


(<https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fejatlas.org%2Fconflict%2Fsoc-fin-kcd-conflict-cambodia>)

(<https://twitter.com/intent/tweet?text=Check+out+%E2%80%98Soc-fin+KCD+conflict%E2%80%98+on+%23EJAtlas%3A&url=https://ejatlas.org/conflict/soc-fin-kcd-conflict-cambodia>)
 (</print/soc-fin-kcd-conflict-cambodia>)

Soc-fin KCD conflict, Cambodia

▼ Description

In December 2008, hundreds of ethnic Bunong villagers protested against the company who had started clearing the forest and fields close to the village.

[See more...](#)

▼ Basic Data

Name

Soc-fin KCD conflict, Cambodia

Country

[Cambodia \(/country/cambodia\)](/country/cambodia)

Province

Monduliri

Site

Village of Bousra

Accuracy of Location

MEDIUM regional level

▼ Source of Conflict

Type of Conflict (1st level)

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

Type of Conflict (2nd level)

Plantation conflicts (incl. Pulp
Land acquisition conflicts

Specific Commodities

[Rubber \(/commodity/rubber\)](/commodity/rubber)

▼ Project Details and Actors

Project Details

According to WRM (2009):

On April 8 2009, it was announced by the daily newspaper Phnom Penh Post that a joint rubber deal had been signed, between "France's Socfina and the Khaou Chuly Group to create 10,000 hectares rubber plantation and processing facilities in Monduliri". The President of Khaou Chuly declared that "his company was providing 30% of the total capital, with the other 70 percent to be supplied by the French company."

In fact, the name of Socfina seems to be wrong as everybody on the field talk about Socfin. According to our research, this company is based in Cambodia, directed by Philippe Monnin, a French expert in rubber plantation who worked for years as consultant for the Cambodian ministry of Agriculture on projects of family scale rubber plantations in Kompong Cham province.

On the web (www.socfinal.lu) it appears that Socfin KCD is owned at 60% by Socfinasia, with is held at 53% by Socfinal, a holding based in Luxemburg. Socfinal is a mixed group, which is controlled by Belgian families, amongst them the Fabri, and held at 38% by a French financial and agribusiness group, lead by Bolloré. Questioned on the main shareholders of Socfin in Cambodia, a source gave the names of the French Vincent Bolloré, and the Belgian Hubert Fabri. Two names that come again and again in this galaxy. So Socfin KCD is one of this constellation of companies involved in the rubber plantations in Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Congo (RDC), Kenya, Cameroon, Liberia and Indonesia and... Cambodia. A recent article by the French newspaper Le Monde diplomatique informs us about the activities in Africa of the Bolloré group (Port, rail, plantations: le triste bilan de Bolloré au Cameroun, www.monde-diplomatique.fr April 2009).

Socfin KCD is also one of these subsidiary companies of companies founded with cross holdings, a system that allows the shareholders, always the same small group of persons, to save a maximum profit and pay minimum taxes. Of course they are located in tax havens where the profits disappear. A very interesting investigation written by a French journalist, Martine Orange, has been published in February 2009 by the web newspaper Mediapart (the investigation is available at this address: www.mediapart.fr/files/Bollore_iliad.pdf).

Project Area (in hectares)

6,978

Type of Population

Rural

Potential Affected Population

About 1000 Families

Start Date

2007

End Date

2009

Company Names or State Enterprises

Khaou Chuly Development (/company/khaou-chuly-development) from Cambodia (/country-of-company/cambodia)
Socfin (/company/socfin) from Luxembourg (/country-of-company/luxembourg)

Environmental justice organisations and other supporters

None

▼ The Conflict and the Mobilization

Intensity of Conflict (at highest level)

HIGH (widespread, mass mobilization, violence, arrests, etc...)

When did the mobilization begin

In REACTION to the implementation (during construction or operation)

Groups Mobilizing

Indigenous groups or traditional communities
Ethnic Bunong

Forms of Mobilization

Street protest/marches
Property damage/arson

▼ Impacts

Environmental Impacts

Potential: Deforestation and loss of vegetation cover

Socio-economic Impacts

Visible: Loss of livelihood, Land dispossession, Violations of human rights
Potential: Social problems (alcoholism, prostitution, etc..)

▼ Outcome

Project Status

In operation

Pathways for conflict outcome / response

Compensation

Development of Alternatives

FIDH therefore urges the Royal Government of Cambodia to:

- Apply an immediate moratorium on all ELCs ; and undertake a contractual compliance review of all concessions , suspend those found to be operating unlawfully until full compliance with national and international law;
- Facilitate rapid registration of indigenous communities and ensure effective and good faith

application of interim protection measures when registration as legal entities or collective

titling is not secured; 8 / Cambodia - Land Cleared for Rubber Rights Bulldozed – FIDH

- Ensure adequate and meaningful consultation and participation of communities affected by ECLs, including to seek the free, prior and informed consent;
- Establish an independent monitoring mechanism on large scale agribusiness to guarantee the respect for human rights standards and responsible agro-investment (involving civil society representatives);
- Guarantee in all circumstances the physical and psychological integrity of human rights defenders in Cambodia, including land rights defenders.

FIDH is calling on Socfin-KCD to :

- Suspend all operations of the company until all the current disputes are resolved;
- Implement recommendations of the 2010 ESIA, including measures to protect the traditions of the Bunong and to ensure the sustainability of their livelihoods;
- Review compensation provided to ensure compliance with international standards, including compensation for moral damage.

FIDH is also calling on Luxembourg and other European home states involved to:

- Adopt legal and policy measures to ensure private actors legally registered under their jurisdiction can be held accountable for human rights violations abroad and that victims have access to effective remedies;
- Require that issuers listed on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange disclose the social and environmental impacts of their activities (including those of their subsidiaries). [1]

Do you consider this as a success?

No

Why? Explain briefly.

The company basically won and was able to continue its operations.

▼ Sources and Materials

References

WRM Bulletin N°142 (May 2009)

[click to view] (<http://wrm.org.uy/bulletins/issue-142/>)

Links

[1] Cambodia - Land Cleared for Rubber Rights Bulldozed – FIDH

[click to view] (http://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/report_cambodia_socfin-kcd_low_def.pdf)

▼ Meta Information

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▼ Comments

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