

The problems of palm oil the case of Liberia

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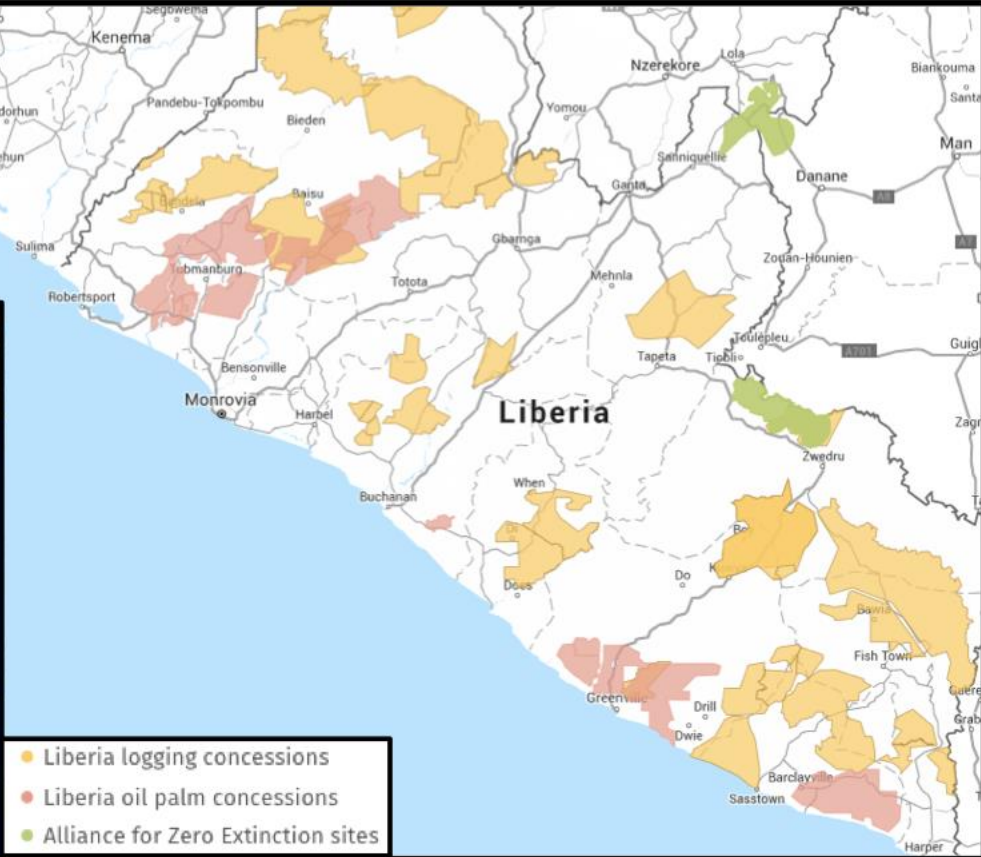
Sustainable Development Institute

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Introduction

- Palm oil is one of the main threats to forests and communities in Liberia.
- That crude palm oil is not only a product for food and cosmetics but also an ingredient for biofuel will increase the deforestation footprints by oil palm industry in Liberia.
- Communities have already started experiencing displacement and human rights violations, e.g. in Sime Darby concessions in the West of the country; in Golden Veroleum concessions in the East and in EPO concessions in the centre.
- The situation is also dire in other remote palm oil concessions where NGO involvement is limited or non-existent.

**GLOBAL
FOREST
WATCH**



- Liberia logging concessions
- Liberia oil palm concessions
- Alliance for Zero Extinction sites

Displacement and human rights abuses linked to palm oil

Two examples:

- Riots on Golden Veroleum Plantation, May 26, 2015, which led to the incarceration of a community activist was blamed on the oil palm company by the Independent Human Rights Commission of Liberia (one died in jail and others were tortured for more than a year before their release with no charge and no compensation)
- The Joegbahn clan resisted when EPO had bulldozed its way into community customary lands without their consent. A solution has now been found.



Need for regulated FPIC process

There is no national Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) process

- None of the palm oil companies are currently meeting the minimum standards in relation to FPIC according to studies (see FPP, SDI and SESDev FPIC reports)
- This was most dramatically witnessed during Liberia's infamous Ebola virus epidemic in 2014 when the GVL oil palm company was instrumental in the signing of 17 MoUs to enable it to clear community lands at a time when communities were struggling to function under the pressure of the disease
- FPP and several Liberian NGOs including SDI and SESDev have developed FPIC training materials and are using it to provide training to communities both affected and poised to be affected by oil palm expansion



Step 1
Find out who is developing the planned project



Step 2
Request information from the project developers



Step 3
Hold discussions within your community



Step 4
Community negotiations with the project developers



Step 5
Seek independent advice



Step 6
Make decisions as a community



Step 7
Ongoing communications with the project developers

Benefits of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement A Liberian civil society perspective



Logging camp in New Forests, 2013

The Green My Future Foundation
Social Entrepreneurs for Sustainable Development
Sustainable Development Institute
Prepared this brief as a contribution to the ongoing EIT FLEGT Action Plan consultation

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Call to action

Call on EU to develop Action plan to stop deforestation fuelled by illegal and unsustainable oil palm development

- SDI would like to call on the EU to control imports of illegal and unsustainable palm oil and develop an Action Plan to stop Deforestation and Respect Rights, like they successfully have done with FLEGT.
- The EU published the FLEGT Action Plan in 2003 to tackle illegal logging and improve governance in timber producing countries. This had much positive impact on forestry sector in Liberia.
- The EU must now regulate palm oil imports, and support palm oil producing countries to improve governance in the agricultural sector.



Thank you

For more information:

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