

Position of Socfin

A report released by [Global Witness](#) on the 15th of June 2022 focuses on the environmental risks of rubber plantations and on certain players active on the African continent such as the Socfin Group. The report attempts to alert European leaders to the deforestation that can result from rubber tree cultivation.

Although Global Witness shared its concerns prior to publication and included the Socfin Groups position in the final report, we feel it is our responsibility to provide the following information and clarification:

At the end of 2016, Socfin made a commitment to zero-deforestation. This commitment is central to its Responsible Management Policy (RMP) as published in March 2017 and revised in March 2022. SOCFIN's Responsible Management Policy also integrates the principles of the Global Platform for Sustainable Natural Rubber (GPSNR), of which SOCFIN is a founding member, and further extends to the respect of human rights as defined by the internationally recognised Guiding Principles of the United Nations.

Between 2000 and 2016, prior to the establishment of its zero-deforestation policy, a total of 4890 hectares of rubber extensions were planted by clearing degraded forest. **Since 2017, and as stated in the Socfin Group's Responsible Management Policy, no new plantation projects are being launched unless the following approaches and procedures have been strictly applied:**

- High Carbon Stock (HCS);
- High Conservation Value (HCV);
- Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) principles.

Regarding the Socfin Group's subsidiary in Nigeria, Okomu Oil Palm Company, the **original plantation was created in 1976 by the Federal Government of Nigeria out of a degazetted area of the Okomu Forest Reserve**. Today, this operation strictly applies Socfin's Responsible Management Policy. It is ISO14001 certified since 2014 and RSPO certified since January 2020 - clear commitments to the respect of communities' rights and the environment.

Furthermore, and contrary to the image portrayed in this report, the Socfin Group plays a leading role in multipartite stakeholder initiatives:

- **Socfin is a founding member of GPSNR** (as mentioned above), whose mission is to lead socio-economic and environmental progress in the natural rubber supply chain. Members of GPSNR are all major players of the natural rubber industry as well as representatives from civil society.
- **Socfin is an active member of RSPO** (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) since 2004 through Socfindo and Socfinco and has obtained a Group membership in February 2019. It has to-date certified 91% of its sites with the aim to be fully certified by December 2022.
- **Socfin is a member of Earthworm Foundation** (EF = ex-TFT), which supports the Group in the implementation of its Responsible Management Policies within its subsidiaries.

Throughout all its operations, Socfin implements integrated actions to fight deforestation and preserve the environment. The Group aims to reduce and mitigate its impact by means of innovative and transformative agricultural practices.

For more information: socfin.com