

Palm Watch - Africa

New media strategies for human rights,
social justice and environmental
protection across the Congo Basin

[Menu](#)



Cargill: Expanding plantations from Indonesia to Cameroon

MARCH 25, 2013 BY PALMWATCH



The Wall Street Journal reports that U.S. industrial agriculture giant, Cargill Inc., is seeking to expand its oil palm plantations in Indonesia. The company currently has more than 42,000 hectares of plantations in the country as well as an additional 27,000 hectares worked in partnership with

smallholder farmers. Indonesia requires that at least 20% of plantation land be reserved for smallholder farmers.

According to the Wall Street Journal global demand for edible oils is rising by around 3% annually, but palm-oil consumption growth is as high as 7%. “Cargill argues that expansion is necessary to feed world’s growing population and rising industrial demand, but feels it can be achieved without endangering the environment.”

Cargill is also seeking land for palm oil development in several African countries, including Ivory Coast, Liberia and Cameroon. In Cameroon, the company is reportedly in late-stage negotiations for 50,000 hectares of land.

In May 2012 Reuters reported that, “U.S agribusiness conglomerate Cargill plans to invest up to 200 billion CFA francs (\$390 million) in a 50,000-hectare oil palm plantation in Cameroon, an official at the Central African nation’s investment agency said on state radio.” Cameroon’s investment agency magazine, Investir au Cameroun, ran a short story reporting that Cargill was prospecting for 50,000 hectares — a plantation that could create 10,000 jobs.

Cargill is already present in Cameroon in the cocoa sector, where its joint venture partner, Telcar Cocoa, is the country’s leading cocoa exporter.

Last month the Rainforest Foundation reported that Cargill’s project was “close to signature.” If this land deal is secured, Cargill’s Cameroon palm oil operations in Cameroon will be on a similar scale to its Indonesian business.

Cargill and other agri-business firms are aggressively seeking land across West Africa and the Congo Basin but their actions don’t generate much media coverage. Massive palm oil deals in Liberia have been getting some attention, but the scale of the investment

merits much more reporting. Golden Veroleum (Golden Agri Resources) and Sime Darby have each leased over 200,000 hectares in Liberia, for example. That's about the same land mass as the state of Rhode Island. And Golden Agri Resources, the company that has been getting some good press lately for its zero deforestation policy in Southeast Asia, does not appear to be abiding by the same standards in Liberia.

Land deals in the Congo Basin region are getting even less attention. The Cargill negotiations have not been the subject of any reporting in Cameroon. Back in May a Cargill spokesperson said the company, "does not comment on speculations." But shouldn't the people of Cameroon be aware of major investments coming to the country? Bringing these deals out from the shadows is an important step for making them work for all stakeholders.

Share this:



POSTED IN CAMEROON, PALM OIL | TAGS: CAMEROON, CARGILL, GOLDEN VEROLEUM, LIBERIA, PALM OIL, SIME DARBY | 0 COMMENTS

← It's not forests or food, it's forests for food

Let's talk about money →

Leave a Reply

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

Comment

Name *

Email *

Website

Post Comment

Notify me of follow-up comments by email.

Notify me of new posts by email.

SUBSCRIBE

Enter your email address to subscribe to this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.

Email Address

Subscribe

SEARCH:

Search ...

RECENT POSTS

[Palm oil development facilitates illegal logging](#)

[Warning: Look to Liberia](#)

[Concession des terres à Herakles farms... Des Ong contre les décrets de Paul Biya](#)

[The headlines](#)

[Cameroon's president Biya signs lease on controversial palm oil development](#)

RECENT COMMENTS

Tarla Justin Ngala on **[The Impact of Land Acquisition on Food Sovereignty: Herakles Farms in Cameroon](#)**

†UKASZ on **[Fruits and nuts, bark and beetles](#)**

ekema math on **[Herakles Farms shutdown generates global news coverage](#)**

[News Articles, April 2013 | Palm Oil Action Australia on Communities explore alternatives to industrial palm oil development](#)

[‘Quick-fix’ development gives away more than it gets back | WRM Portugués on Land giveaways: “quick-fix” development?](#)

ARCHIVES

Archives 

BLOGS

[Cameroon Veritas](#)
[environment360](#)
[Environmental News Network](#)
[Forests News](#)
[FSC-Watch](#)
[Global Land Grabbing II](#)
[Illegal-Logging.Info](#)
[Land Portal](#)
[Land, Inc.](#)
[Mongabay](#)
[Nopalme](#)
[Oil Palm in Africa](#)
[Say No to Palm Oil](#)
[Searching for Bonobo in Congo](#)
[Sustainable Palm Oil Platform](#)
[The Farmer's Voice - La voix du paysan](#)
[Treehugger](#)

CAMPAIGNS

[Cultural Survival](#)
[Dakar Appeal](#)
[Greenpeace USA](#)
[Palm Oil Consumers Action](#)
[SAVE The Forest](#)
[Stop Africa Land Grab](#)
[Stop Herakles: Protect the ancient rainforests of Cameroon](#)
[Zoological Society of London \(ZSL\) Biodiversity and Oil Palm Project](#)

ORGANIZATIONS

[Brainforest](#)
[Center for International Forestry Research](#)
[Center for the Environment and](#)

Development

COMIFAC

Environment and Rural

Development Foundation

FIAN Food First Information and
Action Network.

Food Crisis and the Global Land
Grab

Forest European Research Network
(FERN)

Forest Peoples Programme

Grain

Green Scenery

Greenpeace Africa

Greenpeace International

Hub Rural - Rural Hub

La Via Campesina

Nature Cameroon

Oakland Institute

Palm Oil Action Group

People's Coalition on Food

Sovereignty

Rainforest Action Network

Rainforest Alliance

RELUFA

Rights and Resources Initiative

Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

SAVE Wildlife Conservation Fund

Sustainable Agricultural Network

The Rainforest Foundation U.K.

World Rainforest Movement

WWF

REPORTS & BOOKS

Africa palm-oil plan pits activists vs
N.Y. investors

Betting on World Agriculture: US
Private Equity Managers Eye
Agricultural Returns

Conflict or Consent? The Palm Oil
Sector at a Crossroads

Everyone must eat? Liberia, Food
Security and Palm Oil

Green Veneer: WWF Helps Industry
More than Environment

Herakles 13th Labour

Herakles Farms in Cameroon: A
showcase in bad palm oil
production

Improving the Livelihoods of Palm
Oil Smallholders

Landowners or Laborers: What
choice will developing countries
make?

[Les Populations Gabonaises face a l'Insecurite Fonciere](#)
[Massive Deforestation Portrayed as Sustainable Investment](#)
[Oil Palm Development in Cameroon](#)
[Oil Palm in Africa: past, present and future scenarios](#)
[Palm oil's new frontier](#)
[RSPO and complaint resolution](#)
[Securing community land and resource rights in Africa](#)
[Seeds of Destruction](#)
[Special Report: Africa palm-oil plan pits activists vs N.Y. investors](#)
[Stolen Apes: The Illicit Trade in Chimpanzees, Gorillas, Bonobos and Orangutans](#)
[The Cambridge World History of Food: Palm oil](#)
[Towards sustainable palm oil: A framework for action](#)
[U.N. Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Cameroon report](#)
[We who live here own the land](#)

Welcome to Palm Watch - Africa

Palm Watch - Africa is an online media platform focused on new oil palm development in West-Central Africa. Research, reporting and a participatory citizen network will draw attention to the rapid expansion of oil palm investments across the Congo Basin, shining a light on these opaque, largely unreported and potentially destructive deals. Providing in-depth information and multiple opportunities for citizen engagement, Palm Watch - Africa aims to stimulate inclusive debate and foster grassroots strategies for environmental protection and sustainable development.

Read more: [Why palm oil? Why Africa? Why now?](#)

We welcome your comments. Please check back regularly. We'll blog and post information updates as we build the Palm Watch - Africa site. In the meantime, please subscribe to our [blog](#), follow us on [twitter](#) and like us on [facebook](#).

