

Date: 03/08/2021

Public Notification: RSPO Initial Certification Audit of Socapalm Edea Palm Oil Mill, Socfin SA (RSPO Membership: 1-0269-19-000-00)

Dear Stakeholders,

This is to inform that Socapalm Edea Palm Oil Mill under the Parent company Socfin SA with RSPO membership number (1-0269-19-000-00) had appointed BSI Services Malaysia Sdn Bhd ("BSI Malaysia") to conduct the Initial Certification Audit located at Kilometer 27, Edéa-kribi road, Sanaga maritime department; littoral region, Cameroon. The audit will be conducted from 06/09 to 09/09/2021 against the requirements of RSPO Principles & Criteria 2018.

RSPO PO ID number of the Socapalm Edea Palm Oil Mill is: RSPO_PO1000011304

The Socfin Group specializes in the development and management of oil palm plantations and rubber tree plantations. To date, the Socfin Group is present in 8 Central African countries and 2 countries in Southeast Asia, managing a total of 15 agro-industrial projects. The Socfin Group's strength is based on its expertise and the integrated nature of its activities, but also on its knowledge of the sector and its adaptability to current social issues.

SOCAPALM was created as a state-owned company on November 23rd, 1968 by Presidential decree N° 68/DF/451, following a World Bank intervention due to a vegetable oil shortage. Socapalm currently has six centres of operation: Dibombari, Edea, Eseka, Kienke, Mbongo and Mbambou, all with their own palm oil mill. Dibombari and Kienke furthermore also have rubber production, with the milling taking place at Safacam.

In 1999 Intercultures (which later became Socfinaf) acquired SPFS-Palm'Or, known as 'Ferme Suisse', now known as the Edea site. Ferme Suisse was a private company dating back the 1890s. This was then added to Socapalm a year later.

In 2000, Socapalm was privatised and acquired by the Socfin Group. In the same year, Socapalm obtained a concession agreement ('bail emphyteotique'), a 60-year leasehold agreement to be precise, with the government of Cameroon for the land on which its operations are carried out.

The majority of Edea was already planted before Socfin took over. The plantation currently has 5,087 ha of oil palms. It also operates a 25 ton/hr oil palm mill.

1. The information of the production data to be assessed are as follows:

Socapalm Edea Palm Oil Mill and Supply Base		
Mill Name	Socapalm Edea Palm Oil Mill	
Mill Capacity (tons/hour)	25 MT/hr	
Address / Location	Kilometer 27, Edéa-kribi road, Sanaga maritime department; littoral region, Cameroon	
GPS Reference (in degree, minute & second)	Latitude	03° 34' 14.28" N
	Longitude	10° 06' 03.50" E
Forecast Annual Output (MT)	CPO	11,015.00 mt
	PK	2,500.00 mt
	FFB	49,000.00 mt

*From the area to be certified, does not include smallholder production, as smallholders are not part of the certification scope

2. The Supply Base / Estates details are as follows:

No.	Estate / Member	Location	GPS Reference		Area Summary (Ha)		Annual FFB Forecast (MT)	Liability Status (L/NL)	Date join (for ISH)
			Latitude	Longitude	Total Area to be Certified	Planted Area			
1.	Socapalm Edea Estate	Kilometer 27, Edéa-kribi road, Sanaga maritime department; littoral region, Cameroon	03° 34' 14.28" N	10° 06' 03.50" E	6,800.00	5,087.00	49,000.00	L	N/A
TOTAL					6,800.00	5,087.00	49,000.00		

Note: L – with Liability; NL – No Liability

The Supply Base to this certification does not involve new development. Consequently, there is no NPP process.

Socapalm - Edea concept note has been submitted to the RSPO Secretariat.

BSI Services Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. is accredited to provide independent, third-party RSPO P&C and RSPO SCCS certification services. BSI Malaysia is a subsidiary of BSI Group, a Royal Charter Company. BSI is the world's Trusted brand in providing business improvement solutions with more than 86,000 clients in over 193 countries. BSI's mission is to share knowledge, innovation and best practice to help people and organizations make excellence a habit. BSI is the U.K.'s National Standards Body. BSI Services Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. has RSPO affiliate offices in Indonesia, Australia, China and India.

The audit team for this audit will consists the following:

Audit Team	Role/Area of Requirement	Qualification and Experience
Dennis Yaw Acquah	Team Leader Occupational health and safety, operation procedure, organization commitments, legal compliance, long term economy plan, time bound plan, supply chain for mill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Holds a BSc. in Natural Resource management with specialization in Forestry from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana; MSc in logistic and Supply Chain Management from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana. - Currently work as a Project Coordinator (Forest and Biodiversity). Also experienced in implementing forest governance project, building relations, and sustaining communications with forest communities, acting as resource person for awareness and training activities and engaging government towards policy reforms. He has 14 years of experience as an Operation Managers having worked with two of the leading timber processing industries in Ghana. - Successfully completed the RSPO P&C 2018 Lead Auditor Course; RSPO SCCS Lead Auditor Course, FSC Forest management/CoC Lead Auditor Course, Rain Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard (RA SAS) Farm/CoC Lead Auditor Course. Have has also participated in ESIA and SEA trainings.
Joseph William Osei	Team Member Best Management Practice for Mill and Estate, environment aspect, GHG & HCV, continuous improvement, supply chain for mill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He obtained qualification in BSc. Natural Resources Management from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana; MSc. in Tropical Forestry with specialization in Forest Economics from the Technology University of Dresden, Germany and Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Strategic Management, from the Paris Graduate School of Management, Paris, France.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural Resources Manager with specialization in Forest Economics and more than 16 years' experience in forest plantation and natural forest management. Led and participated in over thirty Forest Management/Chain-of custody audits, Forest Carbon, FLEGT VPA and RSPO baseline assessment in over 8 countries in Africa. - He is also an auditor for Health and Safety, Best Agriculture Practices, Environmental, and HCVs since March 2020. - Successfully completed the RSPO P&C 2018 Lead Auditor Course; FSC Lead Auditor Course; ISO 14001 Lead Auditor Course and other certification schemes including the UEFT, VCS.
Aimé Fulgence	<p>Team Member</p> <p>Social aspect and workers welfare, worker consultation, stakeholder consultation, impact assessments, policies, supply chain for mill</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He obtained qualification in Vocational Bachelor in Quality Control and Environment Management, ESTC, Abidjan (2018), Vocational training Certificate in cooperation, specialised in Cooperative management, Ecole Régionale d'Agriculture du Sud (ERA Sud Bingerville), Abidjan (2010), Marketing-Communication and Advertising Design Engineer, Institut des Technologies d'Abidjan (2009), Marketing-Communication and Advertising Techniques Engineer, Institut des Technologies d'Abidjan (2008), Bachelor of Arts in literature, specialised in English, Université de Cocody, Abidjan (2005), HND in Human Resources Management and Corporate Communication, ESSECT Henri Poincaré, Abidjan (2005), and Baccalauréat in Literature, Lycée Moderne d'Aboisso, Aboisso (2002). - Experience in social audit, sustainable agriculture, and certification of agricultural production systems. - Successfully completed the ISO 9001 Lead Auditor Course, Endorsed RSPO P&C Lead Auditor Course, Child Labor Centered Due Diligence Process / Abidjan, and Gender workshop for Associated trainers / Abidjan.
Gueye Sarah MASSOLOU	Translator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Holds a Master's degree in business law and taxation at Omar Bongo University. - Currently, Sarah self-employed with a few companies and some public entities, as a legal consultant. Previously at Axe consulting, she drafts of service provision contracts, equipment rental contracts, confidentiality clauses and procedures. At SGRA/LOURMEL (France), the company's status and of contracts between companies and insurance and reinsurance companies. At ANUTTC (National Agency for Town Planning, Topographical works and Cadastre), she worked on the project of taxation of land titles and final titles. - Trainings attended: Budget management, Contract negotiation, and Legal document assessment.

In preparation for the assessment, related stakeholders are invited to provide written input regarding this assessment by commenting on related aspects to the certification unit. Topics that you may wish to comment on are as follows but not limited to:

- Environmental Protection & conservation
- Human rights & workers welfare
- Opportunity for employment
- Company approach to community development
- Your relationship with the company
- Participation in decision making
- Free, prior and informed consent
- Suggestion for improvement

Comments that are received within 30 days from the date of this letter will be considered in the Assessment. Please include the following details in case we may need to contact you for clarification or follow-up on any issue raised by you.

Name: Email:
Position: Phone Number:

If you wish your comments to be treated confidentially or to remain anonymous, please mark your reply "CONFIDENTIAL". You may direct your comments to:

Scheme Manager:

Mr. Nicholas Cheong
BSI Services Malaysia Sdn. Bhd.
Suite 29.01 Level 29 The Gardens North
Tower, Mid Valley City Lingkaran Syed Putra
59200 Kuala Lumpur
Federal Territory, Malaysia
Fax : +603 9212 9639
Email : Nicholas.Cheong@bsigroup.com

AND / OR**Auditee:**

Mr. Giorgio CAPPELLETTI
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Kilometer 27, Edéa-kribi road, Sanaga maritime
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We thank you and appreciate for your comments.

Yours sincerely,



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Nicholas Cheong
Global Food Scheme Manager (Agriculture)