



RSPO NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED NEW PLANTING

This notification shall be on the RSPO website for 30 days as required by the RSPO procedures for new plantings (<http://www.rspo.org/?q=page/535>). It has also been posted on local on-site notice boards.

Date of notification: 17th November 2011

Tick whichever is appropriate

	This is a completely new development and stakeholders may submit comments.
√	This is part of an ongoing planting and is meant for notification only.

COMPANY: Herakles Farms Cooperatief, UA.

SUBSIDIARY: SG Sustainable Oils Ghana Limited (SGSOG).

RSPO Membership No: 100500800000.

Location of Proposed New Planting: Brewaniase, Nkwanta South District of the Volta Region, Republic of Ghana.

GPS Reference: 0° 35' 0" E and 7° 56' 0"

Location of the ongoing new planting

SG Sustainable Oils Ghana (SGSOG), a subsidiary of Herakles Farms, is developing approximately 3,715 hectares of oil palm plantation located at Brewaniase, Nkwanta South District of the Volta Region in Republic of Ghana. A comprehensive and participatory independent Social and Environmental Impact Assessment (SEIA) and High Conservation Value (HCV) Assessment which included internal and external stakeholders were completed. The results incorporated into planning, management and operational ongoing work. The independent assessments recognised the following:

- There was no primary forest in the location.
- All area required to maintain or enhance one or more HCV.
- There was no peat soil identified.
- All peoples' private land.

Location maps are prepared and presented in the SEIA and HCV assessment reports to include all the above findings. Location maps showing the project location and HCV are in Figure 1 and 2 below. The SEIA and HCV summary reports includes additional maps showing the topography, landscape, HCV and land use. HCV maps prepared to include areas set aside for buffer and riparian reserve, roads, housing, peoples' private land.

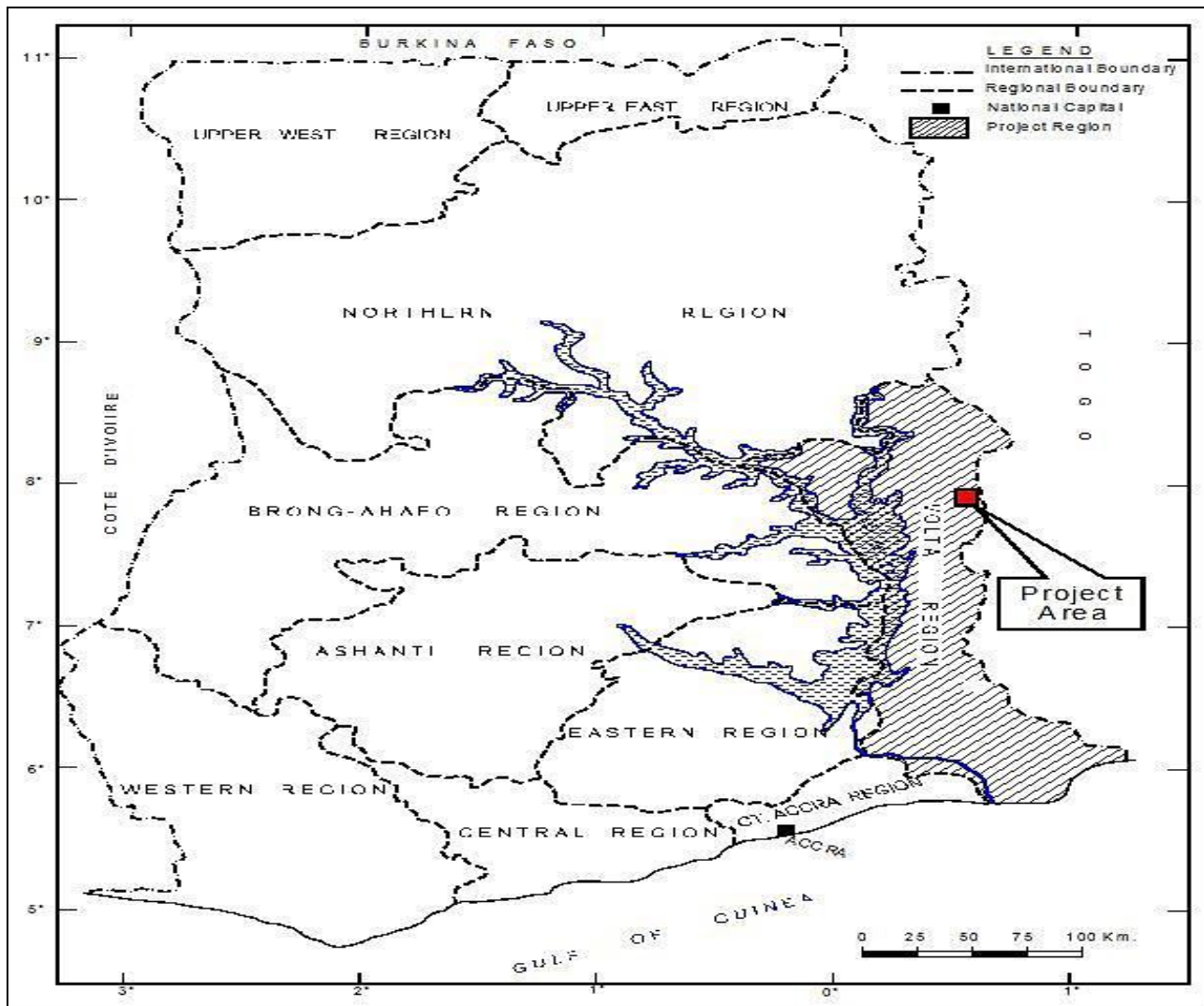


Figure 1: Location map of the SGSOG, Brewaniase project area, Ghana.

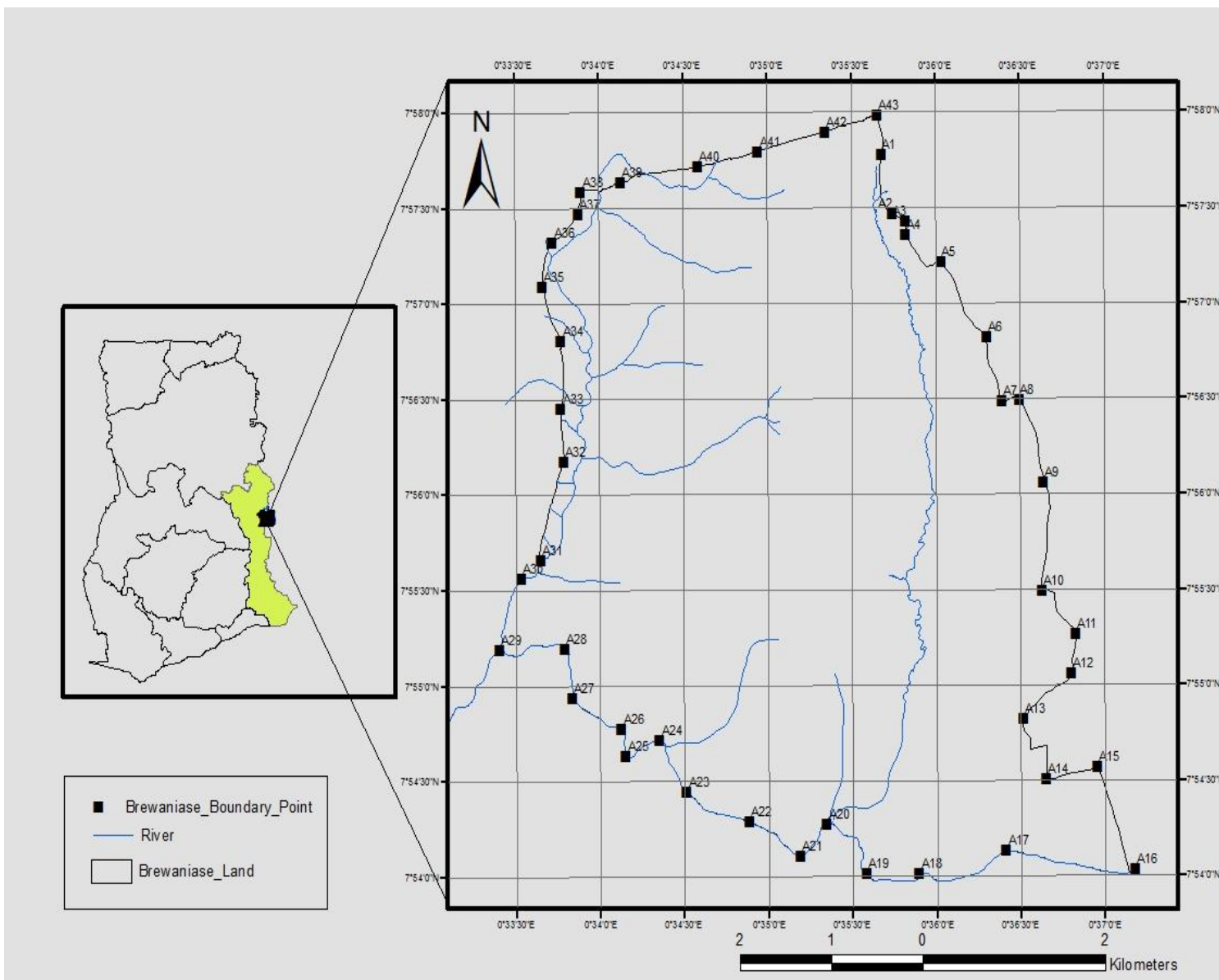


Figure 2: SGSOG boundary with GPS reference.

SUMMARY FROM SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (SEIA)

SG Sustainable Oils Ghana Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Herakles Farms , has prepared an SEIA for the proposed development of 3,715 hectares of oil palm of an ongoing planting and a proposed 25 tonnes/hour palm oil mill. The SEIA was approved by the Ghana Environment Protection Agency (EPA), and compliance with (EPA) Act 490 of 1994 and Environmental Assessment Regulation Act of 1999 (LI 1652), a prerequisite for obtaining Environmental Permit (EP) for the implementation of the project. This is in compliance with the RSPO P&C requirements for New Plantings.

The Social and Environmental Impact Assessment (SEIA) covered the whole lifecycle of plantation and mill development. It involved environmental sampling, aquatic studies, terrestrial studies, land use studies, and socio-economic studies. The assessment was based on field inspections and surveys, consultations with

stakeholders and desktop literature studies. The assessment provided the basis for an environmental monitoring plan. The assessment which began in January 2008 was completed by SAL Consult Ltd., a Ghana based expert on environmental and social project support. Ghana EPA approved the SEIA in November 2009. The SEIA process included documents review followed by public consultation meetings and field survey of local communities by the assessors. The details and outcomes of the consultation meeting are reported in the SEIA and HCV summary report. The SEIA considered all major impacts of the new planting and made recommendation for mitigation of the potential negative impacts and enhancement of beneficial outcomes. It is identified that the project has the potential to provide significant employment opportunity, business opportunity and improvement of the basic infrastructure in the new planting area and surroundings.

SUMMARY FROM HCV ASSESSMENT

SG Sustainable Oils Ghana Limited has completed comprehensive and participatory independent High Conservation Value (HCV) Assessment to identify the present of environmental and social HCVs within the concession and at the adjacent areas that could be negatively affected by the development. HCV Assessment was commissioned for the new development area in December 2009. The HCV assessment was carried out to identify the presence of HCVs within the new development area and at adjacent areas. The HCV Assessment was based on desktop and field assessment. The assessment was carried out using baseline biodiversity and socio-economic and cultural data which was collected between December 2008 and March 2009. A follow up habitat assessment was carried out by the same RSPO approved assessor in August 2010 to verify and confirm various ecological, fauna, flora, landscape and cultural elements on the concession. The initial and follow up assessment reports was made available during the document verification. The HCV assessment was completed by Mr. Augustus Asamoah of the Ghana Wildlife Society, an RSPO approved HCV assessment Team leader with specialised in Biodiversity, Hydrology/Soil and Social. He led a team of appropriately qualified and experienced team members. The HCV assessment was guided by the Ghana National HCV Toolkit (2006) for guidance in the assessment process, fieldwork and documentation.

The HCV Assessment entailed a systematic evaluation of the conservation value of the ecological, biodiversity and cultural elements at the concession for oil palm plantation. The assessment included field surveys, consultation with local communities and desktop studies. The assessment also relies on the detailed studies carried out during the SEIA. The assessment made appropriate recommendations to safeguard the ecological, biodiversity and cultural entities of high conservation value identified on the concession. The HCV assessment identified a number of HCVs (biodiversity and social) which have been included as *biodiversity plots* that will be protected by SGSOG (Figure 3).The result of the assessment included an HCV Management and Monitoring Plan for maintaining and enhancing the identified Environmental and Social HCVs (HCV 4 and HCV6).

Table 2. Summary of Identified HCV's (Biodiversity and Social)

Area	Estimated area (Ha)	Description	HCV Criteria
<i>Kpetebu stream headwater</i>	4.1 Ha	A relatively small area of approximately 4.1 hectares of relic moist semi-deciduous forest located at the south-western corner of the northern section of the Kpetebu Hills.	4
<i>Kpetebu Hills</i>	10.4 Ha	This is a steep sided slope hill situated almost in the middle of the leased area. The hill is separated into southern and northern section by a valley.	4

<i>Kpafiao Hills</i>	93 ha	A long hill range located in the middle of the concession and extends northwards to the northern limit of the concession. This HCV area comprising of the steep sided slopes and the flat summit of the hill has an estimated area of about 93 hectares.	4
<i>Hill Pillar 86</i>	40 Ha	Part of a range of hills that extends into Togo and constitutes the headwaters of several streams including the Tomgbah and other tributaries of the Asukokoo River. Hill Pillar 86 along with the adjacent Tomgbah hill together have about an area of about 40 hectares and they are considered HCV areas on the basis of the vulnerability to erosion and importance as source of streams.	4
<i>Tomgbah Sacred Grove</i>	9.4 Ha	A grove surrounding the Mfekla Shrine of the Agyawure Family of Brewaniese and comprises of a relic of moist semi-deciduous forest and the Tomgbah stream. With an estimated area of 9.4 hectares, the grove comprises of an old cocoa plantation within which is a small patch of secondary forest in relatively good condition.	6
<i>Logbah shrine</i>	2 Ha	Located within a small grove (2 ha) in the middle of the concession. Unlike the <i>Mfekla shrine</i> which belongs to one of the land owing families of the SG SOG Breweniese Concession, the Logbah shrine belongs to a local fetish priest.	6
<i>Old Fankyeneko</i>	2 ha	Burial ground with an estimated area of about 2 ha is located to the south-western corner of the concession. The site served as the burial ground of the Old Fankyeneko until the village relocated to its present location along the main Kedjebi-Nkwanta trunk road.	6

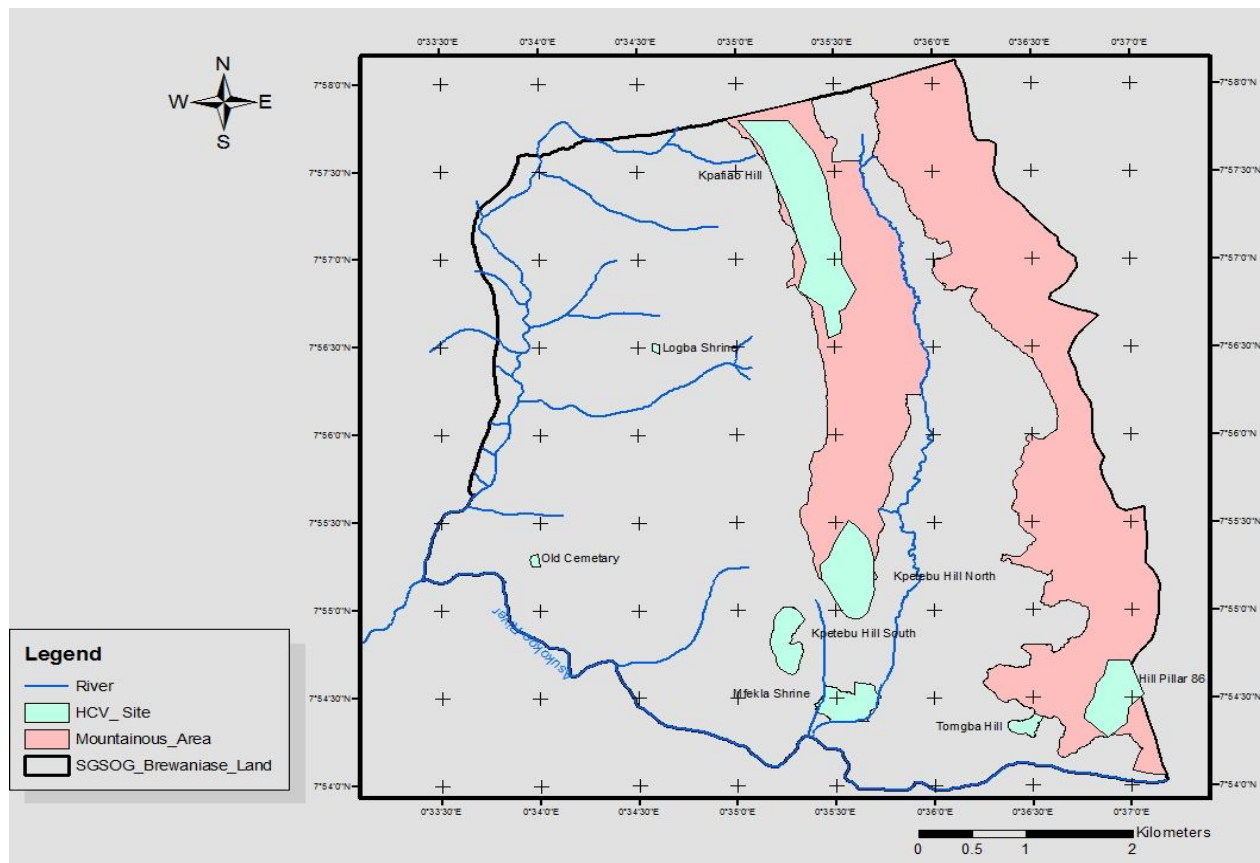


Figure 3: Map of the SGSOG project area showing the biodiversity and HCV area.

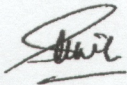
SUMMARY OF PLANS

SGSOG land development began with the land clearing to set up a nursery for their seedlings in October 2009 and planting process continued in 2010. The planting process will continue through 2013. The total land development work completed to-date is 1619 hectares. SGSOG's new planting is based on the industry's best practices and takes into consideration the recommendations made in the SEIA and HCV Assessment as RSPO P&C requirement for new planting and address the concerns and expectation raised by the affected stakeholders.

VERIFICATION STATEMENT

The SEIA and HCV Assessments are comprehensive, professional and comply with the applicable RSPO Principle, Criteria and Indicators for new planting.

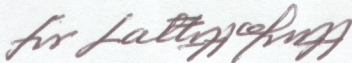
Signed for on behalf of
BSi Group Singapore Pte Ltd



Senniah Appalasamy
Lead Auditor
17th November 2011

On behalf of the company, I acknowledge the responsibilities of the company to implement the management and mitigation plans.

Signed on behalf of the Company,



Carmine Farnan
Director
SG Sustainable Oils Limited, Ghana (SGSOG)
17th November 2011