

Allegations	Socfin facts
<p>We note that, according to our analysis your company’s plantations in Africa contain at least 5,551 hectares of land that was deforested for the purposes of rubber cultivation since 2000.</p> <p>This is divided as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAFACAM (Cameroon): 217 hectares • Okomu (Nigeria): 4,180 hectares • PSG (Ghana): 1,154 hectares 	<p>The Socfin Group made a commitment to a zero-deforestation policy at the end of 2016, and it is included in the Socfin Group Responsible Management Policy (RMP) published in March 2017 which was revised in March 2022 to take into account the GPSNR Policy Components.</p> <p>Prior to establishing a zero-deforestation policy some rubber extensions have been done by clearing degraded natural forest areas between 2000 and 2016; this represents 315 ha at Safacam, 1 089 ha at PSG and 3 486 ha at Okomu, a total of 4890 ha.</p> <p>Since 2017 Socfin is a member of Earthworm Foundation which supports the Group in its RMP implementation in its subsidiaries.</p> <p>The Socfin Group has no plan to extend its concessions. And, within its current concessions, no new plantation projects are launched unless the following approaches and procedures have been strictly applied: the High Carbon Stock (HCS) approach, the High Conservation Value (HCV) Approach and the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) procedures as stated in its RMP. In all its operation, the Socfin Group implements integrated actions to fight deforestation and preserve the environment.</p>
<p>We further note that in 2020, your subsidiary Okomu’s security forces were accused by a community leader of involvement in the burning down of a village inside the concession,</p> <p>---</p> <p>and that there have reportedly been tensions between Okomu and local communities over the last decade, in connection with loss of communities’ access to land that they previously used for farming and fishing.</p> <p>---</p>	<p>OOPS rejected and denied this accusation as it is unfounded. Okomu never burned down any villages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No village has been burnt down by the company or any army at company’s behest and no village named Ijaw-Gbene exists on the OOPC concession; - All neighbouring villages are identifiable with GPS co-ordinates and the company has not expanded its land outside its concession; - Mr Ajele who is accusing the company has failed to provide any evidence (satellite photos etc.)–to the company or the Edo State Government, even after being invited to a commission of enquiry to allow him to prove his allegation. - Stakeholder communities have publicly distanced themselves from this allegation in a public disclaimer in the media. <p>----</p> <p>To protect the biodiversity and the environment Okomu prohibits fishing, farming, hunting, logging, and other activities within its concessions. Okomu is a tropical agricultural company that complies with national and international laws and standards protecting the environment, especially areas such as HCV¹s and HCS².</p> <p>The company has relationships with all of its neighbouring villages surrounding them for more than 10 years now through its various corporate social responsibility programs.</p> <p>----</p>

¹ High Conservation Value

² High Carbon Stock

<p>In addition, Okumu's plantations are located within a forest reserve and border a national park.</p>	<p>In 1976, the Company was originally carved out of a de-reserved area of the Okomu Forest Reserve by the Federal Government of Nigeria who are the ultimate owners of these forest reserves in Nigerian law. The government privatized the company through an IPO3 only in 1990.</p> <p>The Okomu concession borders the Okomu National Park (ONP). Despite ONP being a biodiversity hotspot in the state, the park and its natural habitat is coming under increasing threat and pressure from logging activities and human encroachment in the form of agriculture, deforestation, and adjacent population growth; Okomu is working with the ONP authorities in activities aimed at mitigating the threats and restoring degraded forest areas.</p> <p>OOPC is listed on the Nigerian Stock Exchange which implies it conducts its operational activities in strict compliance with the laws of the Country and the most demanding international standards in its sector.</p>
<p>We also note that conflicts with local communities have been reported in Socfin-controlled Plantations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in Liberia 	<p>LAC and SRC never evicted any community nor did they destroy any structures since the concessions were taken over and have always operated within the concession boundaries granted by the Government contrary to the image depict by the NGO's (in the report you used as a source) and reported by a Swiss TV show which removed its emission after seeing Socfin evidence.</p> <p>At the same time, the NGO removed its report from its website as well then uploaded a new version later.</p>
<p>We also note that conflicts with local communities have been reported in Socfin-controlled plantations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in Cameroon 	<p>Safacam and the Socfin Group selected an RSPO auditor firm from a list of Certifying Bodies, accredited by Assurance Services International (ASI) and registered by RSPO. These experts conducted their mission impartially and independently.</p> <p>Maintaining good neighbourly relationships with the communities living in and around its plantation is of utmost importance to Safacam. The frank and direct dialogue was reinforced since 2019 with the recruitment of a dedicated community liaison officer. It has allowed for the provision and implementation of constructive solutions and projects with the populations, ensuring serene cohabitation of the parties in the long term.</p>
<p>Conclusion:</p> <p>The Group's responsibilities obviously extend to the respect of human rights and have integrated the first internationally recognised framework of the UN Guiding Principles in its responsible management policy. Our approach is formalized in our responsible management policy, which was renewed and strengthened in 2022 in order to include the GPSNR policy components.</p> <p>We are a founding member of the Global Platform for Sustainable Natural Rubber (GPSNR)⁴ which has as a mission to lead socio-economic and environmental performance improvement in the natural rubber supply chain.</p> <p>GPSNR has the advantage that it can count all natural rubber supply chain players among its members, as well as representatives from civil society - <i>it might be interesting for you to join this platform.</i></p> <p>Socfin is also a member of the executive committee of GPSNR which confirms its leading role in the initiative. We are convinced that GPSNR, as a multi-stakeholder platform will become the</p>	

³ Initial Public Offering

reference in natural rubber. Therefore, being a member is the right action to ensure the sustainability of its value chain.

GPSNR members are committed to respecting the 12 sustainability principles as defined by the platform and to the GPSNR policy component.

Concurrently with these certifications and initiatives, the leading industry buyers: Michelin, Bridgestone, Continental, Nestlé, etc. impose their suppliers, including our Group, adherence to their policies and commitments, in turn applicable to our entire supply chain.