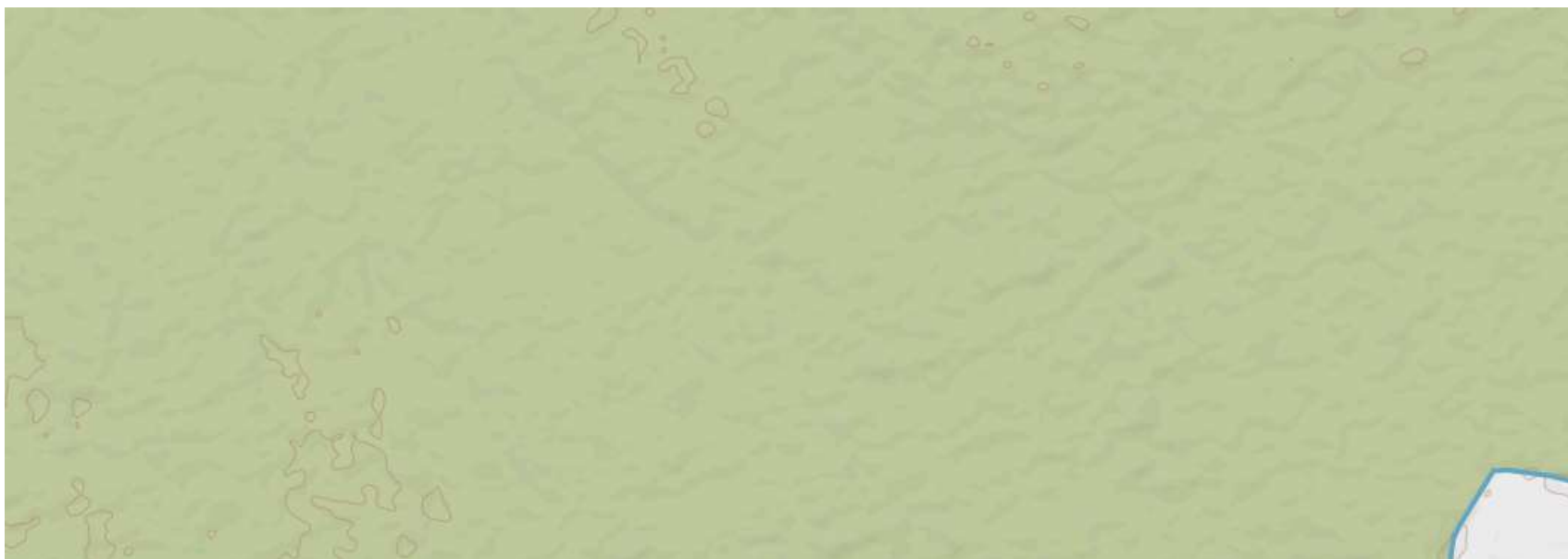




[← GO BACK](#)

Palm oil plantation in South-West Cameroon

Last update:
2023-06-16



▼ Description of the conflict case

A US-based agricultural company Herakles Farms, through its subsidiary SG Sustainable Oils Cameroon Ltd (SGSOC), is developing a 73 000 hectare palm oil plantation under a 99-year land lease, despite clear community opposition, 2 court injunctions and an absence of government authorization. Local communities and environmental organizations have warned that the project will cause massive deforestation in a biodiversity hotspot and loss of livelihoods of indigenous communities.

Communities in Fabe, Massaka-Bima, Mbile, and Mundemba sent complaint letters and petitions against the project to the government, the latter which authorized the company to use a private security force to evict people from the project area.

In April 2012, eleven of the world's top scientists issued an open letter urging the Cameroonian government to stop the project. In June 2012, villagers from Fabe and Toko organized a protest against the project and in response faced intimidation and arrest by police.

(On November 14, 2012 Nasako Besingi the director of the local NGO Struggle to Economize Future Environment (SEFE), an organization campaigning peacefully against the Herakles Farms project, was arrested with three colleagues and detained without charge.)

▼ Basic data

Conflict name

Palm oil plantation in South-West Cameroon

Conflict country

[Cameroon](#)

State or province

South West Cameroon

Location of conflict

Ndian, Kup-Manengouba, and Manyu divisions

Accuracy of location

HIGH (Local level)

▼ Source of conflict

Type of conflict. 1st level

Biomass and Land Conflicts (Forests, Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock Management)

Type of conflict. 2st level

Land acquisition conflicts

Deforestation

Plantation conflicts (incl. Pulp

Intensive food production (monoculture and livestock)

Other types

Specific commodities

[Other](#)

[Palm oil](#)

[Carbon offsets](#)

▼ Project details and actors

Technical information of the contested project

The project will take place over 73,100 ha of land, with 750 million dollars expected in revenue. The company is paying \$0.50 to \$1 per hectare per year and has a 99 year land lease. This plantation will have major impacts on up to 45,000 Indigenous Peoples in 88 villages who are dependent on the forest for their livelihoods. The plantation will also fragment and isolate the regions protected areas, including Korup National Park, Bakossi National Park, Banyang Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary, Nta Ali Forest Reserve, and Rumpi Hills Forest Reserve.

Project area

73086

Level of Investment for the conflictive project

750000000

Type of population

Rural

Affected population

Start of the conflict

End of the conflict

Company names or state enterprises

[SG Sustainable Oils Cameroon Ltd](#) from [Cameroon](#)

[Herakles Farms/Herakles Capital](#) from [United States of America](#)

[Blackstone Group](#) from [Unknown](#)

[All for Africa](#) from [Unknown](#)

Relevant government actors

Government of Cameroon, Cameroonian Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, Governor of the South-West region, Chief of Fabe and other villages

International and Finance Institutions

[African Development Bank](#)

Civil society organizations and their web pages, if available

Struggle to Economize Future Environment (SEFE), Oakland Institute, <http://www.oaklandinstitute.org/>, Greenpeace, www.greenpeace.org, Centre for Environment and Development (CED), <http://www.cedcameroun.org/index.php>, Reseach de Lutte Contre La Faim (RELUFA), Save Wildlife Foundation, <http://www.save-wildlife.com/en>

▼ Conflict & Mobilization

Conflict intensity

MEDIUM (street protests, visible mobilization)

Reaction stage

In REACTION to the implementation (during construction or operation)

Groups mobilizing

- Indigenous groups or traditional communities
 - International ejos
 - Local ejos
 - Local government/political parties
 - Neighbours/citizens/communities
 - Local scientists/professionals
 - Farmers and peasants
-

Other Mobilizing Groups

Forms of mobilization

- Development of a network/collective action
 - Development of alternative proposals
 - Involvement of national and international NGOs
 - Lawsuits, court cases, judicial activism
 - Official complaint letters and petitions
 - Street protest/marches
 - Arguments for the rights of mother nature
 - Appeals/recourse to economic valuation of the environment
-

Other Mobilizing Forms

▼ Impacts

Environmental Impacts

- Biodiversity loss (wildlife, agro-diversity)
 - Desertification/Drought
 - Food insecurity (crop damage)
 - Global warming
 - Loss of landscape/aesthetic degradation
 - Deforestation and loss of vegetation cover
-

Other Environmental impacts

Health Impacts

Other Health impacts

Socio-economical Impacts

- Increase in Corruption/Co-optation of different actors
 - Displacement
 - Increase in violence and crime
 - Lack of work security, labour absenteeism, firings, unemployment
 - Loss of livelihood
 - Loss of traditional knowledge/practices/cultures
 - Militarization and increased police presence
 - Specific impacts on women
 - Violations of human rights
 - Land dispossession
 - Loss of landscape/sense of place
-

Other Social Economical impacts

▼ Conflict outcome

Project Status

Under construction

Conflict outcome / response

- Corruption
 - Court decision (failure for environmental justice)
 - Migration/displacement
 - Repression
-

Other Outcomes

Proposal and development of alternatives

-Oakland Institute calls for a moratorium on the allocation of new agro-industrial concessions that recognizes existing land rights and customary land rights. -Support small-scale production of palm oil by smallholders with improved access to markets for production outputs. -Ensure that palm tress are combined with other crops and trees for agricultural diversification -Protect natural forests and avoid converting forested lands into plantations -SEFE calls for a new agreement that takes into consideration the sustainable management of the forest

Do you consider this an environmental justice success? Was environmental justice served?

No

Briefly explain

Herakles has been violating Cameroonian law since 2009, without receiving the presidential decree required for its project. It also ignored 2 court injunctions against its project. Evidence collected by Greenpeace reveals that large areas of forest land have already been clear cut by the company, despite ongoing community mobilization and opposition. When an ESIA was carried out in 2012, it was found that the company had