06 December 2018

Message from Robert Meyer on Sudcam and HeveCam clearing activities

Dear all,

Halcyon Agri, together with all our subsidiaries around the globe, is committed to the sustainable development of the global natural rubber business. Natural rubber is essential to modern life, and cannot be substituted. Being a tree that doesn’t need to be felled in order to generate revenues, natural rubber offers a unique confluence of socio-economic benefits to its owner or tapper, whilst continuously contributing to the environment by producing oxygen, improving air quality, conserving water, preserving soil, and supporting wildlife.

The only real sustainability challenge to a rubber investment relates to the land that the tree is planted on: whom did the land belong to, and what previously existed there?

Over the last 2 years since the acquisition of GMG Global and its Cameroonian assets SudCam and HeveCam, my team and I have analysed the impact that our plantation assets have on the communities and landscapes they operate within. We have done so in an inclusive manner, and have invited both local communities and international experts to share their views along the way. In our quest to continue developing our assets in a way that not only generates sufficient returns for our group and our investors, but also offers a sustainable opportunity-set for the people of Cameroon without unnecessary depletion of the unique biospheres that exist in the Congo basin, we recently published our Sustainability Policy, in combination with the SudCam visit report provided to us by the WWF.

In their report, the WWF has laid out a list of sensible recommendations, first of which is that we form a Sustainability Council tasked with the continuous review of our engagement in Cameroon. We have since approached various entities, including NGO’s, Cameroonian Ministries, local and regional representatives, as well as leading global consumers of natural rubber and latex and I expect that we will have formed the Sustainability Council within the next 6 to 8 weeks. An announcement will be released once we have done so.

In the interim, I would like to make the following statement:

Pending the formation our Cameroonian Sustainability Council, I have given instructions to the management teams of both SudCam and HeveCam, and their parent company SDCC, to immediately cease all clearing and felling operations, and to desist from any clearing and felling activities until the Sustainability Council has been given sufficient time to orientate itself and conduct the necessary inquiries.
We remain fully committed to Cameroon and its people, and we will create additional business pathways that will enable the development of a local ecosystem of smallholders and outgrower farmers, complementary to the estates in HeveCam and SudCam.

In the meantime, I would like to thank all NGO’s and other interest groups that have been keeping a vigilant eye on our operations in Cameroon. My team and I share your views on conservation and fair play, and we look forward to continuously engaging with you to effect positive change. The natural rubber tree has the potential to be a model crop, and I firmly believe that our sustainability strategy, based on our HeveaPRO, HeveaTRACE and HeveaGROW programmes, offers balanced amounts of social-economic progress and ecological preservation to participants that share our appreciation of the opportunity that lies ahead.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely

Robert Meyer
CEO
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