Bridgestone Group Grievance List

As of the end of March, 2024

Case No.	Date Received	Grievance Raiser	Supplier & NR supply chain link to BS	Summary of Grievance	Received Documents	Progress Updates and Resolution	Status
#2023-01	Nov. 18, 2022 (Additional detail information: Mar. 3, 2023)	International Alliance of local communities of Socfin plantations	Socfin Group (Direct supplier)		Grievance Letter (173KB)	- On Apr. 11, 2023, Socfin announced that they start the in-depth review of each allegation with Earthworm Foundation, a specialized external organization which is supporting Socfin's grievance mechanism. Starting in March 2023, Earthworm Foundation began a phased workplan throughout Socfin operations and will reach out to grievance-raisers and other concerned stakeholders to investigate specific cases. The findings of each EF's investigation will be summarized in a public report. If any allegations are confirmed by the findings, Socfin will release a public action plan containing detailed corrective measures. https://www.socfin.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/2023-04-11-Socfin-Group-Engagement-with-Earthworm-Foundation.pdf https://www.earthworm.org/news-stories/statement-on-earthworms-field-investigation-for-socfin - Bridgestone confirmed that the Group is sourcing natural rubber from LAC in Liberia, Okomu in Nigeria and SOGB in Ivory Coast. Also, SRC is an indirect supplier because their rubber is processed in LAC. Bridgestone has engaged with Socfin, and confirmed their investigation plan which is supported by Earthworm Foundation. Bridgestone has been holding the meetings with Socfin periodically to review the progress and action plans. <Phase 1 investigation in the first half of 2023> - Earthworm Foundation published the investigation reports of SRC in Liberia and Socapalm in Cameroon on Jul 31, 2023. The investigation team including the 3rd party found the evidences of some allegations. https://www.earthworm.org/news-stories/earthworm-publishes-first-findings-of-investigations-into-allegations-against-socfin-group - Socfin disclosed the corrective action plan for these allegations on Aug 11, 2023. Socfin also announced that they would communicate the progress quarterly. https://www.socfin.com/en/publications-en/ - Progress reports were published on Dec. 15, 2023. https://www.socfin.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2023.12.15-%E2%80%93-Socfin-%E2%80%93-Socapalm-Dibombari-%E2%80%93-Action-Plan-%E2%80%93-Update-December-2023.pdf https://www.socfin.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2023.12.15-%E2%80%93-Socfin-%E2%80%93-SRC-%E2%80%93-Action-Plan-%E2%80%93-Update-December-2023.pdf - In the follow-up meeting in March 2024, Bridgestone has confirmed Socfin is implementing the plan on track with the cooperation of NGOs and new progress report will be published in April. <Phase 2 investigation from the second half of 2023 onward> - Phase 2 investigations are being carried out by Earthworm Foundation as of Mar 2024. The investigations at LAC in Liberia, OOPC in Nigeria, Sofacm Cameroon, Socfin KCD and Coviphama in Cambodia were already done, and these reports will be published from April. 3 sites of Socapalm in Cameroon and SOGB in Ivory Coast will be investigated in the middle of 2024.	Under Investigation / Monitoring
				Liberia - Socfin acquired the plantation (SRC: Salala Rubber Corporation) in 2007 and expanded the farmland in 2008 with the support of IFC. The community's crops, graves, and sacred sites were destroyed, and water sources were contaminated, but they have not received adequate compensation from SRC for long time. In September 2018, a community coalition organization called KWAMUNEH was formed, and a letter and requirements were sent several times. In 2019, the communities filed a complaint with the IFC and investigated, but the SRC denied the facts and refused to mediate. In 2021, an attack and assault disrupts a community and support group meeting. In October 2022, a lawsuit was filed against SRC and the government with the support of NGO GAI (Green Advocates International). - In October 2007, LAC (Liberian Agricultural Company), the Minister of Agriculture, and the Minister of the Interior signed a framework for the resettlement of Grand Bassa citizens, but many parts of the framework have not been implemented. In particular, educational issues and access to drinking water are urgent. The LAC-DISTFAC organization, a community organization, has been established and has been negotiating since 2015, but has not progressed.	Liberia.zip (17.1MB)		
				Nigeria Okomu Oil Palm Company PLC (OOPC) ignores revocation order by the Edo State Government in 2015, as it bulldozes Owan Forest Reserve and neighboring Community farmlands for large scale Oil Palm Plantation business. Over 60,000 people across 30 communities of Edo State risk grave impacts due to Deforestation and Land grabbing. In 2020, Okomu's security forces looted and set fire to the property.	Nigeria.zip (6.7MB)		
				Cambodia In 2007, a subsidiary of Socfin acquired a "government-approved" economic land concession for 12,000 hectares of ancestral lands in seven Bunong villages in Mondulkiri Province. The Bunong villagers have been trying to regain their customary lands for more than a decade, and although some villagers (less than 40 out of 455 indigenous communities) signed an agreement with the Socfin subsidiary in September 2021, the communities have not been able to retain most of the lands they lost. (Socfin still controls 7,000 hectares.) In addition, the PJs to support farmers contracted under this mediation have not been fully implemented.	Cambodia.zip (1.8MB)		
				Ivory Coast The content of the claim is that SOGB, the plantation in Caoutchouc, southwest of the Ivory Coast has obtained RSPO certification, but that the certification should be withdrawn because it does not meet the RSPO's criteria. Residents claim that their livelihoods are threatened by environmental pollution and flooding caused by the plantation's operation. As regard to the land rights of SOGB, the residents claim that land occupied by the SOGB has expanded since its inception (there is a difference between the 1974 and 1995 contracts), and the local residents association has requested to address the issues of residents who were forced to move due to the land occupation, and to address the infrastructure as well as to access to the "Cahier des charges" (Scoping Statement) when the SOBG project was established. The Ministry of internal Affairs affirms that there is no legal issues with SOGB's land rights and that RSPO also claims that it did not see any violation of standards. (The content of the claim is not natural rubber, but palm.)	Ivory Coast.zip (2.6MB)		
				Cameroon Socapalm and Safacam promoted the development of land, and caused the pollution of rivers, soil and air, and the reduction of surrounding forests. Socapalm's acquisition of the land has resulted in restricted access to the land and numerous conflicts with the local community, and the community claims that RSPO certification should be stripped from Socapalm.	Cameroon.zip (14.2MB)		
				<Transnational> Profit transfer to Switzerland with low tax rate.	Transnational.zip (1.6MB)		