

## Position of Socfin

A report released by [Chain Reaction Research](#) on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2022 focuses on the palm oil industry and certain players active in Africa, such as the Socfin Group.

The report attempts to worry the European financial and industrial sector about a reputational risk to "Fast Moving Consumer Goods" (FMCG) linked to palm oil production.

The NGO shared its draft report with Socfin prior to publication and adapted some sections in the final report. Nevertheless, they are still some allegations that we want to clarify and provide further information on the responsible management demonstrated by the Socfin Group in its operations:

**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 [Responsible Management Policy](#). In all its operation, the Socfin Group implements integrated actions to fight deforestation and preserve the environment.

In addition, the current certification of all its oil palm sites to the RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) standard with 77% achieved by end 2021 and 100% by end 2022 is a concrete proof of the strict application of its commitments and of its respect to the most stringent standards of the sector.

The [RSPO certification](#) ensures a sustainable palm oil production. Its principles and criteria contribute to minimize the negative impact the oil palm culture may have on the environment thanks to its zero-deforestation commitment and its respect for the rights of the employees and communities in the vicinity of the plantations.

Our subsidiary Okomu, in Nigeria, is RSPO certified since January 2020 which is a strong commitment to promote biodiversity and forest preservation.

In Cameroun, Socapalm established in 1968 by the government is in the process of obtaining RSPO certification while **3 of its 6 sites are already certified**. This ensures a sustainable production of palm oil but also the respect for the rights of employees and communities living near the plantations. It specifically applies a **zero-tolerance policy regarding all forms of abuse, whether within its workforce or within subcontractors and security teams**.

In Sierra Leone, SAC has a strong CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) program and is RSPO certified since December 2021. SAC has a transparent relationship with its stakeholders of the Malen Chiefdom.

Contrary to the image depicted in this report, the Socfin Group strives to produce palm oil and rubber in a responsible way that benefits all: employees, smallholders, communities by improving their livelihood and protecting their environment. The Group aims to reduce and prevent its environmental impact through innovative and transformative agricultural practices.

For more information: [socfin.com](http://socfin.com)