

Corrie MacColl Announces Landmark Collaboration for Sustainable Natural Rubber Production in Cameroon

Singapore – 21 November 2019 – Corrie MacColl, a subsidiary of Halcyon Agri, the world’s leading rubber supply chain manager, together “the Group”, has joined forces with local and international NGOs to strengthen sustainable rubber production across its Cameroon plantations.

Following a long-running consultation, Mighty Earth and the Community Forests Platform have joined the Cameroon Sustainability Council (“Council”). The Council, established last year, is an independent body which guides the Group’s environmental and socio-economic development in the country.

Mighty Earth, a global pro-environmental NGO, and PFC, a Cameroonian national civil society representing over 50 local NGOs, will help the Council guide sustainable, community-led rubber production in Cameroon.

The collaboration will emphasise dialogue and input from local level - and ensure indigenous and local communities have a voice in all Council decisions. As part of this landmark undertaking, four representatives from the Bantu and indigenous communities will join the Council.

Corrie MacColl has collaborated with Mighty Earth, PFC, the Centre for Environment and Development (CED) and L’Appui pour la Protection de l’Environnement et le Développement/ (APED) since the start of the year.

These discussions have focused on a strategy to minimise environmental impact and promote positive benefits to local communities and farmers. In addition to representation and dialogue from local communities, these agreements include ensuring establishing dispute resolution mechanisms, providing clear and accessible public information on operations and strengthening policies around conservationism and workers’ rights.

Robert Meyer, CEO of Halcyon Agri, commented: *“We have made it our priority that the production of sustainable natural rubber includes, involves and is driven by those impacted most by it – local farmers, communities and tribes. This is a huge step toward doing that. The representation of those communities on the Cameroon Sustainability Council, and the commitment from PFC and Mighty Earth to join the same, is the result of our long-lasting, collaborative and engaging relationship.”*

92% of the world’s rubber comes from smallholder farmers across Asia and Africa. Ensuring that rubber production is not only sustainable, but that it positively benefits producers and their communities is critical to us - not just in Cameroon, but everywhere.”

Etelles Higonnet, Senior Campaign Director at **Mighty Earth** commented: *“We warmly welcome this much-needed step of including Cameroonian civil society groups in the Council. With their active participation, we hope the Council can thrive with the involvement of legitimate local community leaders and help unlock industry-wide transformation of Cameroon’s rubber sector. Halcyon’s leadership in driving this is commendable, and we very much hope others will soon step up to the plate. It will be key for companies directly or indirectly buying rubber from Cameroon to follow Halcyon’s lead to embrace zero deforestation Cameroonian rubber produced with strong human rights commitments. Now that local NGOs have been included as Members, Mighty Earth is fully prepared to serve as a member on the Council.”*

Martin Biyong, Director of **CEDLA**, a member of **PFC** added *“We will be monitoring enforcement of Halcyon’s commitments, and supporting communities in their dialogue with the company, and ensuring that they are able to continue to use the forest for their needs.”*

Abraham Baffoe, **Proforest Africa** Regional Director and Chairperson of **the Cameroon Sustainable Council** said: *“The Cameroon Sustainability Council is truly an independent Council and Corrie MacColl’s commitment to implementing the Council’s recommendations in transforming the company’s operations for greater environmental and social sustainability is an important step toward a truly sustainable rubber model. This unique opportunity to transform corporate practices and to make this the norm in the region may not be realised if key stakeholders such as communities and civil society groups are underrepresented. The proactiveness of Corrie MacColl in engaging with relevant stakeholders and the pledge by PFC and others to join the Council is truly commendable.”*

About Corrie MacColl

At Corrie MacColl, we take a modern approach to fair and sustainable value creation in the origination and distribution of the vital material that is natural rubber. As a sustainable model corporate citizen, we are extensively invested in ecological conservation, economic and social development. Our rubber is grown, sourced and produced to the highest quality, matching supply and demand with as little impact as possible.

We are consciously positioned to serve today’s rubber consumer through our customer centric merchandising model. Demand for made-to-measure rubber for use in diverse, premium and specialty applications is fulfilled by our entrenched position in key distribution markets and custom-made delivery programmes to customers.

Our products are delivered to over 1,000 customers in 350 cities through our second-to-none logistical assets, flanked by our dedicated technical advisory and support unit.

Corrie MacColl is a member of the Halcyon Agri Group.

About MIGHTY EARTH

Mighty Earth is a global campaign organization that works to protect tropical forests, oceans, and the climate. We aspire to be the most effective environmental organization in the world.

Our campaigns and our team have played a leading role in persuading the world’s largest food and agriculture companies to adopt policies to eliminate deforestation and human rights abuse from their supply chains, and driven adoption of multi-billion dollar shifts to clean energy. Our Chairman, former Congressman Henry Waxman, is responsible for some of the most important environmental legislation of the last 50 years, notably the 1990 re-authorization of the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Since April 2017, Mighty Earth has been a proud member of the High Carbon Stock Approach Steering Group. We are committed to the HCS approach and will work to support the application of the HCS methodology around the world. View our ethical guidelines [here](#).

Whether we’re rallying for change internationally or locally, Mighty Earth is building a movement to protect our environment. Mighty is a fiscally sponsored project of the Center for International Policy, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

About Plateforme Foret et Communauté / Community & Forest Platform (PFC)

The Community & Forest Platform, abbreviated as PFC, is a platform of Cameroon Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) active in the forest sector and related fields, and representative of Cameroon's dense and humid forest regions. In the dynamics of its operation, the platform has prioritized its interventions in the contribution to the guarantee of the rights of local and indigenous communities to natural resource management processes (with a strong focus on forest resources), monitoring of governance in the management of these natural resources, and the supervision of local CSOs working on these issues.

Formerly known as the European Community Forest Platform-ECFP since it was set up in July 2002 with the aim of ensuring that the European Commission's aid has a positive impact on forests and their populations, the new denomination Community & Forest Platform (CFP) was adopted at the August 2014 meeting to further reflect the platform's dynamic of engagement and ownership.

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