

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 : 15th May 2015

Tick whichever is appropriate

√	This is a completely new development and stakeholders may submit comments.
	This is part of an ongoing planting and is meant for notification only.

Company : Olam Palm Gabon
Subsidiary : -
RSPO Membership No. : 1-0114-12-000-00

Location of proposed new planting: (description or maps and GPS coordinate as below)

Company Name : **Olam Palm Gabon**

Company Address : **Head Office:** Olam International Limited 9 Temasek Boulevard #11-02 Suntec, Tower 2, Singapore 038989
Gabon Office: Olam Palm Gabon, Galerie Tsika (behind Mbolo), B.P.1024 Libreville, Gabon

Location Size : ± 23,780 Ha

Contact person : Audrey Lee, Sustainability Manager, Olam International Ltd.
 email: Audrey.lee@olamnet.com

Location : **Olam Palm Gabon (Mouila Lot 3)**
 Ngounié Province, Southern Gabon, Gabon.

GPS Reference : E 10°54' – 11°10' and S 1°52' - 02°10'

Legal permit : Concession agreement for long-term lease between the Government of Gabon (GoG), represented by the Prime Minister, and Olam Palm Gabon, issued by the Prime Minister, the Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development and the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Fishery and Rural Development, and the Minister of Forests, Environment and Natural Resources, 22 April 2015. This agreement summarizes the rights and obligations of Olam Palm Gabon on the acquisition of a concession south of Mouila with a total area of 23,780 ha (period of 50 years, renewable once) to be developed for oil palm.

Location of proposed new planting

The concession, known as Mouila Lot 3, covers 23,780 ha in Ngounié Province, southern Gabon. It is located in the forest-savannah transition region of southern Gabon, in one of the two savannah fingers reaching northwards into Gabon from the Republic of Congo. A combination of historical exploitation and edaphic factors has shaped the vegetation in this area. Almost all the forest areas have experienced disturbance or degradation, which reflects the degree of anthropogenic activity.

Lot 3 is found on the western side of the River Ngounié flood plain, the concession overlaps with the catchments of five rivers: Douya, Ijevoula, Doumina, Idigui, and Dibotsa, which have their sources in the Tandou Mountains of the Mayombe Massif to the west and flow eastwards emptying into the River Ngounié. The concession is delimited by the N1 road (Libreville – Mouila – Tchibanga Highway) to the east, the River Douya to the north, the lower edge of the Tandou Escarpment to the west and the River Dibotsa to the south.

Lot 3 lies on a flat to gently undulating (< 6 degrees) plain over limestone/shale bedrock, yielding soils of moderate to low fertility. However, most soils are suitable for palm plantations, with fertiliser additions as required for economic yields. The elevation of Mouila Lot 3 ranges from 90 to 130 m. above mean sea level. Located in the humid tropics, very close to the equator, the area is characterised by its hot and wet nature. The total annual rainfall ranges from a low of 2,173 mm to a high of 2,694 mm to give a four-year mean of 2,152 mm.

The Mouila Lot 3 concession is located ca. 50 km to the north-east of Moukalaba-Doudou National Park, and approximately 40-45 km south of from Waka National Park. Lot 3 does not overlap with any Ramsar Site or Intact Forest Landscape (IFL). However, the site does overlap with a CARPE landscape. Mouila lot 3 site is part of a bigger investment plan by Olam International in the wider landscape; Lot 3 is located close to two other palm oil plantations currently being developed by Olam – Mouila Lot 1 and Mouila Lot 2. There are also several other different land-uses prevalent in this landscape, including: village settlements and associated small-scale subsistence agriculture and forestry concessions, as well as conservation areas.

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.
- Land Identification of areas important to local communities was partly completed. These involved a socio-economic survey of each village potentially impacted by the project. A team of experts completed participatory mapping in each village. This process identified both the areas currently used for hunting, fishing, logging and collection of non-timber forest products and sacred and culturally important sites.

The maps below provide the location of the concession and the area of new plantings, as follows:

RSPO



Figure 1. Location of Olam Palm Gabon (Mouila Lot 3) in Gabon

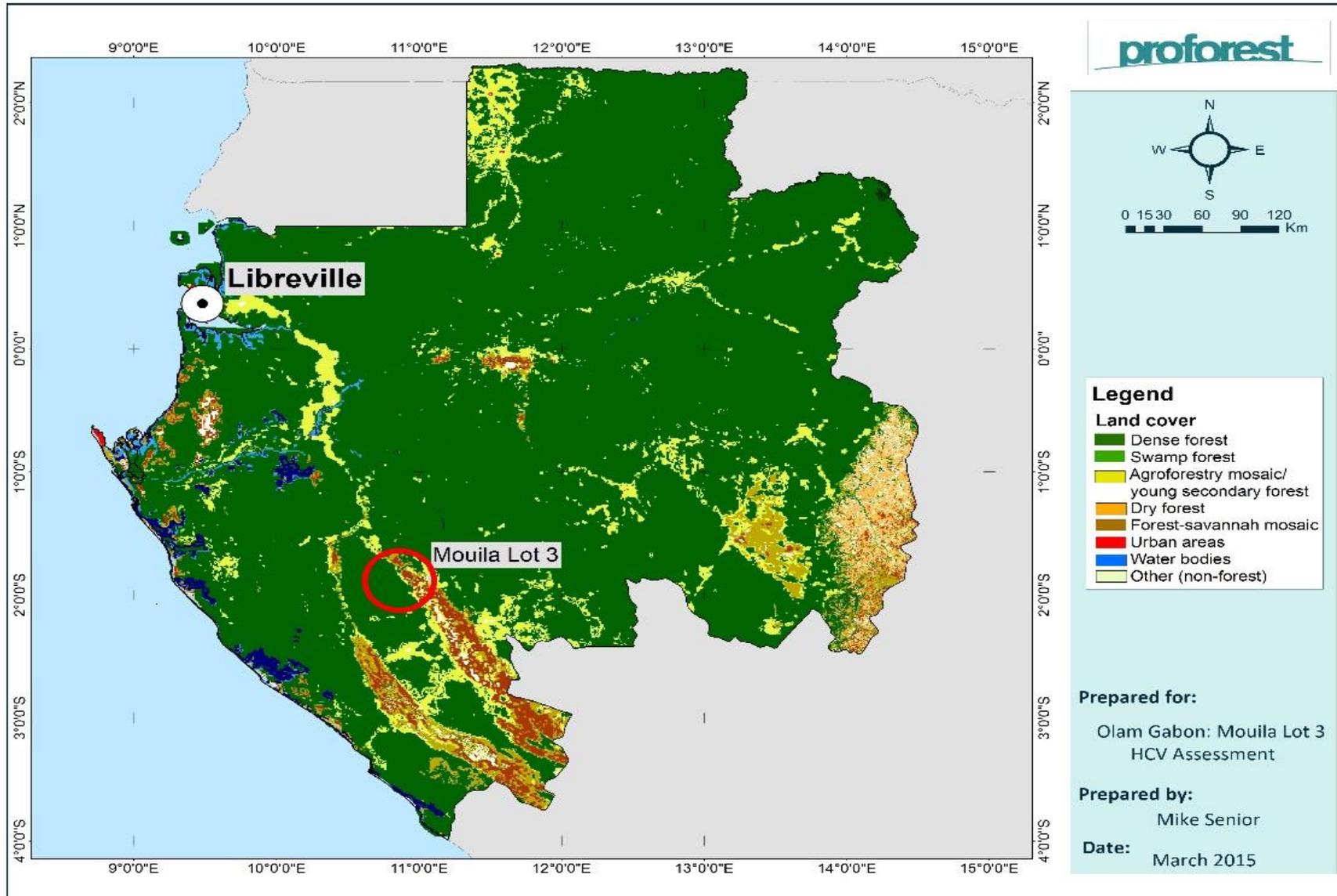


Figure 2. Location of Olam Palm Gabon (Mouila Lot 3) in Ngounié Province, Gabon

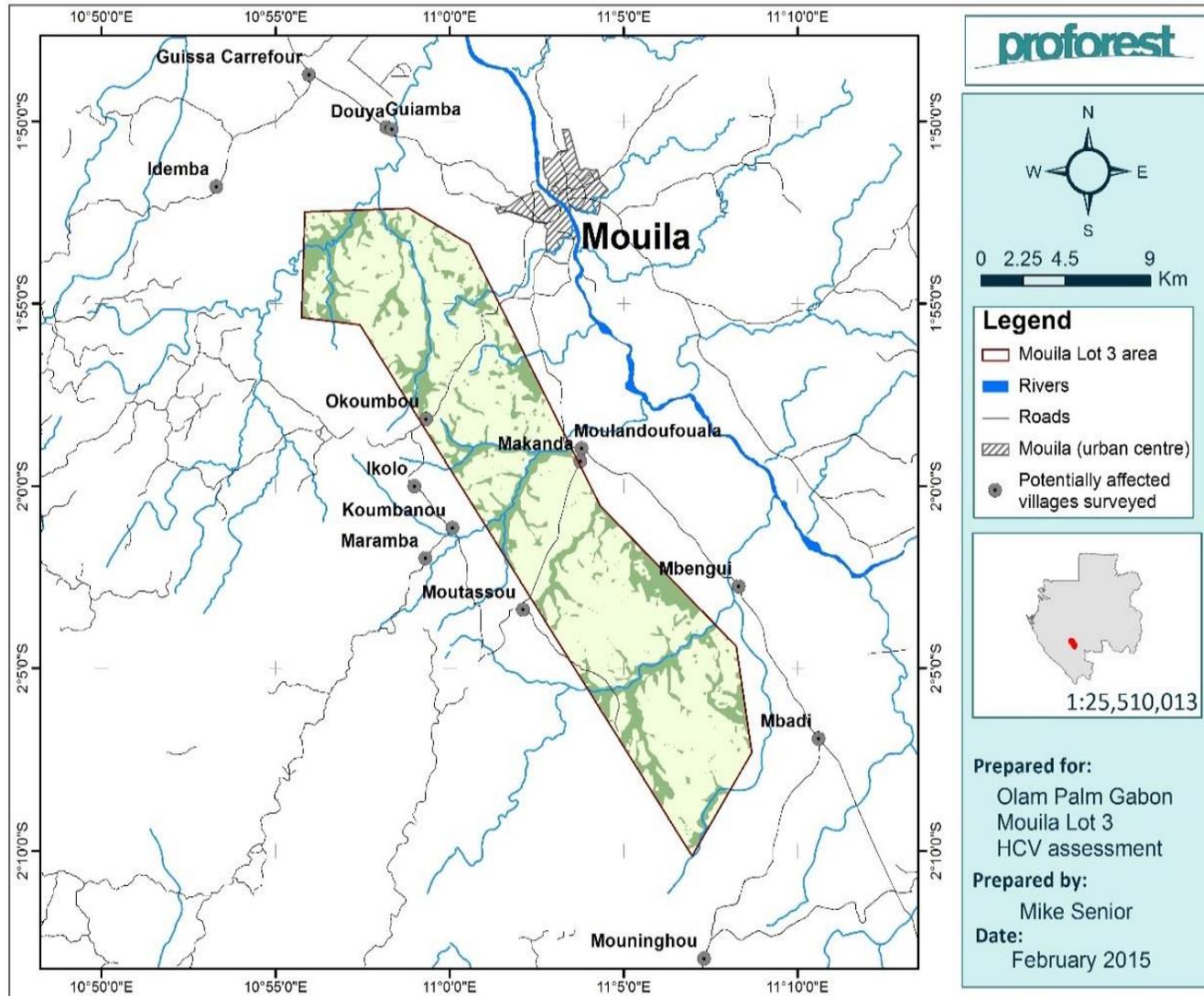


Figure 3. Map showing Olam Palm Gabon (Mouila Lot 3) and its surrounding entities

A. SUMMARY FROM ESIA ASSESSMENTS:

Olam Palm engaged TERE, a Gabonese environmental consultancy, to conduct the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) in Mouila Lot 3. The firm has established expertise in the fields of mining, quarrying, gas and oil, fisheries, forestry, and infrastructure and worked previously on OPG's Awala plantation ESIA. Tere worked with Proforest UK to validate the ESIA methodologies in order to ensure that results were suitable for ESIA and HCV assessment. The results from the ESIA were one of the primary data sources used for identifying HCVs. ESIA's are required by Gabonese regulations as well as the NPP.

Summary report of the key findings in respect of impact on socio-economic impacts to country, region and local communities are reported as per the RSPO NPP template and posted with this NPP notification on the RSPO website.

B. SUMMARY FROM HCV ASSESSMENTS:

The HCV assessment was carried out by Proforest UK according to the requirements of the HCV Resource Network Licensing Scheme. The HCV Assessment for Mouila Lot 3 Peer Reviewed and passed the HCVRN quality control requirements. Proforest is an independent company working with natural resource management and specializing in practical approaches to sustainability. Their expertise covers all aspects of the natural resources sector, from forestry and agricultural commodities to conservation, supply chain management and responsible investment.

Public Summary of the HCV assessment is made available separately and posted on the RSPO website with this NPP notification. The project was assessed as Tier 1 under the HCVRN ALS Scheme. The HCV report was prepared following the new ALS (Assessor Licensing Scheme) and first peer reviewed HCV assessment approved by the HCVRN peer reviewer under ALS Scheme. The summary of the HCV assessment and essential findings posted.

C. SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT PLANS

Olam Palm Gabon is led by the President & Global Head of Plantation and monitored by General Managers and executives on site at operational level for the proposed new planting. The plantations management is structured according to various roles and functions to ensure implementation of best agronomic, environmental and social practices. Each of these divisions/unit is managed by a manager, and assisted by assistant managers or executives. Olam Palm Gabon Agricultural Policy Manual has been established in accordance to the RSPO Principles and Criteria and relevant requirements.

Summary of the management plans posted on the RSPO website with this NPP notification.

VERIFICATION STATEMENT:

The NPP verification of Olam Palm Gabon conducted through document and field verification. BSI's auditor conducted preliminary document review in the week of 23rd March 2015. This was followed up with field verification visit to the proposed new planting site at Mouila, Ngouine Province, Gabon on 7-8 April 2015. The field verification includes meeting local people at the proposed new planting site, executive and staff assigned to involve in the NPP process were interviewed. The information on the proposed new planting has been communicated transparently to the surrounding community who might be affected by the proposed new planting and they are aware of the on-going FPIC process. At the time of field verification, clearing and preparation for planting had not commenced with exception of a 50 ha nursery site on savanna/grassland which was evaluated by the ESIA assessors and authorized by the Department of Environment and prior consent was obtained from the local village.

Final document verification was conducted on 14 May 2015 by two BSI auditors at the Olam Internation Ltd's Kuala Lumpur office. The final document verification includes the verification of final ESIA and HCV Summary Report, Summary of planning and management, and RSPO GHG Assessment report for the proposed new planting.

The auditors conclude that the social and environmental assessments and HCV assessment summary are follows the requirements of NPP with details on the assessment result, comprehensive and carried out by qualified professionals with required credibility. The HCV assessment was conducted by Proforest assessors registered (verified through HCVRN website) under the HCV Resource Network Assessor Licensing Scheme and complied with RSPO NPP requirement. The HCV assessment with ALS tier 1 was peer reviewed as an additional means of quality assurance. The ESIA assessment was conducted by TEREА, a Gabonese environmental consultancy with expertise in the field of mining, quarrying, oil and gas, fisheries and infrastructure. They have also worked previously with Olam Palm Gabon's Awala Plantation's ESIA assessment.

As a commitment to an implementation period for promoting best practices in reporting net GHG emission to RSPO, Olam Palm Gabon has completed the requirement of RSPO GHG Assessment Procedure for new planting by producing separate report to comply with the RSPO P&C 2013 criteria 7.8 which require new planting are designed to minimize greenhouse gas emission. Identification and estimation of potential sources of emission and sinks of carbon associated with the new planting. The assessment was conducted by Proforest, TEREА and soil survey assessors. During the implementation period until 31 December 2016, the reporting on GHG will be to the RSPO Emission Reduction Working Group. Olam Palm Gabon submitted the GHG assessment report to RSPO at the same time with the NPP notification.

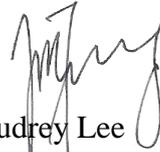
It is the opinion of the BSI's auditors that the Olam palm Gabon has complied with the RSPO New Planting Procedures.

Signed on behalf of
PT BSI Group Indonesia,



Senniah Appalamy
Lead Auditor

Signed on behalf of
Olam International Ltd.



Audrey Lee
Sustainability Manager