

Date: 03/08/2021

**Public Notification: RSPO Initial Certification Audit of Socapalm Dibombari Palm Oil Mill, Socfin SA (RSPO Membership: 1-0269-19-000-00)**

Dear Stakeholders,

This is to inform that Socapalm Dibombari Palm Oil Mill under the Parent company Socfin SA with RSPO membership number (1-0269-19-000-00) had appointed BSI Services Malaysia Sdn Bhd ("BSI Malaysia") to conduct the Initial Certification Audit located at N5, Nkapa, Littoral, Cameroon. The audit will be conducted from 10/09-11/09, 13-14/09/2021 against the requirements of RSPO Principles & Criteria 2018.

RSPO PO ID number of the Socapalm Dibombari Palm Oil Mill is: RSPO\_PO1000011314

The Socfin Group specializes in the development and management of oil palm plantations and rubber tree plantations. To date, the Socfin Group is present in 8 Central African countries and 2 countries in Southeast Asia, managing a total of 15 agro-industrial projects. The Socfin Group's strength is based on its expertise and the integrated nature of its activities, but also on its knowledge of the sector and its adaptability to current social issues.

SOCAPALM was created as a state-owned company on November 23rd, 1968 by Presidential decree N° 68/DF/451, following a World Bank intervention due to a vegetable oil shortage. Socapalm currently has six centres of operation: Dibombari, Edea, Eseka, Kienke, Mbongo and Mbambou, all with their own palm oil mill. Dibombari and Kienke furthermore also have rubber production, with the milling taking place at Safacam.

In 2000, Socapalm was privatised and sold to Palmcam, a company owned by Intercultures, who later changed their name to Socfinaf, part of the Socfin Group. In the same year, Socapalm obtained a concession agreement ('bail emphyteotique'), a 60-year leasehold agreement to be precise, with the government of Cameroon for the land on which its operations are carried out.

Socapalm Dibombari was developed as an oil palm plantation in 1974 by Société des Palmeraies du Cameroun Oriental (Sopacor), a Government-owned enterprise. The plantation currently has 3,807 ha of oil palms and 1,762 ha of rubber trees. It also operates a 40 ton/hr oil palm mill.

1. The information of the production data to be assessed are as follows:

| Socapalm Dibombari Palm Oil Mill and Supply Base     |                  |                                  |
|--|------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Mill Name</b>                                     |                  | Socapalm Dibombari Palm Oil Mill |
| <b>Mill Capacity (tons/hour)</b>                     |                  | 40 MT/hr                         |
| <b>Address / Location</b>                            |                  | N5, Nkapa, Littoral, Cameroon    |
| <b>GPS Reference</b><br>(in degree, minute & second) | <b>Latitude</b>  | 04° 13' 18" N                    |
|  | <b>Longitude</b> | 09° 36' 28" E                    |
| <b>Forecast Annual Output (MT)</b>                   | <b>CPO</b>       | 10,785.57 mt*                    |
|  | <b>PK</b>        | 2,574.00 mt*                     |
|  | <b>FFB</b>       | 53,625.00 mt*                    |

\*From the area to be certified, does not include smallholder production, as smallholders are not part of the certification scope

## 2. The Supply Base / Estates details are as follows:

| No.          | Estate / Member           | Location                      | GPS Reference |               | Area Summary (Ha)          |                 | Annual FFB Forecast (MT) | Liability Status (L/NL) | Date join (for ISH) |
|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
|              |                           |                               | Latitude      | Longitude     | Total Area to be Certified | Planted Area    |                          |                         |                     |
| 1.           | Socapalm Dibombari Estate | N5, Nkapa, Littoral, Cameroon | 04° 13' 18" N | 09° 36' 28" E | 11,180.76                  | 3,807.06        | 53,625.00                | NL                      | N/A                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |                           |                               |               |               | <b>11,180.76</b>           | <b>3,807.06</b> | <b>53,625.00</b>         |                         |                     |

Note: L – with Liability; NL – No Liability

The Supply Base to this certification does not involve new development. Consequently, there is no NPP process.

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The audit team for this audit will consists the following:

| Audit Team          | Role/Area of Requirement   | Qualification and Experience   |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Dennis Yaw Acquah   | Team Leader<br>Occupational health and safety, operation procedure, organization commitments, legal compliance, long term economy plan, time bound plan, supply chain for mill | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Holds a BSc. in Natural Resource management with specialization in Forestry from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana; MSc in logistic and Supply Chain Management from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana.</li> <li>- Currently work as a Project Coordinator (Forest and Biodiversity). Also experienced in implementing forest governance project, building relations, and sustaining communications with forest communities, acting as resource person for awareness and training activities and engaging government towards policy reforms. He has 14 years of experience as an Operation Managers having worked with two of the leading timber processing industries in Ghana.</li> <li>- Successfully completed the RSPO P&amp;C 2018 Lead Auditor Course; RSPO SCCS Lead Auditor Course, FSC Forest management/CoC Lead Auditor Course, Rain Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard (RASAS) Farm/CoC Lead Auditor Course. Have has also participated in ESIA and SEA trainings.</li> </ul> |
| Joseph William Osei | Team Member<br>Best Management Practice for Mill and Estate, environment aspect, GHG & HCV, continuous improvement, supply chain for mill                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- He obtained qualification in BSc. Natural Resources Management from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana; MSc. in Tropical Forestry with specialization in Forest Economics from the Technology University of Dresden, Germany and Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Strategic Management, from the Paris Graduate School of Management, Paris, France.</li> <li>- Natural Resources Manager with specialization in Forest Economics and more than 16 years' experience in forest plantation and natural forest management. Led and participated in over thirty Forest</li> </ul>   |

|                         |   |   |
|-------------------------|---|---|
|                         |   | <p>Management/Chain-of custody audits, Forest Carbon, FLEGT VPA and RSPO baseline assessment in over 8 countries in Africa.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- He is also an auditor for Health and Safety, Best Agriculture Practices, Environmental, and HCVs since March 2020.</li> <li>- Successfully completed the RSPO P&amp;C 2018 Lead Auditor Course; FSC Lead Auditor Course; ISO 14001 Lead Auditor Course and other certification schemes including the UEFT, VCS.</li> </ul>   |
| Aimé Fulgence           | <p>Team Member</p> <p>Social aspect and workers welfare, worker consultation, stakeholder consultation, impact assessments, policies, supply chain for mill</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- He obtained qualification in Vocational Bachelor in Quality Control and Environment Management, ESTC, Abidjan (2018), Vocational training Certificate in cooperation, specialised in Cooperative management, Ecole Régionale d'Agriculture du Sud (ERA Sud Bingerville), Abidjan (2010), Marketing-Communication and Advertising Design Engineer, Institut des Technologies d'Abidjan (2009), Marketing-Communication and Advertising Techniques Engineer, Institut des Technologies d'Abidjan (2008), Bachelor of Arts in literature, specialised in English, Université de Cocody, Abidjan (2005), HND in Human Resources Management and Corporate Communication, ESSECT Henri Poincaré, Abidjan (2005), and Baccalauréat in Literature, Lycée Moderne d'Aboisso, Aboisso (2002).</li> <li>- Experience in social audit, sustainable agriculture, and certification of agricultural production systems.</li> <li>- Successfully completed the ISO 9001 Lead Auditor Course, Endorsed RSPO P&amp;C Lead Auditor Course, Child Labor Centered Due Diligence Process / Abidjan, and Gender workshop for Associated trainers / Abidjan.</li> </ul> |
| Gueye Sarah<br>MASSOLOU | Translator  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Holds a Master's degree in business law and taxation at Omar Bongo University.</li> <li>- Currently, Sarah self-employed with a few companies and some public entities, as a legal consultant. Previously at Axe consulting, she drafts of service provision contracts, equipment rental contracts, confidentiality clauses and procedures. At SGRA/LOURMEL (France), the company's status and of contracts between companies and insurance and reinsurance companies. At ANUTTC (National Agency for Town Planning, Topographical works and Cadastre), she worked on the project of taxation of land titles and final titles.</li> <li>- Trainings attended: Budget management, Contract negotiation, and Legal document assessment.</li> </ul>   |

In preparation for the assessment, related stakeholders are invited to provide written input regarding this assessment by commenting on related aspects to the certification unit. Topics that you may wish to comment on are as follows but not limited to:

- Environmental Protection & conservation
- Human rights & workers welfare
- Opportunity for employment
- Company approach to community development
- Your relationship with the company
- Participation in decision making
- Free, prior and informed consent
- Suggestion for improvement



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Comments that are received within 30 days from the date of this letter will be considered in the Assessment. Please include the following details in case we may need to contact you for clarification or follow-up on any issue raised by you.

Name: ..... Email: .....  
Position: ..... Phone Number: .....

If you wish your comments to be treated confidentially or to remain anonymous, please mark your reply "CONFIDENTIAL". You may direct your comments to:

**Scheme Manager:**

Mr. Nicholas Cheong  
BSI Services Malaysia Sdn. Bhd.  
Suite 29.01 Level 29 The Gardens North  
Tower, Mid Valley City Lingkaran Syed Putra  
59200 Kuala Lumpur  
Federal Territory, Malaysia  
Fax : +603 9212 9639  
Email : [Nicholas.Cheong@bsigroup.com](mailto:Nicholas.Cheong@bsigroup.com)

**AND / OR**

**Auditee:**

Mr. Sebastien Rondeau  
Socapalm Dibombari  
N5, Nkapa, Littoral, Cameroon  
Fax : -  
Email : [serondeau@socapalm.org](mailto:serondeau@socapalm.org)

We thank you and appreciate for your comments.

Yours sincerely,

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Nicholas Cheong  
Global Food Scheme Manager (Agriculture)

