



13 May 2019

Mr Robert Meyer, CEO  
Halcyon Agri Corporation Limited

Dear Mr Meyer,

We read with great interest Halcyon's 23 April press release "Delivering on Sustainability: Corrie MacColl forms Cameroon Sustainability [Council](#)." The list of "inaugural" members of this body is quite astonishing.

The nine-member council includes exactly one local representative. It includes no representative of the over two hundred Indigenous People who were displaced or are set to be displaced from their ancestral lands for the development of the plantation.

Although your press release asserts that the council includes "distinguished delegates from [...] NGOs," in fact no NGO is a member. The British non-profit consultancy ProForest is anything but an NGO.

In its launch of the "[Sustainability Council](#)" last November, Halcyon announced that invitation letters had been sent to "Non-government [sic] organisations with natural rubber industry knowledge" as well as "Civic [sic] society groups with expertise in environmental and social governance."

Which groups received letters and why didn't they join?

Your council includes no less than three members of the Biya regime's administration – including two from the same Ministry that approved Sudcam's pseudo Environmental Impact Assessment!

The council's four "outstanding individuals representing leading institutions in business" are executives of a Kansas-based balloon manufacturer, a New Jersey-based medical technology firm, and Michelin – partner of CIRAD, the French public research institute



that signed a “long-term collaboration” with Sudcam’s parent company in 2014 to help it “maximise productivity and yield.”

No doubt these clients are “deeply committed” to monitoring the implementation of Halcyon’s supply chain policy and WWF’s August 2018 recommendations, which ignored the displacement of Indigenous People and the lack of disclosure of Sudcam's ownership.

Your press release’s assurance that “The Council will act independent of management and shareholders [...]” strikes us as perfectly disingenuous. As you’ve never evinced the slightest willingness to disclose who these shareholders are, the statement that council members will act independently of them is hardly a sign of transparency. Recall that last September you claimed not to know whether or not your firm had what you called “ties to the [government](#).”

To demonstrate its independence and credibility, we suggest that without further ado the council exploit its “extensive rights of information, consultation and initiative” by recommending the immediate online disclosure of the ownership of the plantation your firm operates seven kilometers from Paul Biya’s home town.

Please let us know as soon as this recommendation is made.

Sincerely,

Victorine Che Thöner, PhD  
International Project Leader  
Congo Basin Forest Campaign  
Greenpeace Africa