

Survival



The global movement
for tribal peoples' rights

WWF and the loggers:

A brief history of greenwashing in the Congo Basin

They are cutting down everything

Baka Cameroon

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Introduction

We can never give our consent because we get nothing from this destruction of the forest.

Baka man on logging being carried out by the Rougier Group in Cameroon, January 9, 2017

Rougier and WWF have worked together for years. This new collaboration enables us to join forces on an even greater scale.

Francis Rougier, Chief Executive Officer of the Rougier Group, April 9, 2015¹

In the Congo Basin, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) is supporting squads of wildlife guards that abuse tribal people as well as a network of “protected areas” that is driving them from their ancestral homelands. This is not just destroying lives; it is harming conservation. By supporting projects that scapegoat tribal people, WWF is diverting action away from tackling the real causes of environmental destruction: logging and corruption.

Logging companies not only extract precious trees that have a multitude of uses for tribal people like the Baka and Bayaka “Pygmies.”² Perhaps more importantly, they also carve new roads deep into the rainforest, drawing outsiders to previously remote regions. Wildlife trafficking networks then take root, with the complicity of local authorities and military elites.

Some of the world's largest logging groups that are felling trees on Baka and Bayaka land have received the support of WWF: the French Bolloré, Pasquet and Rougier Groups, the Italian SEFAC Group, the Belgian Decolvenaere Group, the Austria-based Danzer Group and the Chinese Vicwood Group. Several of these companies have paid WWF in order to take part in its flagship “Global Forest & Trade Network” scheme and use its iconic panda logo.³

In theory, the companies are supposed to work towards being certified as sustainable by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), a scheme that WWF helped to set up. Yet many are never certified and even companies that are continue to violate national forestry laws and international standards on tribal peoples’ rights.

None of WWF’s partners that feature here has received or even sought the consent of the tribal peoples whose forests it is destroying. WWF should not enter any relationship with a company that fails to obey the law or respect tribal rights, something that it recognized when it drew up its policy on human rights.⁴ Yet WWF has violated this policy time and again.

WWF was or certainly should have been aware of the reports we have collected here. It should itself have investigated them, precisely because of the pattern of wrongdoing they revealed. There’s no evidence to indicate that it did this.

It’s a con. WWF, like many other big conservation organizations, is partnering with industry and destroying the environment’s best allies.

Our forest is being finished off completely

Baka Cameroon



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Some of [WWF's partners] reap the benefits of association with WWF and its iconic panda brand while continuing unsustainable logging.

Global Witness, July 24, 2011⁵

March 1991

A research team commissioned by WWF visits several logging concessions in southeast Cameroon. Several of these are operated by WWF's future logging partners: SEFAC (SEFAC Group), SOTREF (Decolvenaere Group), SIBAF (Bolloré Group). It finds that

Unquestionably, logging has led to the widespread dispersal and destruction of game and loss of forest habitat. [It provides] easy access to large areas of the forest that were used by only a very few before the coming of the logging companies.

The team hears from Baka that many more elephants are being killed since the new logging trails were opened. It recommends that WWF "focuses on the professional poachers, middlemen and consumers in urban centers and logging companies" rather than on people like the Baka hunting to feed their families.⁶

March 1999

WWF President, HRH Prince Philip, visits the logging company SEFAC (SEFAC Group) in Cameroon. He reportedly welcomes the company's actions towards sustainable forest management.⁷

December 1999

The Cameroonian government finds "anarchic" and illegal operations in one of SEFAC's logging concessions.⁸

March 2000

SEFAC is fined and its activities are suspended for three months.⁹

March 2000

The logging company SIBAF (Bolloré Group) is fined for a logging infraction.¹⁰

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SEFAC created the logging trails and the [trophy-hunting outfits] poach along them.

Baka man on SEFAC, one of WWF's former logging partners, Cameroon, 2011¹¹

April 2000 A member of the Rougier Group in Cameroon is found to have been logging illegally in Cameroon.¹²

July 2000 SEFAC is disqualified from bidding for new logging concessions due to “serious wrongdoing in its logging activities.”¹³

July 2000 The Cameroonian government finds a member of the Rougier Group is logging illegally.¹⁴

September 2000 According to Greenpeace, SIBAF and SEFAC have recently been found by the Cameroonian government to be logging illegally. Greenpeace notes that its own research indicates a member of the Rougier Group is also involved in illegal logging activities.¹⁵

December 2000 The Cameroonian government fines a member of the Rougier Group for illegal logging.¹⁶

March 2001 Forests Monitor claims that the construction of logging roads by SIBAF has facilitated the bushmeat trade inside its logging concessions.¹⁷

September 2001 A study presents cases of illegal logging by the Rougier and SEFAC Groups and calls for further investigation.¹⁸

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The fact is [WWF] is mostly outwitted by the companies who use it cynically.

John Vidal, Environment Editor at *The Guardian*, July 25, 2011¹⁹

October 2001 WWF launches its partnership with SIBAF and a sister member of the Bolloré Group. The companies are logging the ancestral homelands of Baka and Bagyeli “Pygmies” without their consent.

WWF describes SIBAF’s Director as “satisfied that his company is a pacesetter in this direction towards sustainable forest management.”²⁰

December 2001 Within days of a high-profile event on “sustainable forest management” organized by WWF in Brussels, the two members of the Bolloré Group that WWF has partnered with are publicly shamed by the Cameroonian authorities for breaking the law.

SIBAF has been caught falsifying documents in order to export rare species of wood; its sister company has been caught logging inside the Campo Wildlife Reserve.²¹

2002 A study is published that investigates the ties of the Rougier Group to the Corsican mafia and explores how, together with the Pasquet Group and the Bolloré Group, Rougier is reinforcing corruption in Cameroon.²²

January 2002 A member of the Rougier Group is fined for exporting illegal timber.²³

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It was clear that the Panda does not necessarily see “observance of the law” as a criterion in its choice of bed-fellows.

Sarah Apele, reporting on a seminar on logging organized by WWF, February 2002²⁴

February 2002 An article notes that the two members of the Bolloré Group “have featured repeatedly in the Cameroonian government’s listings of forest sector miscreants.” It also recounts how

*At a seminar of European and Cameroonian conservationists held in Paris earlier last year, WWF was warned by French non-governmental experts that Bolloré is implicated in a network of suspect and nefarious activities spanning the Congo Basin. These include trading links with companies involved in arms trafficking associated with the region’s brutal and persistent civil conflicts.*²⁵

March 2002 With the help of Friends of the Earth France and Sherpa, Cameroonian villagers file charges against the Rougier Group in France for crimes carried out in 1999 in Cameroon. The charges are ruled inadmissible in French court.²⁶

March 2002 A BBC investigation directly links Rougier to the bushmeat trade.²⁷

March 2002 Greenpeace reports that the SEFAC Group “is guilty of major violations of local forestry legislation and an arrogant disregard for the rights of local people.” Its report emphasises the link between SEFAC’s work and the bushmeat trade.²⁸

June 2002 The Cameroonian government files a report against Pallisco (Pasquet Group) for illegal logging.²⁹

July-Aug. 2002 Cameroon’s Independent Forest Monitor hears that SFID (Rougier Group) has been involved in intimidating local people.³⁰



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We really need to fight against this, because our forest is being finished off completely.

Baka woman living near one of the Rougier Group's logging concessions in Cameroon, January 9, 2017

March 2003 Cameroon's Independent Forest Monitor finds that the SEFAC Group is involved in illegal logging.³¹

June 2003 WWF completes its recent project of partnering with logging companies in order to promote "sustainable forest management." An independent assessment criticises its "poorly formulated logical framework," and notes that it had an "unsatisfactory" impact in certain areas. It also observes that its "effectiveness" in many respects was "not measurable" and that its "efficiency" was "very unsatisfactory."³²

This assessment follows an earlier study that observed that some of the companies with whom WWF had formed "partnerships" under this project had been involved in illegal logging activities.³³

June 2003 Cameroon's Independent Forest Monitor finds that SFID (Rougier Group) is involved in illegal logging.³⁴

August 2003 The Cameroonian government reports that Pallisco (Pasquet Group) and members of the Bolloré, SEFAC and Rougier Groups have been involved in illegal logging.³⁵

September 2003 Cameroon's Independent Forest Monitor reports that SFID (Rougier Group) is involved in illegal logging.³⁶

May 2004 Cameroon's Independent Forest Monitor finds that a member of the Decolvenaere Group is involved in illegal logging.³⁷

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Pallisco has hired wildlife guards, who every year burn our forest camps to the ground and tell people: “You have no land here.”

Baka man, Cameroon, July 17, 2013

July 2004 A report by Cameroon’s Independent Forest Monitor, approved by the Cameroonian government, details how the Rougier Group and Pallisco (Pasquet Group) have been logging illegally.³⁸

November 2004 Greenpeace accuses the Danzer Group of involvement in bribery, illegal logging in the Congo Basin, dealings with blacklisted arms trafficker and of suspected forgery.³⁹

May 2005 The organization Forest Peoples Programme hears how Baka are concerned for the moabi trees that they depend on and which are being cut down by Pallisco (Pasquet Group).⁴⁰

November 2005 Cameroon’s government and the Independent Forest Monitor find that a member of the SEFAC Group has been logging illegally.⁴¹

December 2005 The logging company Pallisco (Pasquet Group) joins WWF’s Global Forest & Trade Network.⁴² Pallisco is logging the ancestral homelands of Baka “Pygmies” in Cameroon without their consent.

December 2005 Greenpeace finds that SFID (Rougier Group) “has been repeatedly involved in illegal logging in Cameroon” including sourcing wood from permits widely considered to be illegal.⁴³

February 2006 The Decolvenaere Group joins WWF’s Global Forest & Trade Network.⁴⁴ The group is logging the ancestral homelands of Baka “Pygmies” in Cameroon without their consent.

WWF has consistently brushed over the fundamental question we are posing, about whether the approach they are endorsing will actually do the job of saving forests.

Global Witness, May 25, 2012⁴⁵

April 2006

An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for the mining company Geovic Ltd.'s planned mine on Baka land explains that the mine will be powered by wood supplied by Pallisco (Pasquet Group).

The assessment notes that up to 13km² of forest will be cleared for the mine and that local people have expressed their concern that sacred trees will be destroyed. It recognizes that the mine will encourage poaching.⁴⁶

May 2006

Friends of the Earth publish a report on Pallisco (Pasquet Group) detailing its failure to log sustainably and in accordance with either Cameroonian law or the needs of the Baka and their neighbors.⁴⁷

May 2006

The Cameroonian government and the Independent Forest Monitor find that Pallisco (Pasquet Group) has violated logging regulations.⁴⁸

July 2006

Cameroon's Independent Forest Monitor finds that SFIL (Decolvenaere Group) and Rougier have violated logging regulations.⁴⁹

August 2006

WWF welcomes the SEFAC Group into its Global Forest & Trade Network.⁵⁰ The group is logging the ancestral homelands of Baka "Pygmies" without their consent.

SEFAC eventually leaves or is ejected from WWF's network. From the information WWF has made publicly available, it is not clear when or why.⁵¹

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Our main criticism is not that WWF has got too close to companies and failed to hold them to account, although that is true. It is that even if these companies were playing by the [...] rules, the system it endorses is fundamentally wrong.

Global Witness, May 25, 2012⁵²

August 2006 WWF claims that “The combined assets of [Pallisco (Pasquet Group), the Decolvenaere Group and another logging company that WWF has partnered with] will contribute to the social and economic development of Cameroon, as well as contribute to the conservation of Congo Basin forests.”⁵³

August 2006 Cameroon’s Independent Forest Monitor finds that two members of the SEFAC Group have violated logging regulations.⁵⁴

September 2006 WWF announces its partnership with the German logging giant Danzer.⁵⁵ The Danzer Group is logging the forests of Baka, Mikaya and Luma “Pygmies” in the Republic of Congo without their consent.

December 2006 Cameroon’s Independent Forest Monitor finds that SFID (Rougier Group) has violated logging regulations.⁵⁶

March 2007 Rougier publishes a map describing Baka forest camps inside its concessions as “Pygmies (poachers) camps [sic].”⁵⁷



**IFO is finishing off all our trees.
How are we going to live?**

Baka living inside IFO's concession (Danzer Group), Congo, August 6, 2013

July 2007

WWF welcomes the logging company IFO (Danzer Group) into its Global Forest & Trade Network.⁵⁸ IFO is logging the forests of Baka, Mikaya and Luma “Pygmies” in the Republic of Congo without their consent.

When announcing this decision, WWF describes IFO as one of “the top five producers of lumber and logs in Africa” and explains:

We believe the commitment of IFO to responsible forestry should contribute to the conservation of biodiversity in this area while improving the livelihood of local communities, including the Pygmies.⁵⁹

April 2007

A report by Cameroon’s Independent Forest Monitor notes three summons issued by the Cameroonian government to members of the SEFAC Group for violating logging regulations.⁶⁰

October 2007

According to WWF, “responsible forest management and trade was revitalised” during a meeting in the Republic of Congo.⁶¹

May 2008

A member of the Rougier Group is fined by the French government for price-fixing.⁶²

July 2008

Danzer is accused by Greenpeace of using an “elaborate profit-laundering system” in the Congo Basin, “designed to move income out of Africa and into offshore bank accounts.”

Greenpeace suspects that at least €7.8 million has been lost in public revenues, equivalent to the cost of vaccinating over 700,000 Congolese children under the age of five.⁶³

They cut everything down. Our caterpillars - where will we find them? And termites, and the kana, peke and payo fruits?

Baka man on SEFAC, one of WWF's former logging partners, Cameroon, August 6, 2016

July 2008

WWF claims to have “made effective forest management a reality in Africa’s Congo Basin.”⁶⁴

October 2008

Cameroon’s Independent Forest Monitor finds that SFID (Rougier Group) is involved in violating logging regulations.⁶⁵

December 2008

Future French Minister for Development, Pascal Canfin, publishes his assessment of SEFAC, after visiting its concessions at the invitation of WWF. He claims that SEFAC is minimizing its environmental impact, respecting Cameroonian law and meeting certification standards.⁶⁶

Less than one year later the Forest Stewardship Council withdraws SEFAC’s certification – a rare occurrence in the Congo Basin.

Mr Canfin is appointed Director General of WWF France in November 2015.

2009

WWF describes “a remarkable growth in responsible forest management” in the Congo Basin, and claims that it and its partners “have helped to transform the global forest products market by increasing the demand for legally produced products from well-managed forests by global businesses and other organizations.”⁶⁷

As a mark of encouragement [we] donated 10 leather footballs to the company.

WWF, May 2009⁶⁸

The balls are indeed awareness raising materials.

SEFAC, 2009⁶⁹

January 2009

The Forest Stewardship Council suspends one of its certification bodies, after finding that it “issued a certificate to [a] company despite the fact that there was evidence that the company was not in compliance with many FSC requirements.”⁷⁰

The company in question is SEFAC, one of WWF’s partners.

May 2009

WWF notes that the FSC certification body has been suspended but fails to mention that the company it certified wrongly was SEFAC.

Despite the fact that SEFAC’s certification is wholly discredited, WWF takes pains to endorse the certification, claiming that it means SEFAC is “putting [most] of its forest concession under responsible forest management.”⁷¹

May 2009

Cameroon’s Independent Forest Monitor finds that SEFAC has violated logging regulations.⁷²

October 2009

WWF welcomes SFID (Rougier Group) into its Global Forest & Trade Network. SFID is logging the ancestral homelands of Baka “Pygmies” in Cameroon without their consent.⁷³

October 2010

Cameroon’s Independent Forest Monitor finds that the Decolvenaere Group has violated logging regulations.⁷⁴

Perversely, GFTN rules continue to allow participant 'trade' companies to handle illegal wood for up to five years after joining. This has created the bizarre situation where GFTN has lower standards than prescribed in law.

Global Witness on WWF's Global Forest & Trade Network, July 24, 2011⁷⁵

November 2010 Friends of the Earth carries out an investigation in Cameroon and the Republic of Congo. They visit one of Pallisco's (Pasquet Group) old logging sites and hear that Pallisco has destroyed trees that are important to local people, making the gathering of certain forest resources no longer possible. They also visit an old site of Rougier's and hear how the company has left local people poorer.

They meet with Baka who explain how many of the trees that are prized by WWF's logging partners are very important to the Baka for the food and medicines they provide.⁷⁶

2011 WWF launches a new partnership with Vasto Legno, part of the SEFAC Group. It has reportedly received €45,000 from the company.⁷⁷

2011 Baka explain to a researcher how they have been beaten by wildlife guards in the area where SEFAC is logging. At least one of the victims believes it was SEFAC who sent the guards.⁷⁸

June 2011 Greenpeace denounces the "major human rights violations" that have taken place in connection with logging operations carried out by SIFORCO, (Danzer Group) in the Democratic Republic of Congo.⁷⁹



There are no positive impacts. We have lost plants and animals. The forest is no longer rich because of poachers.

Baka man on Rougier's logging, Cameroon, July 17, 2016

July 2011

Global Witness publishes an evaluation of WWF's Global Forest & Trade Network and finds that the scheme is "fundamentally flawed."

Such flaws "allow some of its member companies to reap the benefits of association with WWF and its iconic panda brand while continuing unsustainable logging, conversion of forests to plantations, or trading in illegally sourced timber."

The fact that the scheme is so accommodating towards companies, Global Witness concludes, "hampers the efforts of other organisations and programmes campaigning for higher standards in the forestry sector."⁸⁰

July 2011

The Guardian's Environment Editor writes that WWF in the Congo Basin "is mostly outwitted by the companies who use it cynically, buying the use of [...] the panda to promote a green image."

He describes a visit he made to a logging camp in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2007:

I went with the villagers to the logging camp deep in the forest where hundreds of trees had been felled and were waiting to be transhipped to Europe and China. To my astonishment, there was a WWF office, complete with toy panda, right in the middle of the camp. As far as the villagers were concerned, WWF was the logging company, responsible for taking their timber. I tried to tell them that it was a conservation group trying to protect the trees, but it was useless. "WWF and [the logging company] are as one," they said.⁸¹

**You are part of an audacious,
world-changing and forward-
thinking community.**

WWF to logging companies that have
joined its Global Forest & Trade Network,
September 2011 ⁸²

September 2011 A Cameroonian court sentences in absentia Pallisco's (Pasquet Group) long-time partner Jean-Marie Assene Nkou to 25 years in prison on embezzlement charges related to the acquisition of the Cameroonian President's airplane in 2004.

Mr. Assene Nkou's logging concessions are operated by Pallisco and covered by Pallisco's Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certificate.⁸³

September 2011 An assessment carried out for the French government on logging in the Congo Basin draws into question WWF's approach by recognizing that

*Current scientific knowledge does not allow us to guarantee that the techniques used [by the logging industry] [...] will actually allow a sustainable management of the [forest] resource. The impact of human intervention in a complex natural environment is far from understood and the results of research will still take years before providing all the necessary analytical evidence.*⁸⁴

November 2011 Cameroon's National Anti-Corruption Commission describes the inter-ministerial commission for the allocation of logging permits in Cameroon as "a well-orchestrated criminal organization."⁸⁵

I can tell you that there are rivers here whose beds are drying up, and this has never happened before. Nowadays we can't eat wild mangoes as we used to in the dry season, because they don't grow like they used to. These are just some of the changes happening due to the destruction of the forest.

Baka man from a community near one of Rougier's logging concessions, 2013⁸⁶

May 2012

Global Witness writes that

WWF has consistently brushed over the fundamental question we are posing, about whether the approach they are endorsing will actually do the job of saving forests.

Our main criticism is not that WWF has got too close to companies and failed to hold them to account, although that is true. It is that even if these companies were playing by the scheme's rules, the system it endorses is fundamentally wrong.⁸⁷

April 2013

WWF salutes "Rougier's commitments to responsible forest management in the Congo Basin."⁸⁸

May 2013

The sustainability certification for WWF's partner Danzer is temporarily suspended by the Forestry Stewardship Council. This is a result of the human rights abuses its subsidiary is reported to have contributed to in the Democratic Republic of Congo.⁸⁹

2014

Cameroon's Independent Forest Monitor publishes its assessment of logging from 2010 to 2013.

It notes that members of the SEFAC Group have committed five infractions in this period; members of the Pasquet Group and its partners have committed seven; members of the Decolvenaere Group have committed eight; and members of the Rougier Group have committed 18 infractions.⁹⁰

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**They are plundering the forest.
They are ruining the wild
mangos, the tortoises and
snakes with their vehicles.
Streams, when they pass them,
become big lakes.**

Baka man describing Rougier's logging,
Cameroon, July 18, 2016

June 2014

During an assessment of three of Rougier's logging concessions in Cameroon, the FSC auditing team finds that that the Baka are still unaware of their rights, nearly five years after the company started partnering with WWF.⁹¹

August 2014

A study commissioned by the European Union finds that not one company is respecting Cameroon's logging regulations.

It finds that certified logging companies are in some respects less compliant with the law than are non-certified logging companies. The Rougier and Pasquet Groups both include certified companies working in Cameroon.⁹²

2015

The Baka forest camp of Ngwandji, in IFO's (Danzer Group) concession in the Republic of Congo, is evicted by wildlife guards.

January 2015

Another member of the Rougier Group joins WWF's Global Forest & Trade Network.⁹³

January 2015

A study accounts for how attempts to reform logging in Cameroon have stalled. It finds that corruption continues to be a dominant feature of the logging sector.⁹⁴

July 2015

Global Witness reports that SINFOCAM (Vicwood Group) illegally obtained its logging permits inside the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Area Complex in Central African Republic..⁹⁵

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boyo	<i>Entandrophragma cylindricum</i>
boso	<i>Combretodendron macrocarpum</i>
bemba	<i>Azelia bipidensis</i>
guga	<i>Alstonia boonei</i>
mbalaka	<i>Pentaclethra macrophylla</i>
boluma	<i>Cyclodiscus gabunensis</i>
etenge	<i>Pycnanthus angolensis</i>
epue	<i>Enantia chlorantha</i>
bangi	<i>Chlorophora excelsa</i>
gbologa	<i>Drypetes capillipe</i>
kulo	<i>Ceiba pentandra</i>
lembe	<i>Diospyros crassiflora</i>
ngolou	<i>Terminalia superba</i>
gbado	<i>Triplochiton scleroxylon</i>
po	<i>Parinari excelsa</i>
kana	<i>Panda oleosa</i>
ngbabi	<i>Cordia platythyrsa</i>

Important trees that have become rare in one area logged by Rougier in Cameroon⁹⁷

September 2015 Greenpeace links the Decolvenaere Group to what appears to be illegal logging. Its report identifies all wood from Cameroon as “high risk.”⁹⁶

December 2015 The Bayaka and Gbaya community of Motokobiro is illegally evicted to make way for SINFOCAM.

January 2016 WWF is paid over €149,000 to “collaborate” with SINFOCAM. SINFOCAM soon starts logging on the ancestral homelands of Bayaka “Pygmies” without their consent, and without an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment.⁹⁸

January 2016 WWF and Rougier “take stock” of the progress made through their partnership. WWF describes Rougier as “a leading player in the international timber market.”⁹⁹

June/July 2016 Wildlife guards evict Baka from their forest camp at Inyele, in IFO’s logging concession in the Republic of Congo.

June/July 2016 The same wildlife guards go on to beat and arrest one Baka man in a forest camp in Ngwandji and take him to the logging town of Ngombe, in IFO’s concession.

SEFYD is destroying caterpillar trees - they're becoming rarer - and medicinal trees. Tortoises and pangolins too.

Baka man, Republic of Congo, September 8 2016. WWF is negotiating with SEFYD in order to create the Messok-Dja National Park

July 2016

Baka in the region of Djoum, Cameroon, explain to Survival International that Rougier is destroying their forest.

They are cutting down almost everything and making animals disappear.

Baka man, July 18, 2016

One community lists 17 species of tree that have become rare as a result of logging in Rougier's concessions.

August 2016

Baka in Cameroon explain to Survival International that SEFAC is logging their lands without their consent.

They cut everything down. Our caterpillars – where will we find them? And termites, and the kana, peke and payo fruits? And trees like mobolo, boyo, gbado, ngolo, guga, mondanga, mbalaka, ngbe, lembe, bolema, bangi, etenge. All of that gives us food or medicines.

Baka man, Salapoumbe commune, Aug. 6, 2016

They note that certain species of animal, such as tortoises, pythons and giant pangolins, have become rare as a result of SEFAC's logging.

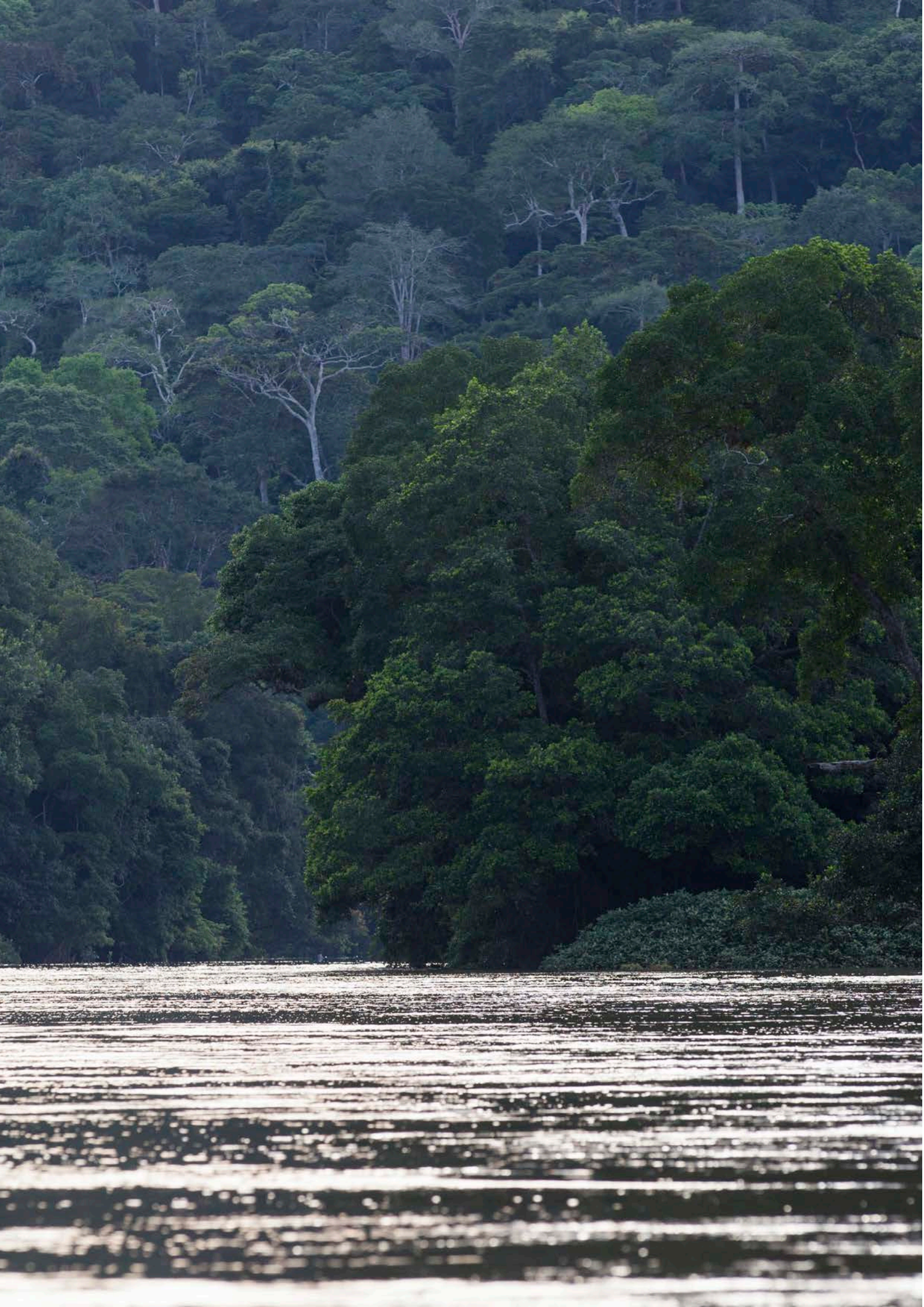
October 2016

FSC suspends the certification body that certified Pallisco (Pasquet Group), Vasto Legno and SEFAC as sustainable, because it has failed to resolve "major non-conformities with FSC accreditation standards."¹⁰⁰

November 2016 Baka report to have found Rougier's subsidiary SFID logging illegally outside its concessions in Cameroon.¹⁰¹

January 2017 A team of researchers finds that the rainforest has been broken up at the same rate within logging concessions certified as "sustainable" by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) as in non-certified concessions, or at an even higher rate.¹⁰²

WWF helped to establish FSC in 1993.



Endnotes

¹ World Wildlife Fund, “WWF France and Rougier to jointly advance responsible forest management and trade,” WWF website, April 9, 2015.

² This word is considered pejorative and avoided by some tribespeople, but used by others as a convenient and easily recognized way of describing themselves. Because it is the most widely understood term, Survival has chosen to use it, while emphasizing that it is problematic.

³ In 2011 Global Witness, which worked as Cameroon’s official Independent Forest Monitor from 2000 to 2005, published a review of WWF’s scheme that highlighted several areas urgently in need of reform: Global Witness, *Pandering to the loggers: Why WWF’s Global Forest and Trade Network isn’t working, A briefing by Global Witness*, London, 2011. While WWF has made certain superficial changes to the scheme, its overall approach remains the same.

⁴ WWF International, *Indigenous Peoples and Conservation: WWF Statement of Principles*, Gland, Switzerland, WWF International, 2008.

⁵ Global Witness, *Pandering to the loggers: Why WWF’s Global Forest and Trade Network isn’t working, A briefing by Global Witness*, London, 2011, p.3.

⁶ Rodgers, J.J. et al., *Draft Report: Economic, Training and Community Needs Assessment of the Proposed Cameroon Component*, Central African Regional Forest Conservation Initiative, 1991, p.74, Annex 7.1.3.d)

⁷ Interafrican Forest Industries Association, *Information Bulletin No. 1 – IFIA Activities, Q1*, 1999. Cited in Forests Monitor, *Sold down the river – The need to control transnational forestry corporations: a European case study*, 2001, p.66.

⁸ Forests Monitor, *Sold down the river – The need to control transnational forestry corporations: a European case study*, 2001, p.66.

⁹ Cameroon Tribune, March 24, 2000. Cited in Forests Monitor, *Sold down the river – The need to control transnational forestry corporations: a European case study*, 2001, p.66.

¹⁰ Tropical Timbers, vol 15 no 3, March 2000. Cited in Forests Monitor, *Sold down the river – The need to control transnational forestry corporations: a European case study*, 2001, p.55.

¹¹ This interview can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4RZTq4oZxs> and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gb1j_dKx0q0

¹² Labrousse, A. and F.X. Verschave, *Les pillards de la forêt, Exploitations criminelles en Afrique*, Marseille, Agone, 2002, p.27

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- ¹³ Cameroon Tribune, July 12, 2000. Cited in Forests Monitor, *Sold down the river – The need to control transnational forestry corporations: a European case study*, 2001, p.66.
- ¹⁴ Ministère de la Environnement et des Forêts (MINEF), *Rapport de Mission de Controle de la S.I.M. et de la I.N.C., 02 juillet 2000*, cited in Forests Monitor, *Sold down the river – The need to control transnational forestry corporations: a European case study*, 2001, p.61.
- ¹⁵ Greenpeace, *Plundering Cameroon's Rainforests: A case-study on illegal logging by the Lebanese logging company Hazim*, 2000, p. 14.
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