



# RSPO

Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

## RSPO NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED NEW PLANTING

This notification shall be on the RSPO website for 30 days as required by the RSPO procedures for new plantings (<http://www.rspo.org/?q=page/535>). It has also been posted on local on-site notice boards.

**Date of notification: 9<sup>th</sup> October 2012**

*Tick whichever is appropriate*

√	This is a completely new development and stakeholders may submit comments.
	This is part of an ongoing planting and is meant for notification only.

**COMPANY: Wilmar International Ltd.**

**SUBSIDIARY (If any): Biase Plantations Limited ( Ibiae Estate )**

**RSPO Membership No.: 2-0017-05-000-00**

**Location of proposed new planting: Balance of the Ibiae Estate that was left abandoned and not commercially planted with oil palm.**

(Ibiae has a total concession area of 5,594 ha of which about 2,540 ha (representing 45%) was planted with oil palm between 1963 and 1979. The remaining concession of about 3,054 ha left are for any new plantings. )

**GPS Reference:**

- a) easternmost edge at 5°33'N and 8°12'E.
- b) southernmost edge is at 5° 29'N 8°2'E
- c) northernmost tip is at 5°36'N 8°9'E

### LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED NEW PLANTING

The Biase Plantations Limited, a fully owned subsidiary of Wilmar Africa Investment Ltd which in turn is a direct wholly owned subsidiary of Wilmar International. Biase Plantations Ltd was fully registered in the Cross River State of Nigeria and issued with a

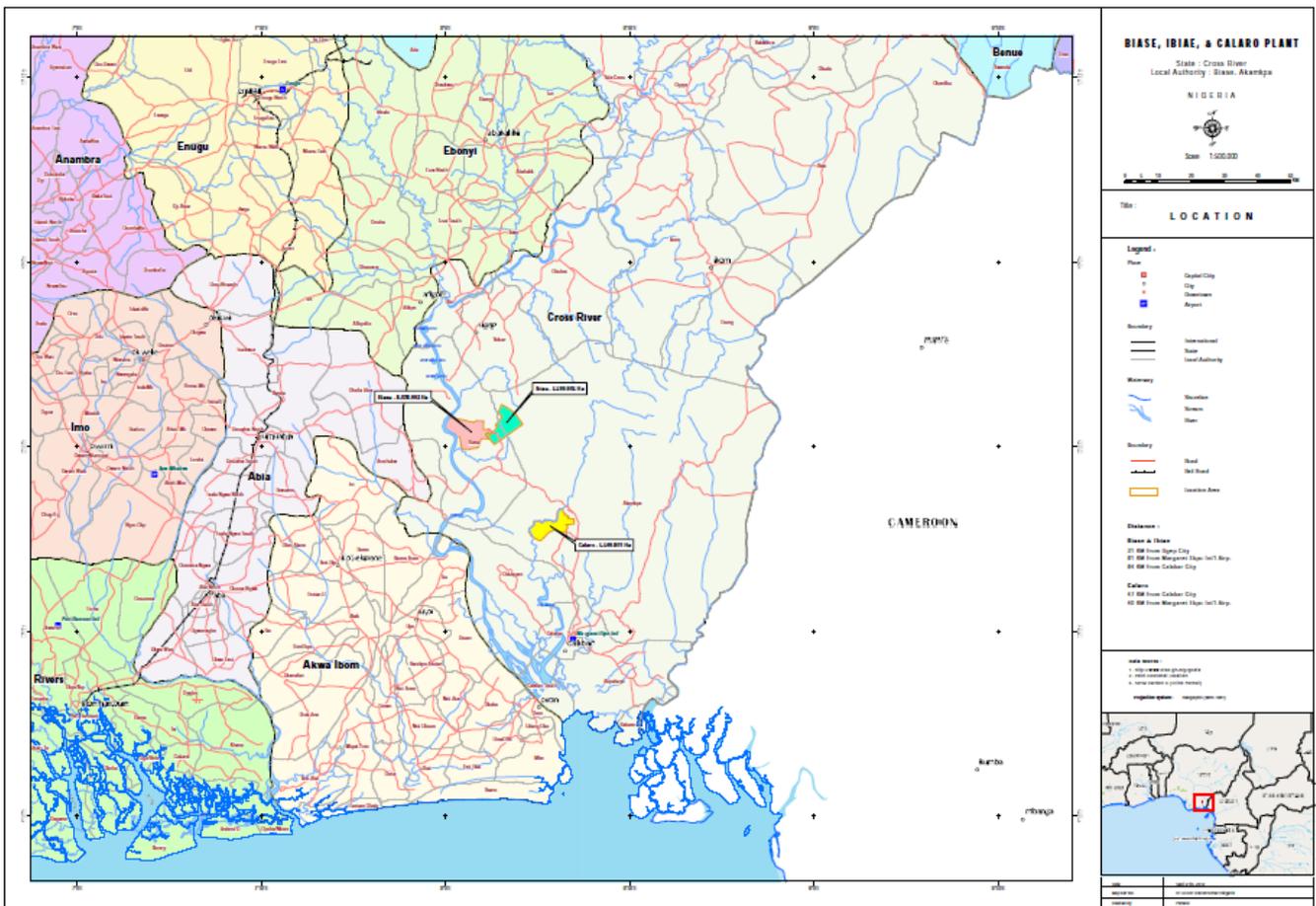
Certificate of incorporation under the Nigeria's Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990 in 10th February 2011.

Ibiae Estate is one of the concessions besides Biase and Calaro, acquired by the company in November 2011. Ibiae Estate has a total land area of about 5,594 ha for oil palm plantations development.

( Ref: Fig 1. Location of the Ibiae concession area in relation to the Biase and Calaro concession area within the Cross River State in Nigeria )

The concession is located in the Biase Local Government Area in the Southern Senatorial District of the Cross River State of the country Nigeria.

**Fig 1. Location of the Ibiae concession area ( in green ) in relation to the Biase ( in pink ) and Calaro ( in yellow ) concession area within the Cross River State in Nigeria**



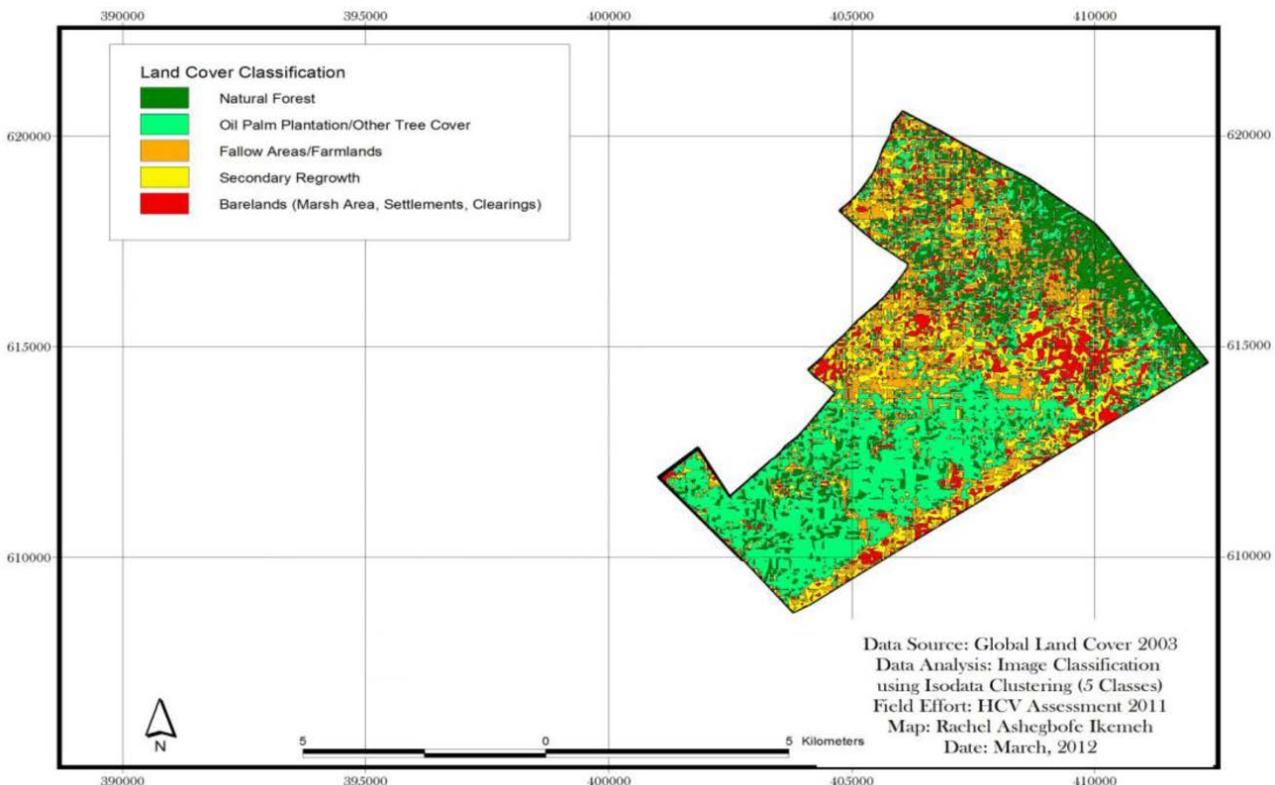
In the early 1960s, the concession has long been earmarked for agricultural activities and was initially acquired by the State Government for plantation development. As a result, a large part of the Ibiae concession was planted with oil palm while the Biase concession still remains unplanted. The unplanted areas of Ibiae concession now consist largely of bush fallows, farm lands and degraded woodlands as well as patches of old and abandoned oil palm stands.

(Ref: Fig 2. Land Cover Classification of the Ibiae Estate concession)

Although there are no communities located in any of the concessions besides the ex-oil palm plantation workers who reside at the old workers' camp, a number of local farmers are actively using some parts of the Ibiae ( and Biase ) concessions for small-scale agricultural activities.

As a member of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), Wilmar and its subsidiary Biase Plantations Ltd are committed to ensuring that their operations comply with the RSPO certification requirements including the New Planting Procedure (NPP). For this reason, Biase Plantations Ltd in November 2011 asked Proforest to carry out a High Conservation Value (HCV) assessment for the Biase and Ibiae concessions ( Calaro concessions has already been completely planted in the 1960s) and Social Impact Assessments( SIA) for all the three concessions.

**Fig 2. Land Cover Classification of the Ibiae Estate concession**



Issues to be addressed as required by RSPO NPP	Findings
The identification of all primary forest in the proposed location	There are no primary forests in the three concessions. These concessions were earmarked for agriculture more than 50 years ago and have since been used for farming activities– both commercial oil palm plantation and to a lesser extent subsistence farming in areas closer to communities.
All areas required to maintain or enhance one or more HCV and conservation area identified	Generally, the concessions do not have significant biological conservation values. However, given the network of rivers in the concessions and their socio-economic and environmental significance, buffering of rivers and streams as well as setting aside of other habitats in the two concessions are required to maintain both biological and social HCVs. In defining areas required to maintain or enhance HCVs, the various types of HCVs identified in the Ibiae concession and their locations are presented below. ( Summary of HCV assessment )
The identification of peat soil areas	There are no areas of peat soil in the assessment areas of Biase Local Government Areas of the Cross River State of Nigeria. <i>(Ref: Soil Suitability Assessment for Oil Palm development of three parcels of land in the IBIAE-BIASE-CALARO PROJECT AREA District of Calabar , Cross River State, Nigeria By Param Agricultural Soil Surveys ( M) Sdn Bhd in November 2011.)</i>
All local peoples' land recognized	There is basically no local people's land within the boundaries of the concessions although local people have in the past been using parts of the abandoned concessions for farming. The traditional and consultation fees has already been paid to the landlords. This is the recognition of the land customary rights. ( ref: Supporting document file for the NPP Ibiae Estate )

Documentations that were provided during the audit:

- a) Assessment of HCV in Wilmar's Biase & Ibiae Concession, Nigeria. Proforest . May 2012
- b) Social impact assessment of Biase-Calaro-Ibiae concessions in Cross River State, Nigeria for Wilmar International, Proforest . April 2012
- c) Summary report of HCV Assessment for the Biase Plantation Ltd in the Cross River State , Nigeria
- d) Ref: Soil Suitability Assessment for Oil Palm development of three parcels of land in the IBIAE-BIASE-CALARO PROJECT AREA District of Calabar , Cross River State, Nigeria  
By Param Agricultural Soil Surveys ( M) Sdn Bhd in November 2011.
- e) Biase Plantation Limited . Environmental Impact Assesment (EIA ) of Biase/Ibiae Oil Palm Plantation. Ibara Environs Consultants. Draft Report . May 2012
- f) RSPO NPP Summary Report of Assessment, Biase Plantation Limited ( Ibiae Estate)
- g) RSPO NPP Summary Report of Planning and Management, Biase Plantation Limited ( Ibiae Estate)
- h) Deed of Conveyance between Cross River State Council on Privatization & Biase Plantation Limited for the Acquisition of Ibiae Oil Palm Estate, Biase , May 2012
- i) Supporting document file for the NPP Ibiae Estate ( that include correspondence with the Cross River State Forest Commission ( Re-approval to fell down old oil palm trees in Calaro and Ibiae Oil Palm Plantations 27<sup>th</sup> August 2012 ) , letters from the Ehom village councils, payment and acknowledgment slips and receipts, FPIC Sessions with 5 nearby and surrounding landlord and village communities of Ibiae Estate ( 25<sup>th</sup> May 2012 ) , request from the Onum Comp. Sec School for perimeter fencing ( 24/5/2012 ) , Letter from the Association of Plots Managers (APM) Ibiae Oil Palm Estate for the extension of harvesting operations before the handover to the investors ( 31 /1/2012), Legal issues eg Suit No. HK /18/12 , Payment of consultation fee and traditional rites to Ibiae landlord communities 24<sup>th</sup> May 2012 ,etc
- j) Minutes of Meeting of the Privatization Council with representatives of Ibiae Landlord communities held in the chairman's conference room on 9<sup>th</sup> Aug 2011.

- k) Fundamentals Terms for Privatization of Ibiae Estate executed between Cross River State Council on Privatization and Biase Plantations Limited

A site visit was also arranged to both Ibiae and Biase Estate concession and a meeting with the Ehom landlord community.

## **SUMMARY FROM SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (SIA)**

In November 2011, Proforest was contracted by Wilmar International as a lead organisation to carry out Social Impact Assessment (SIA) for the establishment of a proposed agro-industrial oil palm plantations at Biase and Ibiae in the Akamkpa Local Government Area of the Cross River State of Nigeria.

As part of its policy of working in partnership with local organisations and in ensuring that individuals with local expertise and knowledge are involved in the assessment process, Proforest, through its due diligence process identified Development in Nigeria (DIN) as a local partner for this assignment. This report details the findings of the SIA undertaken as part of the overall impact assessment process prior to the development of the oil palm plantations in compliance with the RSPO P&C requirements for New Plantings.

In addition, an EIA was also conducted by the consultant Ibara Environs Consultants and the report was drafted in May 2012

IBIAE is an acronym for Igbofia, Betem, Idoma, and Akpet Egbai representing the four landlord communities of the concession area. The four communities are the major landlord communities of Ibiae concession.

**Summary of key findings in respect of socio-economic impacts to country, region, local communities and in respect of emergent communities (workers, suppliers, etc.) are as follows:**

- a) Employment creation and business opportunities
- b) Increased revenue to state government and host communities
- c) Contribution to Nigeria meeting its palm oil consumption deficit of 460,000 tons/year
- d) Contribution to poverty reduction
- e) Training and capacity building for sustainable palm oil production
- f) Contribution to rural infrastructural development
- g) Presence of plantation workers and potential impacts on family structures and social networks
- h) Risk of anti-social behavior due to influx of plantation workers
- i) Potential loss of farmlands
- j) Impact on food security
- k) Impacts of plantation vehicles and construction activities
- l) Impacts on farming activities and food security in the area
- m) Exposure to health risks

- n) Impacts of operations on infrastructure (eg roads)
- o) Impacts on public facilities (schools, water etc)

### **Issues raised by stakeholders and assessors comments on each issue**

From the SIA report ( Section 1.33.1.3 ) , the key issues raised and concerns of landlord communities at Ibiae concessions were:

- a) Perceived socio-cultural impacts - community group discussions at the Betem Focus Group Discussions suggests that implementation of the proposed project will have very little or no negative impact on their socio-cultural life of the people since they claim that they generally do not depend on the concession area for their socio-cultural activities. Rather, they believe that the plantation will contribute towards improvement in the living standard of the people. Participants in Idoma FGD meetings believe that the operation might attract visitors to the area and that this can be an opportunity for the community to show-case their rich cultural heritage to the rest of the world.
  
- b) Perceived impacts on livelihoods and the local economy :
  - i) majority of the respondents in Betem believe that the proposed operations will improve community livelihoods, generate employment and potentially create market opportunities
  - ii) The people of Akpet Egbai generally believe that Biase Plantations Ltd will employ women and youth as majority of the unskilled labour may be sourced from the nearby communities
  - iii) They also believe that the landlord communities might receive royalties, support to infrastructural development and social amenities such as pipe borne water and electricity.
  - iv) They also believe that the company may institute scholarship schemes for pupils and students and improvement whiles contributing to improvements in poor health facilities in the area
  - v) Some respondents emphasized that employment will improve people's livelihoods.
  - vi) some community members were apprehensive that the proposed project is likely to expand over time to cover other areas beyond the current concessions which could potentially lead to take over of their farm lands, conservation areas as well as hunting grounds.
  - vii) They also feared that prices of palm oil might increase since Biase Plantations Ltd may be exporting most of their outputs and by-products to other regions without any sale in the local market.
  
- c) Perceived impacts on traditional conservation areas:
  - i) the landlord communities at Ibiae believe that the proposed operation will have a negative impact on the biological life of the environment consequently affecting conservation areas including riparian vegetations, sacred areas, useful plants and endangered species of fauna and flora in the area.
  - ii) The people believe that vegetation of the area harbour rich biological resources although they also admitted that some important species of the area have been driven to extinction, while survival of some species are threatened due to hunting pressure and forest clearing.

iii) Participants in Idoma FGD believe that proposed operation could affect the environment adversely. They indicated that the operation could have effect on drinking streams, sacred areas, useful plants and endangered species of animals. They thought that the operation might affect the source and watersheds of most of the streams and rivers in the area.

The issues raised during the stakeholder are categorized The responsibility and timeframe for its impact mitigation plan is included in Section 1.40: *Social impact mitigation plan*

	<b>Mitigation target/objective:</b>
	Avoidance of loss of farmlands, destruction of community conservation areas and NTFP collection sites
	To eliminate or minimise the impacts of the oil palm plantation development on food security of the area
	To minimise influx of plantation workers and its implications on communities' family structures and social networks
	To avoid use of hazardous substances and minimising water pollution due to agro-chemicals, sewage from worker's camps and POME
	To ensure that plantation development and processing activities do not occur or destroy traditional conservation areas including riparian vegetations
	To avoid or minimise the exposure of workers and local communities to health risk including HIV Aids
	To minimise impacts of operations on public facilities and structures
	To maximise local employment and ensure reasonable quality of life and working conditions of workers in plantations and mills
	To avoid displacement of communities and people
	To avoid/minimise potential impacts of pollution, safety, noise and dust and damage to roads caused by heavy vehicles and construction activities
	To avoid plantation development in High Conservation Value forests and other ecosystems
	To avoid pollution or destruction of water bodies and riparian vegetations

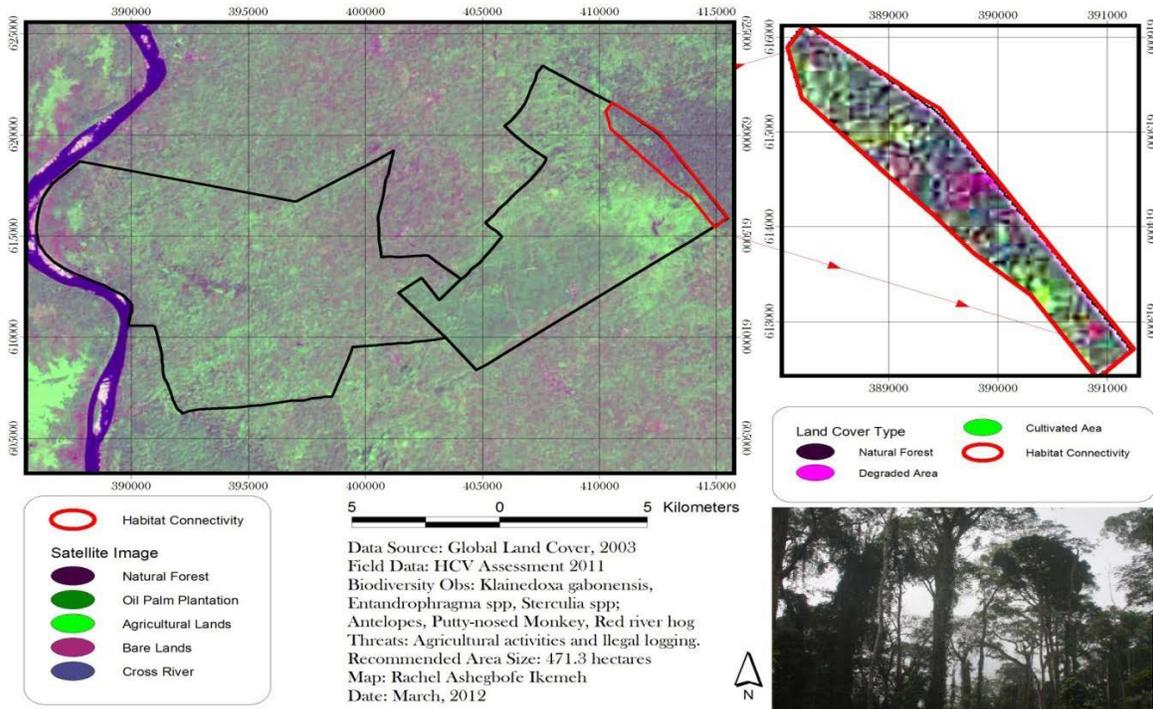
## **SUMMARY FROM HCV ASSESSMENT**

The HCV toolkits used in this assessment are the Global HCV Toolkit and the guidelines on HCV identification and management developed by Proforest. All the six HCVs were assessed using these documents

Generally, the concession do not have significant biological conservation values. The north-eastern boundary of Ibiae concession is about 3 km from the closest Agoi Forest Reserve. This part of the concession has a stretch of degraded forest with similar characteristics of the forests found in the Agoi Forest Reserve. It is recommended that the stretch of degraded forest be set aside given its potential to regenerate naturally to become an important forest cover in the landscape if allowed do so.

**Fig 3. Map of the concessions showing recommended set aside area of the Ibiae concession**

Remnant Natural Forest for Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor



Overall HCV identification and proposed measures to maintain and enhance those identified are tabulated below.

HCV	Description	Present	Potentially present	Absent
HCV 1.1	Protected areas			
HCV 1.2	Concentrations of rare, threatened or endangered species			
HCV 1.3	Concentrations of endemic species			
HCV 1.4	Seasonal concentration of species			
HCV 2	Large landscape level forests			
HCV 3	Rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems			
HCV 4.1	Areas critical to water catchments (Riparian vegetation and watersheds in the Estate)			
HCV 4.2	Areas critical to erosion control			
HCV 4.3	Areas providing barriers to destructive fires			

HCV 5	Areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (Water bodies that serve as source of water for the communities)			
HCV 6	Areas critical to local communities traditional cultural identity			

Biase Plantations Ltd intends to implement the recommendations described in the HCV assessment report in order to comply with the NPP requirements of RSPO. Biase Plantations Ltd will designate a person responsible for monitoring the implementation in the field of the measures for protecting and maintaining HCVs in the Ibiae Estate. Under the organization chart of Biase Plantations Limited, this personnel will be under the Sustainability-Biodiversity Department. His responsibility will be to prepare Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) including recommendations contained in the detailed HCV report and to organize the plan activities before the conversion operations, and to monitor them in the field.

**Documentation showing the Obtained Free, Prior and Informed Consent of any indigenous peoples affected by the development of the concession (part of RSPO requirements)**

Although there are no indigenous people in the area, the host communities in the landscape may be impacted both positively and negatively. The people who may be most affected are the ex-workers of the old oil palm plantations who live in the workers camps in the plantations and those with farms in the concessions.

With the introduction of the Landuse Act 1978 vests all lands in the state to the governor (not ownership right but as a trustee of the land on behalf of the State). The symbols of this handing over of the land from the community to the local governor include the following:

- a) Consultation fees
- b) Traditional rites payment
- c) Royalty fees ( which will be determined by the state governor yearly and this is for the community )

In the transfer process, the community ( made up of the clan head, chief/s, elite Group, youth leader and the women leader) will be working with the Cross River State Council on Privatization ( representing the local governor ) who in turn looks for the investor e.g. Biase Plantations Limited.

Documentations kept as evidence of the FPIC process are

- a) Minutes of meetings – that raises the request of the community
- b) Fundamentals Agreement
- c) Deeds on Conveyance

The Governor of the State can therefore has the right to issue Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) to individuals or companies after communities consent has been sought.

In the Ibiae Estate Wilmar’s Biase Plantation Limited case, initiatives and meetings are ongoing. Consultation fees has already been paid to the Ehom, Akpet, Idoma and Betem communities. Traditional rites payments have been paid to the Ehom, Idoma and Betem communities. These payments have been paid since 24<sup>th</sup> May 2012. The traditional rites

payment to Akpet is on hold pending the instruction by the Cross River State Council on Privatization.

**Data sources and quality**

Some of the limitations faced in this assessment are:

- a) availability of good satellite imagery and accurate maps
- b) The demographic data used for the study was largely based on the 1991 and 2006 population census
- c) Language barrier
- d) Maps obtained for settlements and landuse characteristics of the landscape were very old with most of them carrying information that do not reflect the realities on the grounds

## Decisions on HCV status and related mapping for Ibiae Estate

HCV	Findings	Management objective	Spatial presence	Status of mapping	Management recommendations
4.1	Present in both Biase and Ibiae concessions	To ensure perpetual flow of clean water for the host communities by setting aside and maintaining appropriate buffer zones for all rivers and streams in the concessions.	All rivers in the concession	Partially mapped	Riparian vegetation and buffering of rivers and streams. Recommending 10 metre buffer at each side of smaller streams of up to 5 metres in width, 50 metre buffer for rivers greater than 5 metres but less than 20 metres in width and 100 metres for big rivers with width greater than 20 metres. These are established mapped and respected. Management recommendations include protection and maintenance of buffer zones, erosion control practices for all areas with slopes of above 5 degrees.
4.2	Present in both Biase and Ibiae concessions	To avoid erosion problems caused by the oil palm plantation development especially in hilly and fragile soil areas	Various but diffused in the two concession	Not mapped	Recommendation include excluding planting in areas above 25 degrees while implementing strict erosion control measures in areas with slopes between 18 and 25 degrees.
5	Present in both Biase and Ibiae concessions	To ensure that the oil palm plantation development programme does not threaten communities' access to water resources.	Assorted and scattered	Partially mapped	Implementing the recommended buffer zone and erosion control measures.

In addition, the report also highlighted a summary of management recommendations for mitigating any potential impacts on biodiversity and local people as follows:

## SUMMARY OF PLANS

Ibiae Estate has identified the recommendations from the HCV, SIA and EIA assessment. This has been taken into the planning and management of the new plantings. Below is a tabulated summary of the plans

### a) Summary of Social and Environmental Impact Management and Mitigation Plan

Summary of SEI Management and Mitigation Plan in the Ibiae Estate

Action / control to mitigate	Responsibility	Timeframe
<b>Mitigation target/objective: Avoidance of loss of farmlands, destruction of community conservation areas and NTFP collection sites</b>		
Aim to avoid community farmlands for oil palm development	Ibiae Estate	Prior to and during project development
Where farmlands are to be converted to oil palm plantations, ensure that Free, Prior and Informed consent of farmers are obtained and appropriate compensations paid prior to conversion	Ibiae Estate	Prior to and during project development
Continue engagement with local communities	Ibiae Estate	Throughout the development
Ensure HCV management recommendations are adopted and fully implemented	Ibiae Estate	Prior to and during project development
Consider introduction of high yielding varieties of other agricultural commodities to enhance productivity per unit area	Ibiae Estate	As and when identified as viable option
<b>Mitigation target/objective: To eliminate or minimize the impacts of the oil palm plantation development on food security of the area</b>		
Implement the proposal to redefine the Biase concession boundary to give part of the concession to the local communities for farming	Ibiae Estate and communities	Prior to finalizing concession acquisition
Look into the potential for introducing high yielding cassava and other food crop varieties to boost agricultural productivity	Ibiae Estate	Within first 3 years of project implementation

When required, implement training skills and development programmes on agricultural practices	Ibiae Estate and Host communities	After the third year of project implementation
<b>Mitigation target/objective: To minimize influx of plantation workers and its implications on communities' family structures and social networks</b>		
Priority is given to host communities for all categories of workers to be recruited provided they have the requisite knowledge and expertise	Ibiae Estate and communities	Throughout the project's life
Skills audits are undertaken to determine training and skills dep't requirements	Ibiae Estate	Within first 3 years of project inception
When required, implement training skills and development programs for employees	Ibiae Estate, Host communities	After the 3 <sup>rd</sup> year of project inception
Develop database of local service providers and ensure they are informed of tenders	Ibiae Estate	Within the first 3 year of project
Monitoring of operations impacts on local communities and population	Ibiae Estate	3 Years after commencement, then bi-annual
<b>Mitigation target/objective: To avoid use of hazardous substances and minimizing water pollution due to agro-chemicals, sewage from worker's camps and POME</b>		
Only agro-chemicals registered by the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency NESREA or those allowed under Nigerian laws should be used	Ibiae Estate	Throughout project life
Develop and implement instructions for application of agro-chemicals and disposal of waste	Ibiae Estate	Before plantation field activities
Application of agro-chemicals should be in strict compliance with manufacturer's instructions and generally established safety procedures	Ibiae Estate	Throughout project life
POP or Persistent Organic Pollutants banned under Stockholm Convention of 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2004 should not be used	Ibiae Estate	Throughout project life
<b>Mitigation target/objective: To ensure that plantation development and processing activities do not occur or destroy traditional conservation areas including riparian vegetations</b>		
Adoption and implementation of HCV, SIA and EIA	Ibiae Estate	Throughout project life

recommendations		
Continuous engagement with host communities	Ibiae Estate and communities	Throughout project life
Compliance with policies legal, regulatory and traditional systems	Ibiae Estate	Throughout project life
Training and instructions for field operators and supervisors	Ibiae Estate	Annually
Effective and efficient monitoring of plantation management and operational plans	Ibiae Estate	Throughout project life
<b>Mitigation target/objective: To avoid or minimize the exposure of workers and local communities to health risk including HIV Aids</b>		
All tasks are risk assessed and appropriate protective gears provided	Ibiae Estate	In 1st year of operation
Decent and adequate toilet and sanitation facilities for workers camps and quarters	Ibiae Estate	During construction phase
Development and implementation of waste management plans	Ibiae Estate, workers and communities	Throughout project life
Regular assessment of medical status of workers in high risk areas	Ibiae Estate	Throughout project life
HIV and AIDS policy for workplace	Ibiae Estate	Throughout project life
Adoption and implementation of health education programmes	Ibiae Estate and Workers Unions	Throughout project life
<b>Mitigation target/objective: To minimize impacts of operations on public facilities and structures</b>		
Where feasible Biase Plantations should provide similar facilities or infrastructure for its operations	Ibiae Estate	As and when necessary
Ensure that damage caused to public facilities are appropriately fixed and within reasonable timeframe	Ibiae Estate and contractors	Soon after damage is identified
Develop guidelines for key activities that could potentially impact on public facilities	Ibiae Estate	Within 2 years of operations
Regular and effective monitoring of operation's impacts on public facilities and infrastructure	Ibiae Estate	To be part of monitoring
Support to the development of public facilities and infrastructure (e.g. schools, road building and maintenance, electricity, etc.)	Ibiae Estate	Throughout project life

<b>Mitigation target/objective: To maximize local employment and ensure reasonable quality of life and working conditions of workers in plantations and mills</b>		
Ensure workers' conditions including salaries and wages are at least the same or exceeds the conditions for similar category of work in Nigeria	Ibiae Estate and contractors	Throughout project life
Dialogue, regular interactions and effective communication with workers union	Ibiae Estate and Workers reps	Throughout project life
Develop and implement code of conduct to cover the activities of workers house on site	Ibiae Estate	Throughout project life
Ensure workers have appropriate and safe means of transport to and from work site	Ibiae Estate	Throughout project life
Adopt and implement disputes and grievance resolution policy	Ibiae Estate	Throughout project life
<b>Mitigation target/objective: To avoid displacement of communities and people</b>		
Measures shall be taken to avoid displacement of communities and people	Ibiae Estate	Throughout project life
Where displacement of people and/or communities are necessary measures are taken to ensure their Free Prior and Informed Consent are sought	Ibiae Estate	Throughout project life
Where displacement of people and/or communities occur appropriate and acceptable compensations are paid	Ibiae Estate	Throughout project life
Displacement of people and/or communities are carried out in accordance with Nigeria's legal requirements and international best practice	Ibiae Estate	Throughout project life
<b>Mitigation target/objective: To avoid/minimize potential impacts of pollution, safety, noise and dust and damage to roads caused by heavy vehicles and construction activities</b>		
Ensure recommendations contained in EIA are fully implemented	Ibiae Estate and contractors	Throughout project life
Implement dust suppression measures for heavy vehicles such as wetting of roads on regular basis during dry seasons and as and when necessary	Ibiae Estate and contractors	Throughout project life
Ensure all vehicles are roadworthy, drivers are qualified and are made aware of dust, noise and safety	Ibiae Estate and contractors	Throughout project life

issues		
Ensure drivers adhere to speed limits and institute and implement sanctions for violators	Ibiae Estate and contractors	Throughout project life
Ensure damage caused to roads by your operations are repaired	Ibiae Estate and contractors	Throughout project life
<b>Mitigation target/objective: To avoid plantation development in High Conservation Value forests and other ecosystems</b>		
Ensure recommendations contained in HCV and EIA reports are implemented to avoid development in HCV areas	Ibiae Estate, communities and contractors	Throughout project life
Support the enforcement measures ( <i>in collaboration with state institutions and local communities</i> ) for controlling other unauthorized activities in HCV management areas	Ibiae Estate	Throughout project life
Measures are taken to restore where necessary a degraded HCV management areas	Ibiae Estate	Throughout project life
<b>Mitigation target/objective: To avoid pollution or destruction of water bodies and riparian vegetation</b>		
Adopt and implement impact assessment management recommendations (HCV and EIA)	Ibiae Estate and contractors	Throughout project life
Respect and compliance with legal and regulatory requirements	Ibiae Estate and contractors	Throughout project life
There shall be no development in buffer zones and watershed	Ibiae Estate and contractors	Throughout project life
Dumping of waste into water bodies must be avoided but where necessary, the waste should be treated to an acceptable standard (as per NESREA requirements)	Ibiae Estate and contractors	Throughout project life

**b) Summary of HCV Management and Mitigation Plan**

Summary of HCVs Mitigation Plan in the Ibiae Estate

Legend			
Actions to be implemented:			
	Before conversion	During conversion	After planting

Objective	HCV Ref	Action to mitigate	Monitoring measures / expected result	Timeline
<b>Maintaining water quality and the HCVs it supports</b>				
Protection of rivers	4.1	1) Buffering of water bodies 2) Water bodies in the concessions serve as sources of water for most host communities in the area and are therefore classified as HCV 4.1	Set aside buffer zones included in GIS database as HCV 4.1	
	ALL	Accurate mapping of all HCVs and their management areas in the concessions should be carried out including mapping of steep slopes.	Availability of accurate maps of all HCVs management areas	
	ALL	Designation of a responsible person for all "HCVs" to provide training and ensuring that field workers adhere to management recommendations for HCV areas		
	4.1	Workers and staff responsible for HCV delineate 10 meter buffer zones on each side of streams (<5m width)	Measure river width/buffer zone width Buffer zones included in GIS database	
		HCV field team to delineate 50 meter buffer	Measure river width/buffer zone width	

		zones on each side of rivers with width of 5-20m	Buffer zones included in GIS database	
		HCV field team to delineate 100 meters buffer zones on each side of major rivers with width greater than 20 m e.g. the Cross River)	Measure river width/buffer zone width Buffer zones included in GIS database	
	4.1	Land preparation teams are trained to respect buffer zones	Evidence of training and understanding of buffer zones management and monitoring recommendations and requirements Buffer zones are respected	
		Land preparation teams are provided with maps of areas identified as protected areas		
		Land preparation teams are trained to carry out land conversion laterally to buffer zones to avoid having it destroyed by falling trees and shrubs	No impact on buffer zones	
	ALL	Regular monitoring to ensure that buffer zones requirements are respected If buffer zones are not respected, corrective actions must be taken immediately	Corrective actions record	
		Bridges and means of crossing rivers must be pre-planned		
		Bridges and means of crossing rivers must be done according to recognized best practices	Check erosion around bridges	
Erosion control	ALL	HCV or environmental management field team are trained to implement and respect erosion control recommendations	Training records and proof of application of required measures	
	4.1 ; 4.2	Areas with slopes above 25 degrees are excluded from conversion	Areas above 25 degrees are delineated on the ground and recorded in GIS database and on maps	
		Areas with slopes between 18 and 25 degrees are identified and mapped. Such areas may	Area delineated on the ground, recorded in GIS database and appropriately mapped.	

		be planted on condition that erosion control measures such as terracing is implemented.		
		All areas with slopes categories are mapped in GIS database	GIS database – Slopes map	
		Conversion team/Road construction team trained to implement erosion control measures	Training records and application of measures in practice	
		Roads are planned prior to conversion to avoid being perpendicular to slopes and to avoid fragile soils	Road map – Contour map	
		SOP for terracing is completed before conversion	Records on SOP	
		Cleared vegetation is windrowed	Evidence of windrowed in the field	
		Road soakaways are built depending on downslope of road being constructed	Frequency/slope	
		Silt pits are built to avoid sediments being discharges into rivers		
	4.1	Appropriate leguminous cover crops and native tree species that do not have invasive properties are selected for revegetating denuded buffer zones to avoid invasiveness	Biase Plantations should justify the choice of tree species and leguminous crop	
		Cover crops are planted immediately after conversion to avoid erosion of soils during the first rains	Date of planting	
Monitoring of water quality	4.1	Annual water quality testing for major rivers and all other rivers that are sources of water for host communities	Test results	
		Regular meetings with the host communities on control and prevention of water pollution	Minutes of meetings	
		SOP in place for Corrective/Preventive action to be taken in case of degradation of water	Documented SOP	

		quality		
<b>Respect and Maintain local populations basic needs</b>				
Implementing FPIC	5	Recruit a responsible Community Liaison Officer		
		Biase Plantations Ltd should define its FPIC process and arranging for competent body to undertake FPIC	SOP	
		Discuss and negotiate with the host communities, appropriate consultation processes including frequency of community meetings	Community representative list	
		Define conflict resolution procedures with local communities	SOP	
		Identify appropriate management areas for Ufut and Ehom-Evia community forests and delineate those areas	Social HCV areas included in GIS data base and mapped	
		Negotiate management decisions for HCV areas following the company's FPIC procedures	Signed agreement with community/concerned people	
Monitoring result		Regular (twice a year at the beginning of the project, minimum once a year after relation with communities are strengthened) evaluation of changes in communities needs	Minutes of meetings	
<b>Conversion operation</b>				
	N/A	Land conversion operations shall start during the dry season unless there are compelling reasons to do so during a rainy season	Records on starting dates for operations	
	N/A	Land conversion should start away from the protected areas and moving gradually towards those areas		
<b>Scientific Research</b>				

	N/A	Development of partnership on hydrology research		
<b>Implement recommendation in the field</b>				
	N/A	Designation of a responsible person for monitoring the field implementations of HCV management recommendations		

## VERIFICATION STATEMENT

The HCV, SIA and EIA reports prepared by Proforest and Ibara Environs Consultants respectively, and the Summary Report of Planning and Management prepared by Biase Plantations Limited for the management of the RSPO NPP in **Ibiae Estate** in the concession located in the Biase Local Government Area of the Cross River State of the country Nigeria were checked and verified by SGS (M) Sdn Bhd auditor during the documentation and site audit visit on the 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Sept 2012.

The assessment process and the recommendations of the SIA EIA , HCV reports and the content of the plans in the Ibiae Estate Summary Report of Planning and Management are comprehensive, professional and comply with the applicable RSPO Principle, Criteria and Indicators for new planting.

Sign on behalf of:

SGS (M) Sdn. Bhd.

**SGS (MALAYSIA) SDN. BHD. (10871-T)**

System & Services Certification

No. 26, Jalan Anggerik Vanilla 31/93,

Kota Kemuning, 40400 Shah Alam, Selangor.

Tel: +6(03) 5121 2320 Fax: +6(03) 5122 5927

[www.sgs.com](http://www.sgs.com)

Abdul Hays Semail

Manager – Natural Resources

Date: 25 September 2012



**Simon Siburat**  
**Group Sustainability Controller**  
**On behalf of Ibiae Estate**

Date: 8 October 2012