



Greenpeace Environmental Organization NPC

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Mr. Jean-Marc Seyman
Director General
Sud Cameroun Hevea S.A.
Po Box 382 Yaoundé
Cameroon

GMG Global Ltd
8 Marina View #34-05
Asia Square Tower 1
Singapore 018960

Also sent via email to: jms@sudcamsa.com and news@sinochem.com

13 May 2014

Dear Jean-Marc Seyman,

We are writing you in relation to your firm's plantation in Meyomessala subdivision.

Greenpeace campaigns to halt deforestation and promote environmental legality and responsible development worldwide. As part of our global work, we are monitoring the expansion of industrial palm oil projects throughout the Congo Basin and in Cameroon.

In the last two years, we have focused great attention on the destruction we believe the Herakles Farms project is likely to cause in the Southwest Region of Cameroon. We've targeted Herakles for the following reasons:

- The project is planned in an area of High Conservation Value (HCV) and will destroy the habitat of endangered wildlife¹;
- Herakles has ignored local communities' right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent,² and is reported to have resorted to "intimidation and corruption" as well as corruption to acquire land³;
- Herakles has been cited for illegal logging by the European Union-funded Independent Observer of Forestry Control,⁴ and continued to clear forest during a suspension by the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife⁵;

¹ <http://m.greenpeace.org/international/Global/international/briefings/forests/2013/Waltert-Report-Herakles-June-2013.pdf>

² <http://www.forestpeoples.org/sites/fpp/files/publication/2013/07/fpp-fpic-herakles-final-july-18-web.pdf>

³ This is according to a report by Cameroon's Ministry of Forestry and a German-funded program called the Programme for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (PSMNR).

http://cameroonveritas.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/03_01_2013_report-fact-finding-mission-sgsoc.pdf

⁴ http://www.oaklandinstitute.org/sites/oaklandinstitute.org/files/Independent_Observer_Report--SGSOC_Official.pdf

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Registration no 2008/004583/08 - Vat 4260247263 - NPO 067-126

Directors: C. P. Abani (United Kingdom); S. Galline-Haitsma (Zambia); K. O. Lubandi (Uganda);
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- The company's Establishment Convention violates Cameroonian law and international human rights law.⁶

The Herakles Farms project is a toxic one that is being replicated by other projects in the region and beyond.

Through our monitoring in the region Sud-Cameroun Hevea's current operations, including your plans for large-scale forest conversion for palm oil and rubber cultivation on the border of the UNESCO World Heritage Dja Faunal Reserve, has been brought to our attention.

The palm oil industry is at a critical juncture. While investors and palm oil industry players are eyeing Africa for expanding large-scale plantations, palm oil production is one of the main causes of deforestation, related greenhouse gas emissions and often leads to conflict with local communities with regards to land rights and their access to land and forest resources on which they are highly dependent. We are writing to call upon you to publish a certain number of basic documents.

To be clear, Greenpeace is not against palm oil, but we stand for palm oil to be produced in a responsible way--without leading to deforestation, threatening endangered wildlife, and without fuelling land use conflicts or undermining people's rights and livelihoods.

Thus, we are calling on investors and companies to adopt the policies explained below:

- The *Palm Oil Innovation Group (POIG)* was created as a collaboration between agro-industry and NGOs to demonstrate that responsible palm oil development is possible (please find a copy of the POIG Charter in the footnotes). POIG provides strong guidance for responsible palm oil by building on the RSPO's certification scheme with additional requirements to ensure that there is a supply of traceable palm oil, free from forest destruction and human rights abuses, and compliant with land and food rights and transparency and anti-corruption measures.⁷ All large scale palm oil plantations in Cameroon, including Sud-Cameroun Hevea's, should follow the POIG guidelines.
- You may already be informed of Greenpeace's demands that palm oil companies and investors adopt 'No Deforestation Policies' and that companies outline and respect timely implementation actions. Various companies have already made such commitments, moving towards eliminating forest destruction and social havoc from their supply chains. These companies are at various stages of implementing these

⁵ <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/news/Blogs/makingwaves/evidence-of-illegal-logging-by-herakles-farms/blog/46584/>

⁶ See both http://cedcameroun.org/images/2013_RapportsCED/201310_en.pdf and <http://www.relufa.org/documents/Herakles13THLabour.pdf>

⁷ The Palm Oil Innovation Group (POIG) Charter: <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/Global/international/photos/forests/2013/Indonesia%20Forests/POIG%20Charter%2013%20November%202013.pdf>

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commitments, but among them are industry giants such as Golden Agri-Resources (GAR)⁸ and Wilmar International⁹, as well as several consumer products companies including Kellogg's, L'Oréal, Unilever, Ferrero and Nestlé.

Given the dynamic environment around palm oil production and the increasing global demand for deforestation-free palm oil, we request that you make public for all stakeholders, including Greenpeace, any and all plans related to Sud-Cameroun Hevea's current various agriculture plantation activities, as well as all prospects you have for new investment in the Congo Basin (no matter how prospective).

Greenpeace also requests publication of your firm's Environmental and Social Impact Study, High Conservation Value assessments, and Certificate of Environmental Conformity, its concession maps, all decrees and ordinances granting the right to land occupied, the names and addresses of buyers of conversion timber already extracted, and other relevant documentation.

Please also publish the records of Sud Cameroun Hevea's communications and consultations with local communities, demonstrating how Sud Cameroun Hevea undertook the Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) of the population.

Additionally, please provide information regarding your corporate structure, including 1) a company organizational chart indicating the exact ownership structure of your firm; 2) all company and parent-company filings at the relevant national company registries; 3) the audited annual accounts of your firm and parent company for the last five years, and; 4) a current list of all shareholders, including minor shareholders, of your firm and parent company.

We are convinced that you will agree that transparency, including the public availability of documents and information, is the backbone of responsible business.

In the interest of transparency, we will publish this letter online and will continue to publicly communicate with all stakeholders in the Cameroon and the Congo Basin with regards to information you make available.

We look forward to your response, which we would appreciate receiving within one month (no later than 13 June 2014). We are always available if you have any questions or would like any further information. Please do not hesitate to email or call.

⁸More information about GAR's Forest Conservation Policy and Zero Deforestation announcement:

<http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/en/media-center/news-releases/GARs-No-Deforestation-policy-to-now-apply-to-all-palm-oil-suppliers/>

⁹ Wilmar's Zero Deforestation, Zero Peat, Zero Exploitation Policy;

<http://www.wilmar-international.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/No-Deforestation-No-Peat-No-Exploitation-Policy.pdf>

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Yours sincerely,

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