

Socfin response to Mongabay <u>article</u> "Communities accuse Socfin and Earthworm Foundation of greenwash in West Africa" dated 21st June 2023

June 26, 2023

Under its new leadership, Socfin is committed to fully implementing its Group responsible management <u>policy</u> across the organization.

Fully implementing our policy includes resolving some of the long-lasting environmental and social grievances.

To be supported in that endeavor, Socfin took the decision to ask the <u>Earthworm</u> <u>Foundation</u> to investigate said grievances and provide recommendations.

On the 5th of May 2023 in a letter addressed to Socfin Chairman a group of NGOs expressed their concern about Socfin engagement with Earthworm Foundation; On the 26th of May Socfin responded by confirming that local communities would be involved in the investigation process.

During <u>the investigation</u>, Earthworm was able to speak directly with several communities affected by our operations in Liberia and Cameroon.

In the coming weeks, Earthworm will be publishing the findings of their investigation in Liberia and Cameroon, and Socfin will use them to develop an action plan aimed at addressing them.

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