



Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

29 May 2023

Mr. Eric de Foresta
Head of Sustainability
SOCFINCO
4, Avenue Guillaume,
1650, Luxembourg.

Subject: RSPO Secretariat's Decision on the Post-Verification Assessment Monitoring following the Independent Verification Assessment of Socapalm Operations in Cameroon.

Dear Sir,

With regards to the above subject, we would like to hereby communicate the RSPO Secretariat's final decision on the Post-Verification Assessment Monitoring following the Independent Verification Assessment at Socapalm operations in Cameroon.

- 1) In early 2022, the RSPO Secretariat initiated an independent RSPO Verification Assessment at Socapalm S.A. (a subsidiary of SOCFIN S.A.), following the allegations that were published in [July 2020](#) and [January 2021](#).
- 2) On 16 June 2022, the RSPO Secretariat issued a decision letter (as referred to the publication [here](#)) on the completion of the RSPO Verification Assessment at Socapalm. The verification assessment concluded some key findings and action requests for Socapalm to act upon. On completion of the verification assessment, these were later transferred to the RSPO Secretariat's Compliance sub-division for Post-Verification Assessment Monitoring.
- 3) Subsequently, the RSPO Secretariat conducted Post-Verification Assessment Monitoring activities between July 2022 to December 2022 through document exchanges using a shared drive, emails, calls, virtual meetings, and finally closing meetings physically with Socapalm representatives.
- 4) Based on the Post-Verification Assessment Monitoring, the RSPO Secretariat concludes the following:
 - a. Socapalm has been very cooperative and supportive of this process, proactively submitting the evidence requested and providing clarifications on points highlighted by the RSPO Secretariat. The RSPO is satisfied with the progress made by Socapalm management.
 - b. However, the RSPO verification team has found that Socapalm needs to follow up on several actions as following;

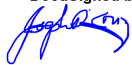


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- To continue intensive communication and engagement with all of the affected local communities, and be more proactive in increasing awareness of Socapalm policies, including the updated procedures as a result of this post-verification monitoring such as training of policies on sexual harassment, and short-term and long-term strategies of river pollution protections.
- To intensively follow up the on-going activity with MINDCAF and finalise the proposal including the next step of implementation of that proposal.

By this letter, the RSPO Secretariat is making a decision to close out this Post-Verification Assessment Monitoring and will inform Certification Bodies and the Accreditation Body for them to continue overseeing the above issues during upcoming and subsequent RSPO audits.

Thank you.

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Joseph D'Cruz
Chief Executive Officer