



RSPO

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: 15. 06. 2012

Tick whichever is appropriate

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This is a completely new development and stakeholders may submit comments.
<input type="checkbox"/>	This is part of an ongoing planting and is meant for notification only.

COMPANY: Olam International Ltd

SUBSIDIARY: Olam Palm Gabon

COMPANY ADDRESS:

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RSPO Membership No.: 2-0209-11-000-00

CONTACT PERSON: Alexandra Booth, Manager-Sustainability, Palm Division

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LOCATION SIZE: 35,354 hectares

GPS Reference: E 10° 47' 48"; S1° 35' 49"

Location of proposed new planting

The area of proposed new planting is within a concession of 35,354 hectares in the province of Ngounié, in the departments of Tsamba Magotsi (Fougamou), and Douya-Enoye (Mouila). It is bounded on the north by the river Ngounié and by the N° 1 in the south. The concession, as stipulated in the land title deed, is on land of the private state domain, but customary use by villages in this area was identified through participatory mapping. Following the completion of a comprehensive Environmental & Social Impact assessment and High Conservation Value assessment of the concession, out of the 35,354 hectares allocated to Olam, 13,686 hectares will be conserved, about 1,470 hectares will be developed for infrastructure, with a remaining area of 20,198 hectares for plantation development.

A preliminary soil survey, Environmental & Social impact assessment and High Conservation Value assessment of the concession were completed. The assessments have recognized the following:

- There was no primary forest identified within the concession area
- All areas required to maintain or enhance one of more High Conservation Values (HCV's)
- There are no areas of peat soils
- all local peoples' land

The maps below provide the location of the concession and the area of new plantings, taking into account the above findings of the assessments. These maps are also included in the Summary of the SEIA and HCV assessments.



Figure 1: Map of Republic of Gabon showing the Provinces, major towns and highways.

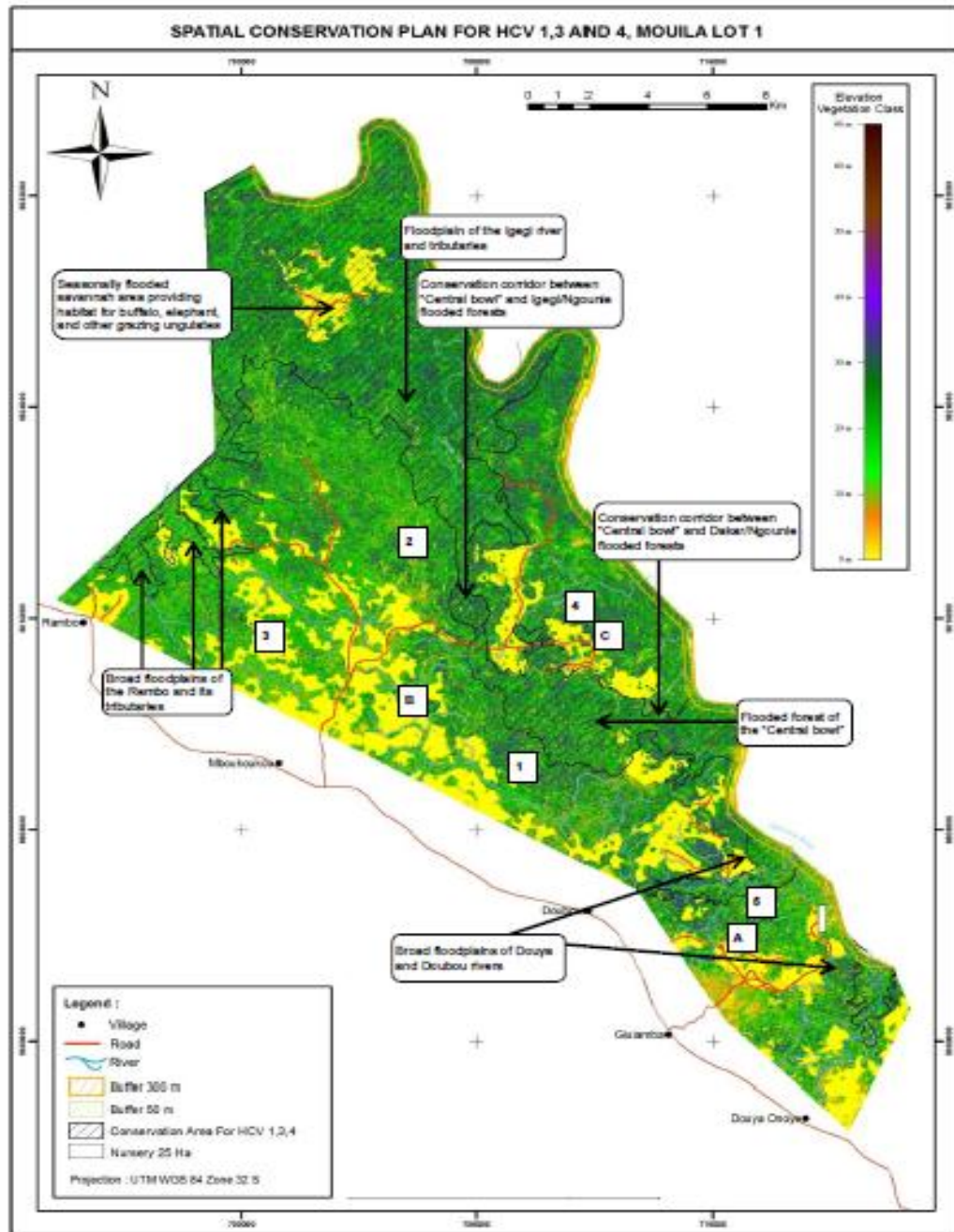


Figure 3: HCV and Spatial Conservation Plan Map

Summary from Social and Environmental Impact Assessments

Olam Palm Gabon completed a comprehensive Social and Environmental Impact Assessment (SEIA) for this development to comply with RSPO Principles & Criteria and New Planting Procedures. The SEIA assessments and report were conducted and submitted by Ecosphere, a local SEIA consultant. The SEIA identified all major positive and negative impacts of all activities--including impacts of roads and other infrastructure. The SEIA included a study of botany, ichthyology, agronomy, hydrology, soil science, entomology, GHG emissions, socio-economic factors, fauna and geophysics.

The study on socio-economic factors included consultation with local stakeholders and participatory mapping with local villages and households. There are records of the history of communication on the proposed development and all meetings held with local people and their representatives. These are included as an appendix to the SEIA report. The concession area around Mouila contains 13 villages at varying distances from the proposed plantings (Figure 3). The population of these villages range from 1 family to around 520 inhabitants. The SEIA reported on the aspirations and concerns of the local people and took into consideration their needs which were prioritised. These included farming activities, fishing and hunting within the concession area. This also included details of impacts and risks including the significance of the impacts/risks.

Summary of High Conservation Value Assessment

An HCV assessment was completed in relation to the area of proposed new plantings by Proforest, headed by Christopher Stewart and Ellen Brown, experts in landscape and social studies. The HCV assessors are on the approved list of HCV assessors provided by RSPO. The assessment was based on reports produced by Ecosphere which covered the physical, biological and social aspects of the concession area, and were supplemented by Proforest's own scoping studies in the project area. A pre-assessment included desk based research followed by a scoping visit and preliminary stakeholder consultation. Further scoping visits for the main assessment were made by Proforest and Ecosphere September-October 2011. Field data collection occurred from October 2011 and February 2012.

The assessment identified areas that could be negatively affected and took into account the impact on adjacent natural ecosystems. Within the concession some areas were classified as habitats supporting HCVs, and will therefore not be planted. A detailed table has been included in the report indicating each type of HCV, whether it is present, potentially present or completely absent, and justifies areas that have been classified as a certain HCV. It was found that HCV 1.2, HCV 1.3, HCV 3, HCV 4.1, HCV 5 and HCV 6 were definitely present, while HCV 1.4 was potentially present. The identification of HCV 3 is subject to change based on the completion of an extended hydrological survey and its validation by an independent expert. A map indicating areas supporting HCV 1, 3, and 4 is included below. Maps reflecting areas of HCV 5 and 6 based on the social participatory mapping process are provided in the SEIA report however the areas may be refined should areas be excised from development when negotiations are completed with communities. The HCV assessors did identify rare, threatened or endangered species of fauna within the concession or adjacent areas. The species that are at risk and their status are identified throughout each report for both flora and fauna. There is register of all flora and fauna indicating the status of each type and the level of sensitivity (ie . under IUCN/CITES/National Regulations).

Summary of Plans

HCV management recommendations were developed according to the HCV areas identified and are summarized below. Olam Palm Gabon has taken these recommendations into account in their Summary of Management and Planning. Additionally, as a result of the HCV assessment, a suitable conservation spatial plan (demonstrated above in Figure 3) has been developed. The plan includes three distinct phases: Phase 1 land clearing and planting is to start in the south, near the current nursery site, until further hydrological and drainage surveys are completed; Phase 2 development will commence in area B, which covers extensive savannah and highly disturbed forest; finally, phase 3 development will progress in area C when the hydrological survey has been validated by an independent expert. Land clearing is not to continue beyond this point until further studies on the forest can justify new plantings in this area. Land development will begin from the end of July 2012 upon completion of the FPIC process and the 30 day public notification period.

Olam Palm Gabon has developed systems for handling compensation claims for loss of access to former plantation, based on national regulations, and have integrated the FPIC principle in all negotiations. The communities are represented by Local Administrators of each community group including village chiefs and local authorities.

HCV Present	Threats	Management Recommendations
1.2 & 1.3 Concentrations of rare, threatened, endangered or endemic species	Habitat loss Pollution/sedimentation Increased fishing pressure	Ecosystem level management, spatial planning and plantation management
Locally important rare/threatened species	Habitat loss Hunting/disturbance Human Wildlife conflict	Spatial planning Great Ape management plan Elephant management plan Hunting controls
3. Rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems	Habitat loss Pollution	Spatial planning HCV delimitation Land clearance protocols Plantation chemical/waste control
4.1 Watershed Services	Riparian/seasonal stream loss Chemical pollution (pesticides and fertilisers)	Spatial planning Riparian delimitation Plantation chemical/waste control
5. Local peoples basic needs	Loss of access rights Damage to resources Social conflict	FPIC Community Land management Negotiated access rights Alternative livelihoods
6. Cultural value	Loss of access rights Damage to resources Social conflict	FPIC Community Land management Negotiated access rights

VERIFICATION STATEMENT:

The assessment and plan are comprehensive, professional and compliant of RSPO principles, criteria and indicators.

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Signed for on behalf of
BSi Management Systems Singapore Pte Ltd



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Mr Allan Thomas
Lead Auditor
Date: 10.6.2012

Signed for on behalf of
Olam Palm Gabon



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Ms Alexandra Booth
Sustainability Manager - PALM
Date: 10.6.2012

