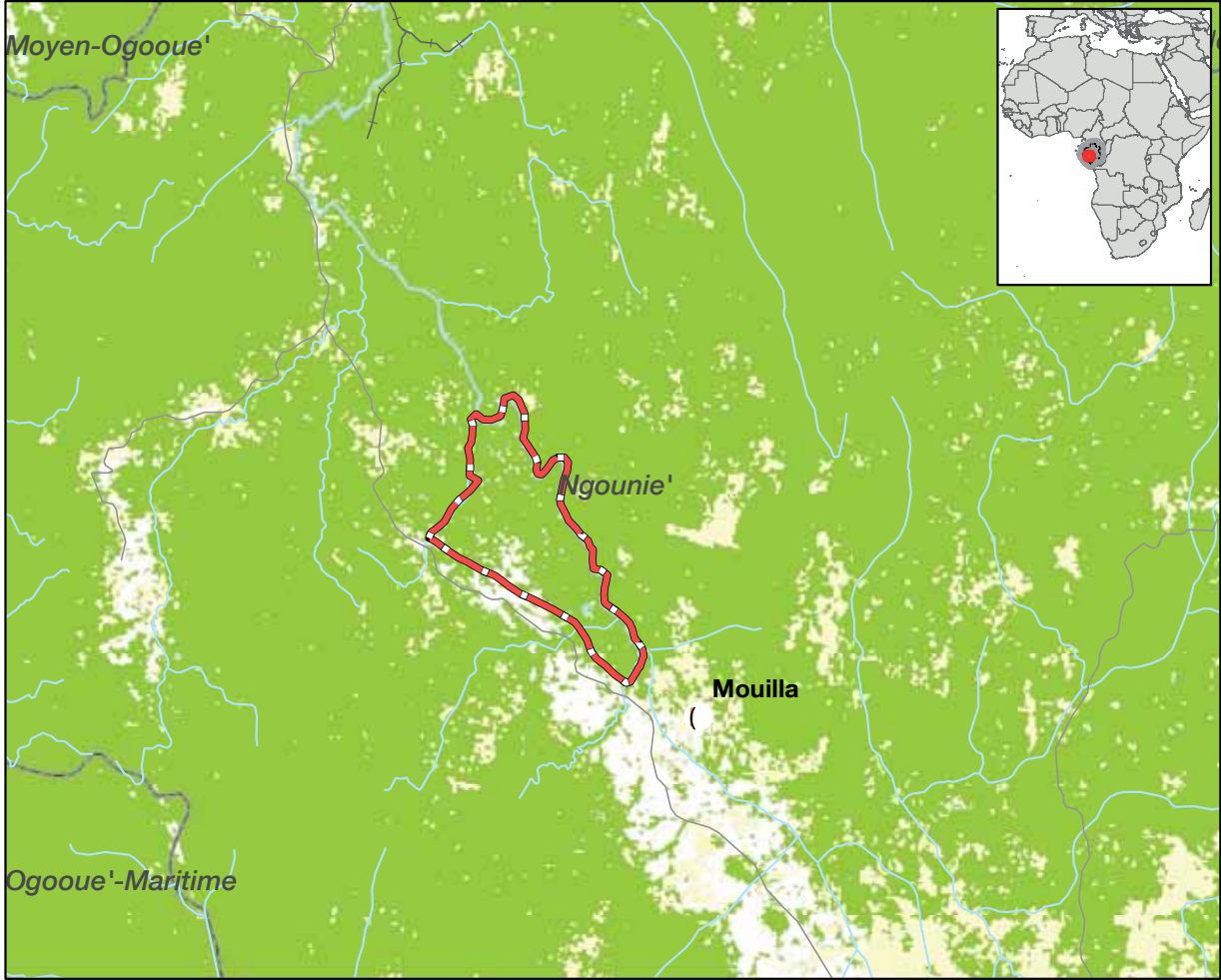
Case Study: Olam, Gabon

Olam, a leading global player in food and agricultural product processing based in Singapore, has been established in Africa for more than 20 years. It began its operations in Nigeria and Cameroon. The company plans to invest heavily in various projects in Gabon over the next 10 years, including oil palm plantations.⁶³

Olam Palm Gabon was set up in collaboration with the government in 2010⁶⁴ and was granted the right to develop nearly 88,000 hectares of land.⁶⁵ These projects, known as the Kango and Moulia Projects, are part of a planned wider development that could eventually total 300,000 hectares of oil palm and rubber plantations.⁶⁶ Although the company has demonstrated a willingness to adhere to RSPO new-planting procedures⁶⁷, studies have shown there is still a very real threat the projects could result in significant deforestation and provoke conflicts over land rights⁶⁸.

Olam has made no commitments to stop the conversion of forests for palm oil.

Olam oil palm concession area in Gabon - southern block



- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| Transport | Natural valuable areas | Land use and forest cover* |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —+— Railroad — Primary route — Secondary route | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Protected areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Croplands ■ Open forests (20-40% tree canopy density) ■ Dense forests (more than 40% tree canopy density) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Administrative borders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nursery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Planned oil palm concessions |

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Case Study: Sime Darby, Liberia

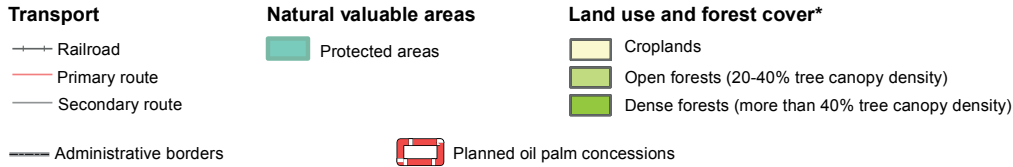
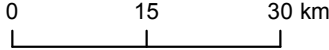
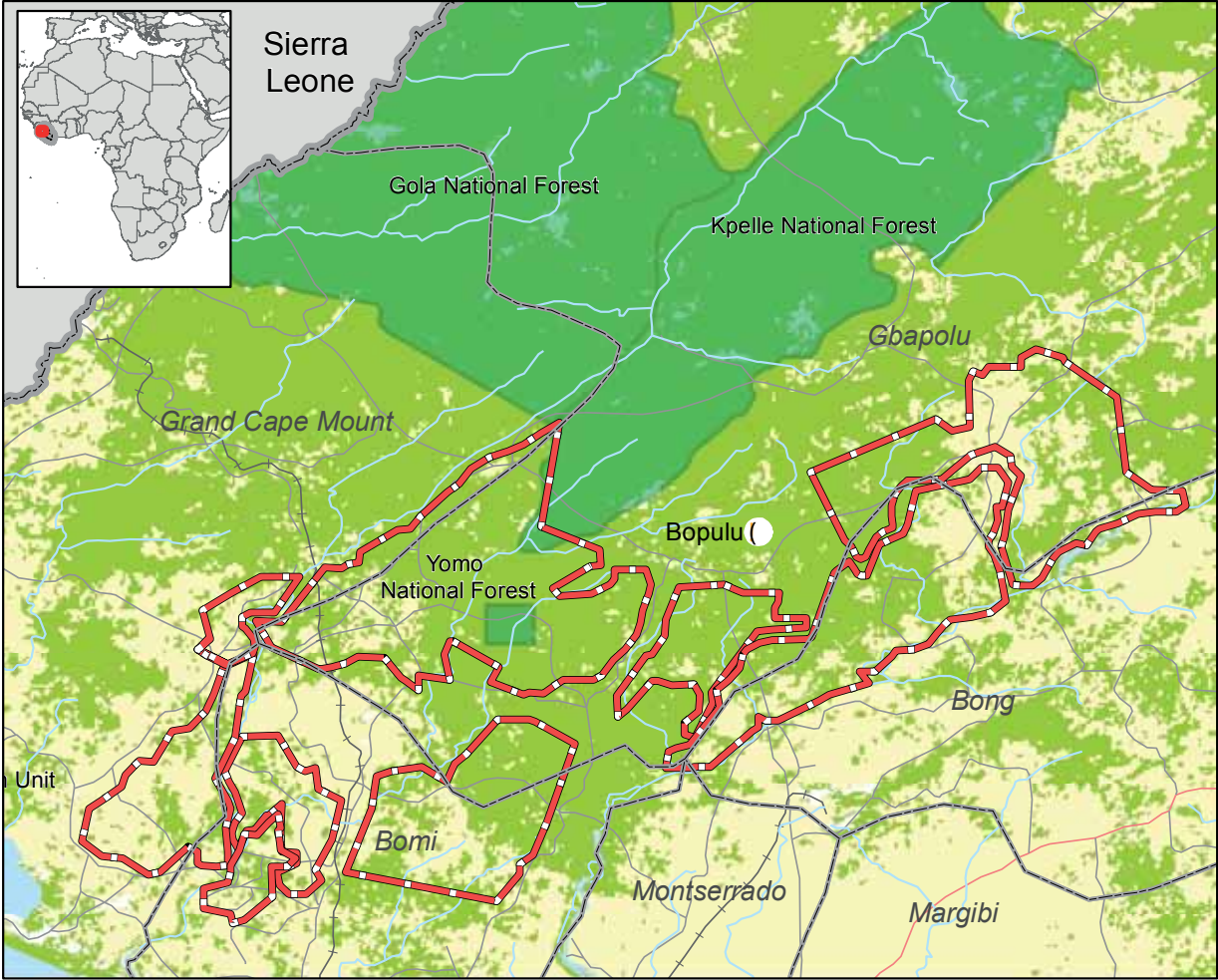
The largest company listed on the Malaysian stock exchange, Sime Darby entered into an agreement with the Liberian government in July 2009 that granted it concessions, over a period of 63 years, for 220,000 hectares of land northwest of the capital Monrovia.⁶⁹

The company is a member of the RSPO, meaning the principles of free, prior and informed consent should be followed throughout the development of this project. However, there has been ongoing local opposition and social conflict from the moment the agreement was signed.

Civil society activists and NGOs claim Sime Darby has been a major violator of local community rights⁷⁰ and a University of Columbia report concluded: “The level of negative media attention and community frustration associated with Sime Darby is unmatched by any concession in present-day Liberia.”⁷¹

Sime Darby has made no commitments yet to stop the conversion of forests for palm oil.

Sime Darby oil palm concession area in the southwest of Liberia



* On the basis of Modis Vegetation Continuous Fields (Hansen, 2003) and GlobCover project (ESA, 2008)
Disclaimer: The concession area indicated is based on various information received by Greenpeace.

Case Study: Golden Veroleum, Liberia

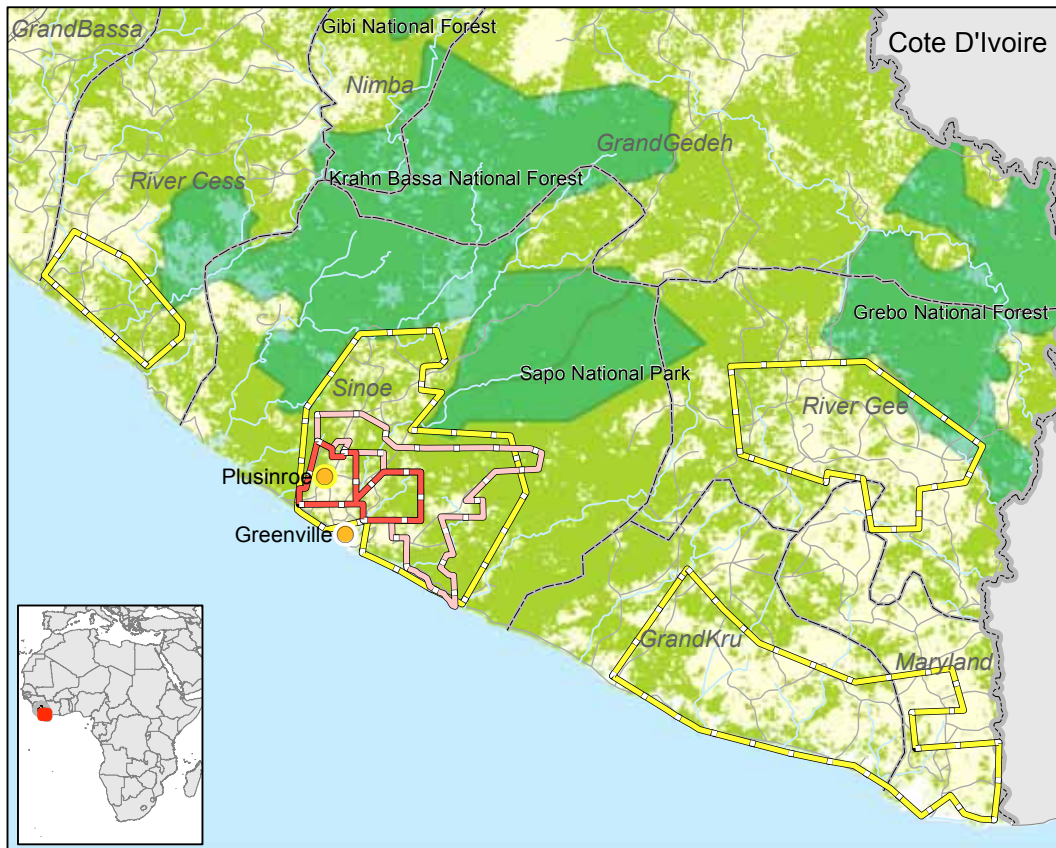
Golden Veroleum Liberia (GVL) appears to have been established by its principal investor, Golden Agri-Resources (GAR).⁷² In 2010, Liberia's government granted GVL the rights to a concession of 220,000 hectares' worth of oil palm plantation and 40,000 additional hectares to be developed in collaboration with smallholders.⁷³

GAR was the first palm oil producer to announce a commitment to a "No Deforestation" footprint through its Forest Conservation Policy (FCP) in February 2011⁷⁴. The company released a High Carbon Stock (HCS) report in June 2012⁷⁵, which explains the methodology used to identify HCS forest areas. **GAR has provided a clear industry example that it is possible for a company to identify which forests should be set aside for conservation.** Greenpeace is campaigning for other palm oil companies to make similar commitments.

The agreement from GAR was for a global implementation of its policy in any project it owned or in which it had investments. At present there are signs that GVL is not yet on track to operate in accordance with GAR's policy. GVL claims that it is following RSPO procedures, but verification is needed and **urgent work is required to ensure that the company implements policies to protect high carbon stock forest before pressing ahead with preparing land for planting.** Without this action, the good progress made by GAR in Indonesia risks being seriously undermined in Africa

Further work also appears to be required to ensure that the principles of free, prior and informed consent are followed. A recent academic report noted that, in the GVL case, many local communities members "seemed puzzled about the extent to which forests will be clear-cut and did not appear to comprehend that it would be difficult for them to continue farming activities once the company expands into their traditional land".⁷⁶

Golden Veroleum oil palm concession area in the southeast of Liberia



— Administrative Borders

● Nursery

▭ Present Development

▭ Proposed Phase 2 Development

▭ Potential Areas of Expansion

Transport

—+— Railroad

— Primary Route

— Secondary Route

Natural Valuable Areas

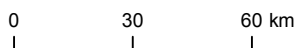
▭ Protected Areas

Landuse and Forestcover*

▭ Croplands

▭ Open Forests (20-40% tree canopy density)

▭ Dense Forests (more than 40% tree canopy density)



* On the basis of
Modis Vegetation Continuous Fields (Hansen, 2003)
and GlobCover project (ESA, 2008)

Disclaimer: The concession area indicated is based on various information received by Greenpeace.

Conclusion

Put the forest and people first

Greenpeace believes the growing global demand now pushing the expansion of the large-scale palm oil industry into western and central Africa should not occur at the expense of the few remaining natural forests or undermine the rights and livelihoods of local residents.

Greenpeace is calling for all countries, institutions, companies and foreign investors to shoulder their responsibility for their practices and their impact. They should do this by adopting and implementing strong safeguard policies to address the knock-on environmental and social consequences of land grabbing and palm oil industry expansion.

Among the basic requirements are transparency in all land acquisition negotiations and agreements⁷⁷, as well as a guarantee that people's rights pertaining to the tenure of land are upheld.

In the meantime new large-scale land lease agreements for agro-industrial projects should be suspended in African countries until clear preconditions and modalities are established, including adequate planning for participatory national land use and conservation.

In the short term, Greenpeace is calling on the palm oil industry to adopt and implement “Zero Deforestation” policies that ensure the following:

The protection of natural forest through:

- Halting the conversion of forested land into plantations or for other non-forest-based use, including within existing concessions.
- Identifying forests from degraded forest lands, and ensure their conservation through methodologies such as High Carbon Stock (HCS)⁷⁸, High Conservation Value (HCV), and the RSPO New Planting Procedure.
- Introducing policies and methodologies that are applicable to all of a company's subsidiaries and suppliers, and to their global operations.

The rights of indigenous peoples and local communities who will be affected by plantation operations are respected

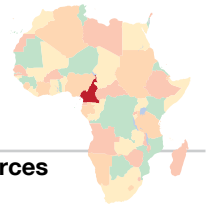
- At the very minimum, the free, prior and informed consent of the communities (FPIC) shall be ensured to develop oil palm plantations on their legal and/or customary lands.

By following a low-carbon development path, the region can protect its forests, respect the rights of its forest communities and achieve food sovereignty and economic development - while helping above all to protect the global climate.

Appendix 1

Reported palm oil projects in western and central Africa in 2012.

The following tables are only indicative of oil palm plantation projects reported for Africa in 2011 and 2012. They are based on various data collected by Greenpeace.



Cameroon

Location	Company	Crops	Extent	Land cover	Investors	Status	Sources
Littoral, Nkam, Yabassi	Sime Darby	Palm oil and/or rubber	430,000 hectares (40,000 already allocated)	Agricultural land or natural forest	Sime Darby	The agreement is currently being negotiated. It is said that the area initially proposed by the government of Cameroon contained too much HCVF	Minader (2011). Tableau synoptique des lots de terre à sécuriser par le Mindaf au titre du BIP de l'exercice budgétaire 2012. Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement rural Hoyle D & Levang P (2012). Le développement du palmier à huile au Cameroun, WWF-IRD-CIFOR
Coast, Centre, South	SOCAPALM	Palm oil	78,529 hectares	Plantations (43,000 hectares), forest	Bolloré (France)	Signed in 2000 for 60 years	Briefing paper : The Impact of the Privatisation of SOCAPALM on communities and the environment in Cameroon, Misereor, CED, Sherpa, Focarfe, December 2010 SGBC, Socapalm, note d'information pour l'augmentation de capital de Socapalm par appel public à l'épargne, 2008 Ricq JA & Gerber J-F (2010). Dix réponses à dix mensonges à propos de la Socapalm, WRM bulletin no. 155
Meyomessala, South of Dja reserve	Sud Cameroun Hevea (Hevea-Sud)	Rubber, palm oil	45,200 hectares	Permanent forest estate	GMG (Singapore)	Started 2010 operational within 4 years (-> 2015)	http://gmg.listedcompany.com/profile.html Minader (2011) op cit.
Ocean (Bella)	Biopalm Energy Ltd	Palm oil	200,000 hectares (3,300 already allocated by government)	Forest (permanent forest estate)	SIVA group (Singapore); SIC (National investment corporation)	Memorandum of Understanding with Minader signed August 2011	http://www.commercialpressuresonland.org/press/la-plantation-de-biopalm-m%C3%A8nera-%C3%A0-la-destruction-des-communaut%C3%A9s-bagy%C3%A9li-au-cameroun Coastweek, 19 May 2012 (http://palmnews.mpob.gov.my/palmnewsdetails/palmnewsdetail.php?idnews=10585) Minader (2011) op cit.
-	Cargill	-	50,000 hectares	-	Cargill (US) API (Cameroon)	To be determined	http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFL5E8GMFNE20120522
Littoral, Nkam, Yabassi	PALMCO (Palm Oil Company)	Palm oil	100,000 hectares (30,000 already allocated)	-	PALMCO (Cameroon)	The agreement is currently being negotiated	Minader (2011) op cit
South West	SGSOC	Palm oil plantation	69,975 hectares	Agricultural land and natural forest	Herakles capital (US)	Clearing for plantation started April 2012	http://heraklesfarms.com/locations.html (2012) Jung M (2012). The US investors and African palm oil. Save Wildlife.

Congo



Location	Company	Crops	Extent	Land cover	Investors	Status	Sources
Cuvette, Sanga	ATAMA Plantations sarl	Palm oil	470,000 hectares	Plantations (180,000 hectares), agricultural land	ATAMA (Malaysia)	Signed 17 December 2010 for 30 years	http://biz.thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2012/2/3/s/10668665&sec=business http://farmlandgrab.org/post/view/18423
	CIB	Cocoa & palm oil		Agricultural land	OLAM (Singapore)	Agreement is being negotiated	Meeting with Greenpeace, May 2012
Mbé, Niari	ENI	Palm oil	70,000 hectares	Savannah	ENI (Italy)	Memorandum of Understanding signed with government of Congo, area still to be agreed on	Carrere R (2010). Oil Palm in Africa : past, present and future scenarios (No. 15), WRM series on tree plantation. World rainforest movement. http://www.aefjn.org/index.php/materiel-410/articles/les-activites-de-leni-au-congo-brazzaville.html http://www.afriquinfos.com/articles/2011/8/24/brevesdafrique-185399.asp

Côte d'Ivoire



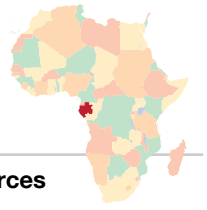
Location	Company	Crops	Extent	Land cover	Investors	Status	Sources
	Cargill	Palm oil	50,000 hectares		Cargill (US)	Negotiations just started	http://www.africabusinessmarket.com/actualite/article-2736-27-42.html http://farmlandgrab.org/post/view/20606
Sud (Close to Ghana border)	PALMCI (Nauvu)	Palm oil	160,000 ha	Ancient plantation, natural forest	SIFCA (France-50%) Wilmar (Singapore-25%), OLAM (Singapore-25%)	Is looking to improve its production in central Africa up to 500,000 tons per year (which could mean 250,000 hectares)	Carrere R (2010) op cit. Meeting with Greenpeace, June 2012 www.groupesifca.com

Democratic Republic of the Congo



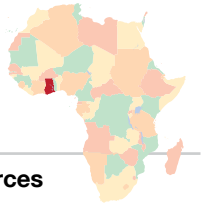
Location	Company	Crops	Extent	Land cover	Investors	Status	Sources
	Plantations et Huileries du Congo	Palm oil	70,000 hectares	Existing plantation (15,000) and other	TriNorth (Canada) via Feronia	Plantation in the process	Carrere R (2010) op cit.
Lisala	Nocafex	Rubber, palm oil	60,000 hectares		Nocafex (Belgium)	300 hectares already planted	http://famille-theys-congo-belge.skynetblogs.be/ www.nocafex.com

Gabon



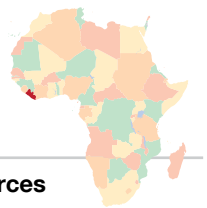
Location	Company	Crops	Extent	Land cover	Investors	Status	Sources
Makouké	SIAT	Palm oil/rubber	35,000 hectares	Natural forest	SIAT (Belgium)	The agreement is currently being negotiated	http://www.legriot.info/6193-gabon-devenir-le-premier-producteur-africain-dhuile-de-palme/
Kango, Mouilla	OLAM	Palm oil & rubber	Phase 1 : 27,000 hectares ; Phase 2 : 100,000 ha	Natural forest, savannah	OLAM (80%)/ Government of Gabon (20%)	Land preparation started October 2011. Second phase in 2013 to end 2016. Concessions for 50 years Production to start in 2015	http://www.legriot.info/6193-gabon-devenir-le-premier-producteur-africain-dhuile-de-palme/ Meeting with Greenpeace, June 2012

Ghana



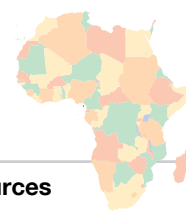
Location	Company	Crops	Extent	Land cover	Investors	Status	Sources
Twifo Manpong	TOPP	Palm oil	3,000 hectares	Smallholders' plantations	AFD (L'Agence Française de Développement), Government of Ghana, Unilever		http://business.myjoyonline.com/pages/news/201207/89802.php
Dodo Pepesu	Herakles Farms	Palm oil	4,364 hectares	Farmers' land	Herakles capital (US)	Plantation expected to begin in 2012	http://www.heraklescapital.com/docs/Herakles%20Farms%20Final%20Pepesu%20and%20RSP0%20Press%20Release.pdf

Liberia



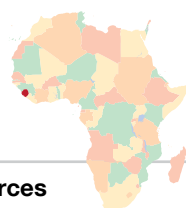
Location	Company	Crops	Extent	Land cover	Investors	Status	Sources
Sinoe; River Cess; Grand Cru; Maryland; Grand Gedeh	Golden Agri VerOleum	Palm oil	220,000 hectares	Natural forest, agricultural land	Sinar Mas (Indonesia)	Plantation started. 5,000 hectare plantation target 2012	http://www.africa-confidential.com/whos-who-profile/id/3238/
Palm Bay, River Cess, Butaw	Equatorial Palm Oil	Palm oil	169,000 hectares	Abandoned palm oil plantation (10,000 hectares), agricultural land and natural forest	Equatorial Palm Oil (UK), Biopalm Energy Ltd (Singapore)	Plantation started 2011	Carrere R (2010) op cit. www.epoil.co.uk
Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, Bong, Gbarpolu	Sime Darby	Palm oil	220,000 hectares	Agricultural land and natural forest	Sime Darby	Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2009 for 63 years. Plantation began in 2011. Expected fully planted in 2030	Chapelle S (2012). Huile de palme: vivre ou conduire, il faut choisir, Basta! - Les Amis de la Terre Lanier F, Mukpo A & Wilhelmsen F (2012). Smell No Taste. Centre for International Conflict Resolution. Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs

São Tomé & Príncipe



Location	Company	Crops	Extent	Land cover	Investors	Status	Sources
	Agripalma (SOCFINCO)	Palm oil, biofuel	5,000 hectares	Abandoned plantations, natural forest	Boloré (France)	Signed in 2009 for 25 years, first production expected 2015	Carrere R (2010) op cit.

Sierra Leone



Location	Company	Crops	Extent	Land cover	Investors	Status	Sources
Pujehjun district	SOCFIN SL	Palm oil & rubber	11,500 hectares	Agricultural land	Bolloré (France)	Signed April 2011	Mousseau F (2012). Comprendre les investissements fonciers en Afrique. Le projet Socfin en Sierra Leone. Oakland Institute.
	Sierra Leone Agriculture Ltd	Palm oil	41,582 hectares		Caparo Renewable Agriculture LLC (UK)		Carrere R (2010) op cit. Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (2012). www.rspo.org/en/member/698
Kailahun district	Goldtree	Palm oil	30,800 hectares	Replantation	PHATISA, Finnish fund for industrial cooperation, PHATISA (African Agriculture Fund [AAF]), Pan-African Agribusiness Ltd	Started 2007	Carrere R (2010) op cit.
Port Loko district	Quifel Agribusiness Ltd	Agrofuel (palm oil, sugarcane) and food for exportation	130,000 hectares	Community land	Quifel International (Portugal)	Incorporated 2008	Carrere R (2010) op cit. Oakland Institute (2011) op cit.

Uganda



Location	Company	Crops	Extent	Land cover	Investors	Status	Sources
Kalangua islands (Lake Victoria)	Oil Palm Uganda Ltd	Palm oil	40,000 hectares	Plantations and forest	Wilmar (Singapore), Bidco Oil Refineries (Kenya), Josovina Commodities (Singapore)	Launched 2003	Carrere R (2010). Oil Palm in Africa : past, present and future scenarios (No. 15), WRM series on tree plantation. World rainforest movement. Friends of the Earth international, 2012. Land grabbing: trampling human rights in Uganda. Blog post, 4 April. www.foei.org/en/what-we-do/land-grabbing/latest-news/2012/04/04 . Bidco Uganda Ltd., 2011. Environmental impact. www.bul.co.ug/palm-oil/environment.html

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