RSPO

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.

Notification date: May 9th, 2013.

Choose one, as applicable

X	This is a completely new development and the interested parties may submit their observations.
	This is part of an ongoing plantation and nothing further is being notified.

COMPANY: Compañía Palma Tica S.A.

SUBSIDIARY (if any): None

RSPO MEMBERSHIP NUMBER: 1-0110-11-000-00

LOCATION FOR THE NEW PROPOSED PLANTATION:

The new plantation is to be developed in 4 farms known as:

- Reifa
- Chirriposito
- El Bambú
- La Pajarera

Geographic location

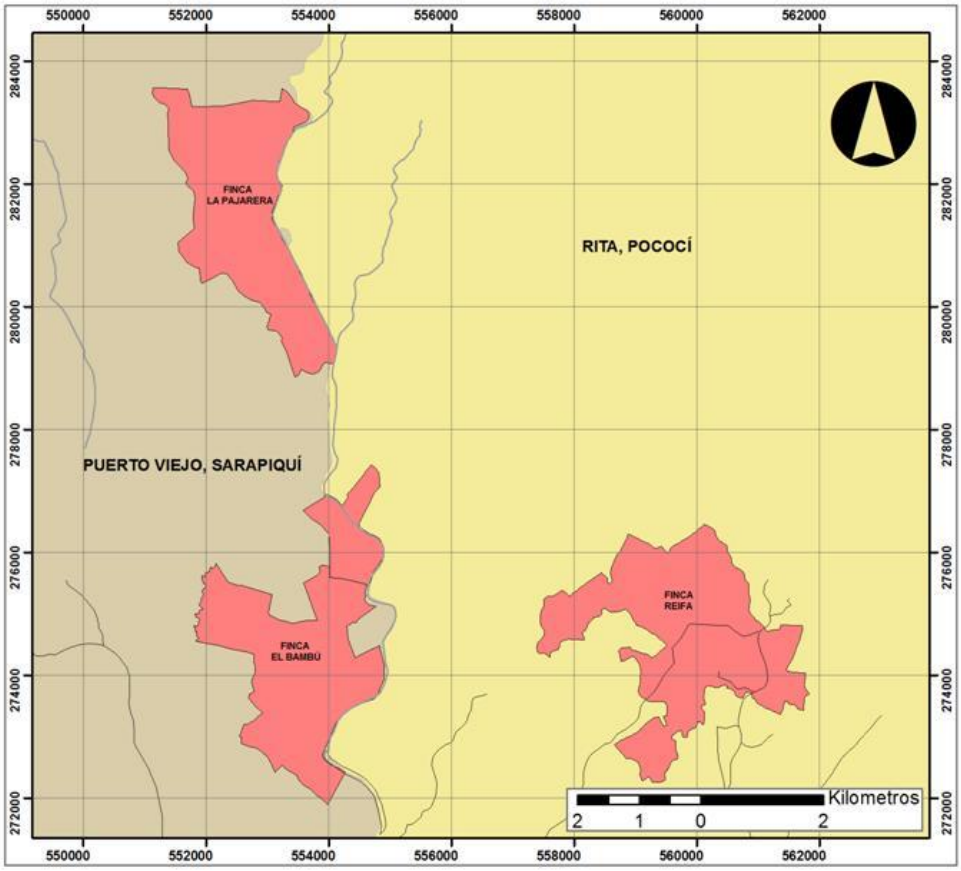
Farm	Map Sheet*	Lambert coordinates north (Midpoint)
Reifa	Sucio River / Chirripó Atlantic	560.000 LE / 274.500 LN
Chirriposito	Sucio River / Chirripó Atlantic	554.500 LE / 276.250 LN
El Bambú	Sucio River / Chirripó Atlantic	553.500 LE / 274.000 LN
Pajarera	Chirripó Atlantic	552.250 LE / 281.000 LN

*Map sheet scale of 1:50.000, from the National Geographic Institute (*I.G.N.*) of Costa Rica

Political-administrative location:

Farm	District	Canton	Province	Country
Reifa	Rita	Pococí	Limón	Costa Rica
Chirriposito	Rita	Pococí	Limón	
El Bambú	Puerto Viejo	Sarapiquí	Heredia	
La Pajarera	Puerto Viejo	Sarapiquí	Heredia	

LOCATION MAP
Compañía Palma Tica S.A.
Atlantic Division
Scale: 1: 75 000



Symbology

Roads
- Local
- Undefined

Study area

Location Diagram

Credits:
-Data provided.
-Topographic sheet:
Chirripó Atlantic/Sucio River 1: 50 000

Projection: Lambert North C.R.,
Lambert Conformal Conic.
Datum: Clarke 1866.

Created by: Geologist Luis Campos C.

Date: December 2012

Area for the new plantations:

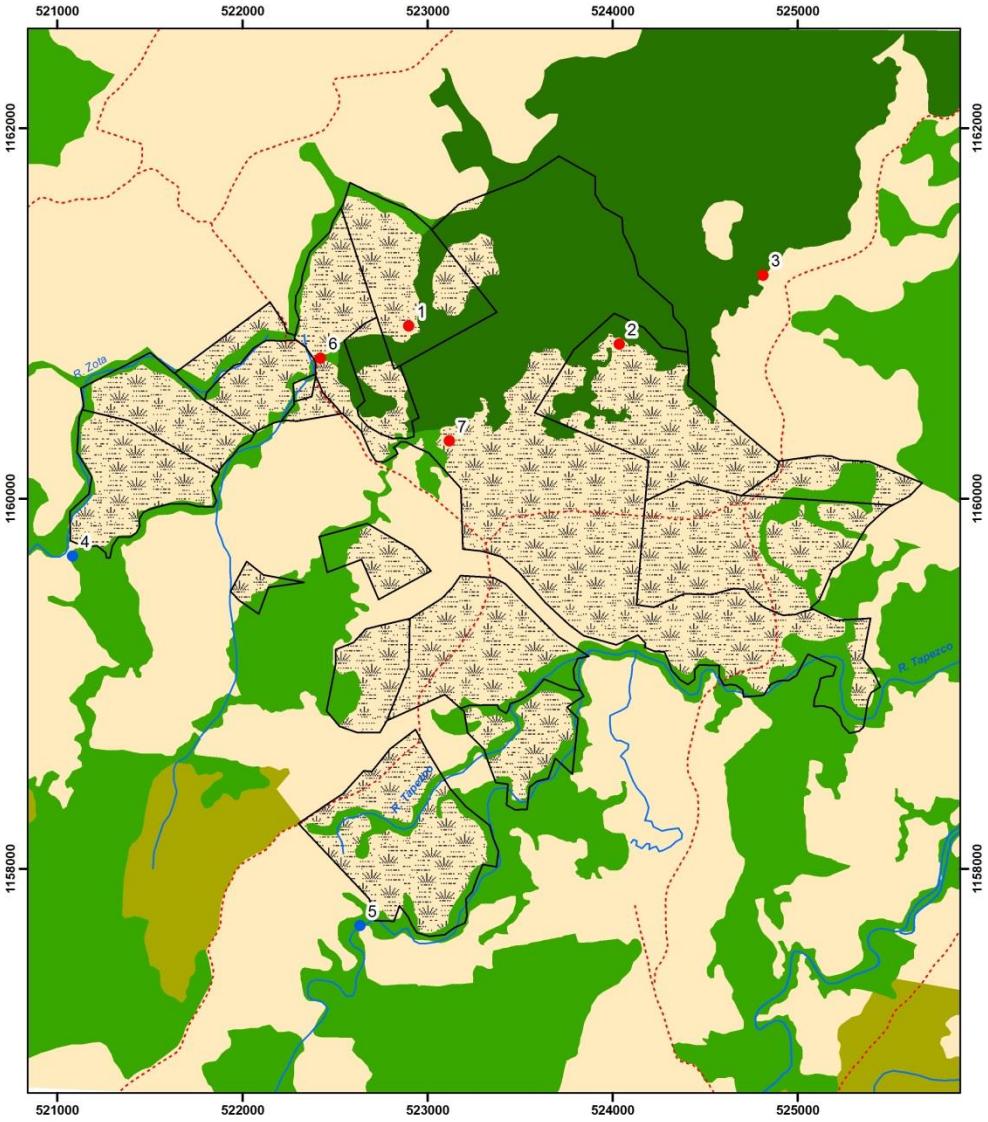
The following is a chart containing the details of the areas to be planted:

Farm	Farm's area	Area to be planted
Reifa	770,02ha	560ha
Chirriposito	124,22ha	110ha
El Bambú	589,41ha	343ha
Pajarera	635,12ha	600ha
Total	**2118,77ha**	**1613ha**

As for the areas to be planted, these are currently covered by crops, pastures with trees and bushes. **Obviously the areas currently covered by forest areas, the bodies of water, and it's buffer zones will remain intact.**

Below are the maps clearly indicating the areas to be planted:

Areas proposed for new plantings in Reifa farm



Leyenda

- Puntos de muestreo de fauna acuática
- Puntos de muestreo cobertura vegetal actual
- Límite de fincas
- Red hidrográfica
- Calles y caminos públicos
- Bosque intervenido
- Bosque secundario
- Cultivos
- Matorrales
- Pastizal con árboles
- Áreas a ser plantadas

Fuente:
Fotointerpretación a partir de fotos aéreas 2007
Comprobación de campo diciembre 2012. Hojas Cartográficas CHIRRIPO ATLANTICO y RIO SUCIO escala 1:50 000.
Autor: BioTerra, Consultores Ambientales.
Cartografía por: Geog. Jonathan Arias Garro
Fecha Enero, 2013.

Plan de desarrollo de áreas a ser plantadas
Finca Reifa

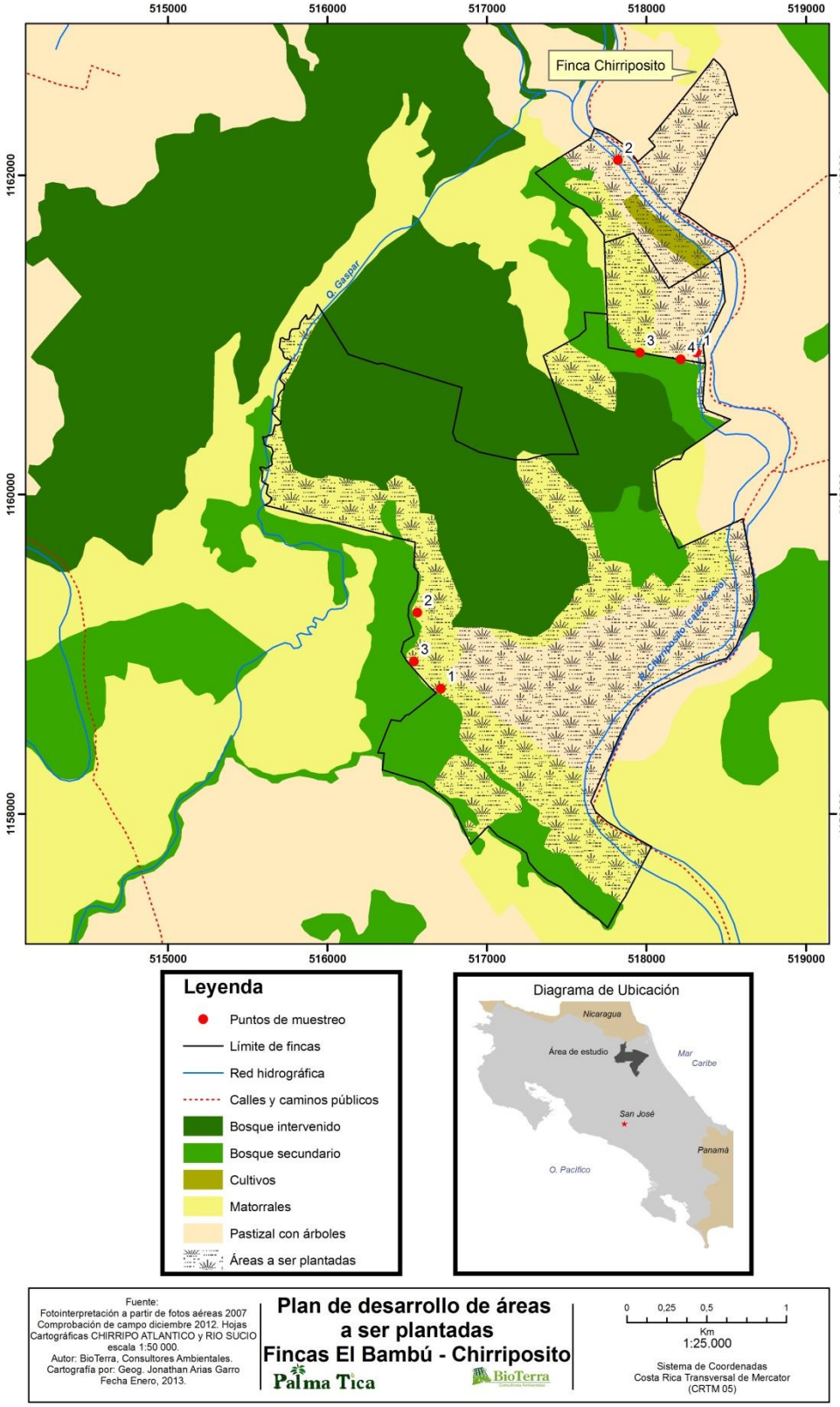
Palma Tica

BioTerra

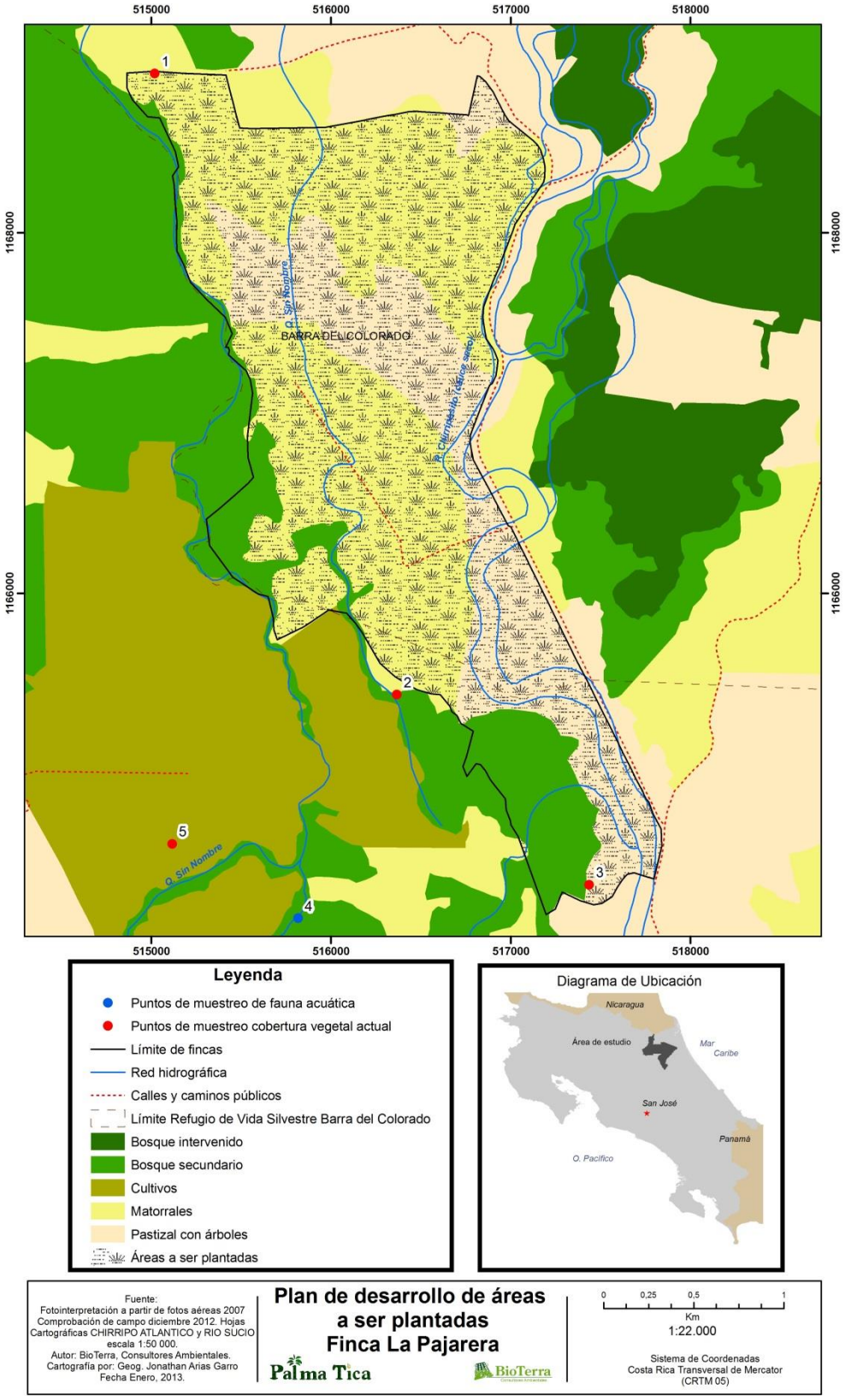
0 0,25 0,5 1
Km
1:25.000

Sistema de Coordenadas
Costa Rica Transversal de Mercator
(CRTM 05)

Areas proposed for new plantings in Bambú and Chirriposito farms



Areas proposed for new plantings in La Pajarera farm



SUMMARY OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

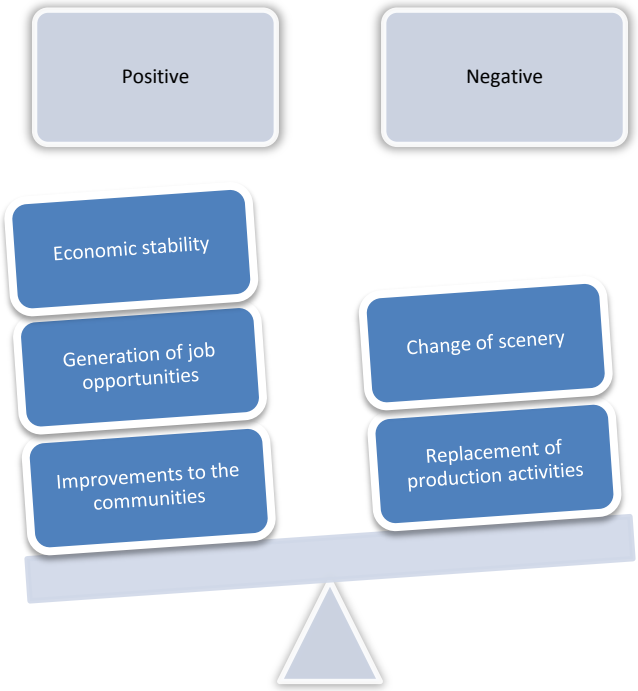
Assessors and their credentials

The Social Impact Assessment of Palma Tica was carried out by Soluciones Ambientales Bio Terra S.A. The key consultants conducting these assessments have been accredited and approved by RSPO. The team members are:

Professionals	Specialty
MSc. Marisol Zumbado Bustillos	Biologist, majoring in Ecology and Sustainable Development. RSPO accredited advisor, in charge of coordination and integration of this study. **Team Leader**
MSc. Darién Zúñiga Leitón	Biologist, majoring in Ecology and Sustainable Development, specializing in Environmental Management. In charge of the Evaluation of the High Conservation Value Areas.
MSc. Mario Piedra González	Sociologist specializing in Public Health, in charge of Characterization of Social Impacts.
Dr. Carlos Cervantes Umaña	Soils specialist, in charge of the Soil Survey Study for the new plantations proposed.
Jorge Arturo Vargas Leitón	Professional and specialist in forest and wildlife management. In charge of the most representative bird and wildlife surveys in the various ecosystems.
Lic. Jonathan Arias Garro	Geographer land specialist, responsible for developing zoning maps Conservation Values, vegetation coverage and others.
Dr. Rosa Bustillos Lemaire	Attorney specializing in environmental law, in charge of analyzing and compiling the legal regulations applicable to the Project.

Summary methods and findings

From tours of the communities located in the vicinity of the farms where the new African Oil Palm plantations would be developed, the main social impacts identified as a result of the new plantation harvest can be grouped in the categories detailed in the following diagram:



Among the potential positive social impacts, the following where identified: i) economic stability for the families that will participate in the activities developed in the new plantations, ii) generation of job opportunities for those living the area's communities, and iii) improvement of the communities surrounding the farms where the new plantations will be located.

The following were assessed as eventual negative impacts: i) change of the scenery in the zone due to the creation of the new plantations, and ii) replacement of the production activities (agriculture and livestock) in the farms where the new oil palm plants would be planted.

SUMMARY OF HCVA ASSESSMENT:

Assessors and their credentials

The same assessment company and team for the SEIA assessment were used during the HVC assessment.

Summary methods and findings

In order to understand the assessment made, it is important to provide a summary of the methodology used for identifying the possible High Conservation Value Areas (HCVA). The following chart presents said summary:

High Conservation Values (HCV)	Methodological Process
HCV1 Forest areas that globally, regionally, or nationally host significant concentrations of biodiversity value (for example, endemism, endangered species). ❖ **HCV1.1** Protected areas ❖ **HCV1.2** Threatened and endangered species ❖ **HCV1.3** Endemic species ❖ **HCV1.4** Critical temporary use	• Analysis of satellite and aerial images. • Analysis of official government issued information regarding the condition of endemic, threatened and endangered species. • Review of the lists of species contained in national and international treaties. ❖ CITES ❖ UICN ❖ Wildlife Conservation Act # 7317 ❖ Others • Rapid Ecological Assessment (REA) – Field Sampling ❖ Terrestrial wildlife ❖ Day-flying wildlife ❖ Aquatic fauna ❖ Flora • Consults with focal and interest groups led by a sociologist.
-HCV2: Forest areas that globally, regionally, or nationally host significant forests with a great scenic level contained therein or contained in the management unit in which most, if not all, of the viable population of species occur in natural patters of distribution and abundance.	
-HCV3: Forest areas that are located within rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems or host such ecosystems.	
-HCV4: Forest areas that provide basic services in critical situations (i.e., protection of river basins, erosion control). ❖ **HCV4.1** Forests critical for catchments ❖ **HCV4.2** Forests critical for erosion control ❖ **HCV4.3** Firewall forests	• Analysis of satellite and aerial images. • Analysis of government databases (SENARA-MINAET). • Consults with focal and interest groups led by a sociologist.

High Conservation Values (HCV)	Methodological Process
-HCV5: Forest areas essential for satisfying the basic needs of the local communities (i.e., sustenance, health).	• Analysis of satellite and aerial images. • Analysis of government databases (National Museum – archeological sites database). • Consults of Indigenous Reserves maps. • Consults with focal and interest groups led by a sociologist.
-HCV6: Forest areas that are critical for the traditional cultural identity of the local communities (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance, as identified with the cooperation of said local communities).	

Based on the results obtained through the applied methodologies, it was determined that all the farms contain HCV, mainly HCV1 (HCV1.1- HCV1.2 and HCV1.3). However, since most of the associated ecosystems are moderately impacted and lack strong connectivity with larger and more important forest areas in the region, it cannot be stated that wildlife species, whether threatened or endangered, identified in the farms being surveyed are present in significant concentrations nor that the associated forests are critical to their survival.

The presence of HCV 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 is absent in all the farms. However, two of the farms have the potential to contain HCV3.

It is important to emphasize that the farms are immersed in highly degraded environments and, according to the methodology used for HCVA, four of the surveyed farms DID NOT contain any identifiable HCVA, only important HCVs.

SUMMARY OF THE PLANS:

Mitigation plan for minimizing negative social and economic impacts

Impacting Action	Impact generated	Mitigation Measures	Phase	Responsible Party	Timeframe
Site preparation for planting of new plantations: - Presence and movement of heavy machinery - Elimination of coverage - Leveling the land - Creation of drainages - Mobilization of debris	- Change in the landscape of farms - Change and/or replace-ment agro-production activities	- Comply with the national regulations regarding working hours and conditions - Comply with the regulations regarding transit of heavy machinery (use of tarps) - Comply with the national regulations regarding the protection of archeological resources - Observe the farm's border with regards to the rural settlements in the area	- Preparation of the land for crops in the new African Oil Palm plantations	- Compañía Palma Tica S.A. - Producers - Environmental manager or regent - MAG, MINSA, INDER, MTSS, and other regional offices	- During the entire site preparation phase for the new African Oil Palm plantations
Planting process for the new plantations: - Consolidation of greenhouses - Planting new African Oil Palm plants - Use of various agro-chemicals traditionally used in agricultural and livestock	- Change in the farm's landscape - Change and/or replace-ment agro-production activities	- Comply with the national regulations regarding working hours and conditions - Comply with the national legislation regarding handling of hazardous substances (agro-chemicals) - Observe the	- Planting new African Oil Palm plantations	- Compañía Palma Tica S.A. - Producers - Environmental manager or regent - MAG, MINSA, INDER, MTSS, and other regional offices	- During the entire planting process phase for the new African Oil Palm plantations

Impacting Action	Impact generated	Mitigation Measures	Phase	Responsible Party	Timeframe
in the area		farm's border with regards to the rural settlements in the area			

Mitigation plan for negative environmental effects

Impacting Action	Environmental Measure	Application Timeframe	Responsible for implementation
Soil removal	• The work will be stopped immediately if archeological materials are found; inform the corresponding officer (or the National Museum of Costa Rica) and act according to his or her recommendations. • The material needing off-farm export, should be transported to a licensed disposal site, approved for these purposes. • Use the materials obtained from the canals that are made, according to their quality and feasibility, for filling the land, where necessary, within the farms. • All fill material must be compacted. • Soil mounds must be covered in plastic to avoid windborne particles, and to avoid erosion processes due to surface runoff.	NA (This is to take place only in the initial site preparation stage)	The Company
Dust generation	• Apply systematic irrigation to keep moist the bare soil lacking vegetation coverage during the initial phases of the project. • Use tanker trucks to keep moisture of roads during the dry season, in order to reduce the amount of dust generated.	D (only during the dry season)	The Company

Impacting Action	Environmental Measure	Application Timeframe	Responsible for implementation
	• If it is necessary to export materials from the farms, trucks must be covered with tarpaulins to avoid spreading dust particles.		
Deterioration of air quality	• Ensure that the machinery used for the works is in good mechanical condition (does not generate excessive smoke). • Use only the equipment and machinery necessary with the highest degree of efficiency, in order to limit the sources of environmental impact as much as possible. • Comply with the current laws regarding noise levels (Refer to Decree No. 78718-S). • Hire trained personnel for the operation of machinery. • Implement a work schedule involving machinery that ensures the minimum noise disturbance possible (6am a 6pm).	D	The Company
Surface water pollution	• Do not perform repairs in heavy machinery or vehicles within the farms. • Ensure that heavy machinery and vehicles are in optimal mechanical conditions, to avoid leaks or spills. • Have a containment plan for fuel spills, to avoid any type of pollution. • Store solid wastes in a location for that purpose, for due treatment and remove them from the farm on a daily basis. • Protect soil from erosion, through correct storm water	D and Q (in the event of maintenance to canals and drainages)	The Company

Impacting Action	Environmental Measure	Application Timeframe	Responsible for implementation
	management techniques (placing bags in the runoff canals to decrease speed), in order to avoid runoff of materials towards bodies of water associated with the farms. • Do not discharge untreated solid or liquid wasted into bodies of water. • Provide periodical maintenance to the rain water drainage network in the farms, performing inspections aimed at identifying the presence of obstructions and to remove accumulation of sediment.		
Soil and underground water pollution	• This section reiterates the measures described in the previous section, except those relating to the maintenance canals and drains.	D	The Company
Generation of solid waste	• Set up a waste collection area within one of the farms and classify according to type. • Have enough waste containers for the volume of waste generated, to maintain adequate sanitary conditions. The waste containers must have a lid, be equipped with plastic bags and must be cleaned periodically. • Give weekly maintenance to the waste containers installed in each farm, to avoid bad smells. • Collect waste periodically, with proper sanitary final disposal, in a location authorized by the Ministry of Health. • Farms must be in orderly and clean conditions. • Establish waste management	D, S and M	The Company

Impacting Action	Environmental Measure	Application Timeframe	Responsible for implementation
	systems to minimize waste generation as much as possible (recycling), implementing a basic classification system and waste utilization. • Also, where applicable, waste must be returned to the suppliers, such as product containers used for applications and others.		
Potential effect on the biological environment	• Prior to cutting down any forest species, Article 20 of the Forestry Law No. 7575 must be observed, as well as Articles 14 and 16 of the Forestry Law regulations, Executive Decree No. 25721-MINAE. • Notify MINAET of the presence of endangered flora or fauna species, if found during the project's development. • If possible burrows, shelters or nests of any species are identified, coordinate with specialists and MINAET for relocation. • Ensure no impact on the forest coverage or the water protection zones associated with each of the farms. • Keep strict erosion and sedimentation control practices, mainly regarding surface runoff draining towards the bodies of water associated with the farms. • Promote vegetation recovery plans in the associated water protection zones, in full coordination with MINAET. • Monitor the physical and chemical conditions in the	NA and SE (in the event of water monitoring)	The Company

Impacting Action	Environmental Measure	Application Timeframe	Responsible for implementation
	associated bodies of water, twice a year. • Take samples from the bodies of water for benthic macro-invertebrates (biological indicators), twice a year.		
Occupational safety risks	• The Company commits to ensuring the physical, mental and social wellbeing of all the workers, by hiring the services of an Occupational Health professional, and to comply with the guidelines set forth in the Occupational Health Policies. • Comply with the regulations and technical guidelines set forth by the authorities, with regards to Occupational Health and Safety. • Establish an Occupational Health and Safety Program, pursuant to the current legislation, adapted to the conditions of the site where the works will be developed. This program must be known by the project's workforce. • Define the guidelines and safety measures that must be applied by workers for their personal safety. • Place the safety sheets and use manual for dangerous products in the corresponding warehouses, to ensure availability to the employees. This must comply with the current legislation. • Provide employees with initial and ongoing training on health and safety matters. • Limit access to the Plantation to	NA and D (when using PPE and guidance compliance)	The Company

Impacting Action	Environmental Measure	Application Timeframe	Responsible for implementation
	authorized personnel only. • Create policies for the use of personal protection equipment (PPE) and train employees in the correct use of said equipment. • Make the use of PPE mandatory for all employees, according to the tasks performed. • Provide insurance coverage for the employees with an Occupation Risk Insurance Policy from the National Insurance Institute (INS). • Issue warnings to those employees not complying with the safety guidelines set forth for the project.		
Vehicular traffic	• Post signs that warn drivers and pedestrians about heavy machinery and vehicles exiting and entering the farms. • Observe the maximum speed for heavy machinery and vehicles of 25 km/h. • Provide periodic maintenance to the road sections that are damaged by the transit of heavy machinery and vehicles.	NA and D (with regards to the maximum allowed speed)	The Company
Replacement of production activities	• Fully comply with the national regulations regarding work schedules and conditions. • Respect the land borders with the rural settlements in the area.	D	The Company
Changes in the scenery	• Prior to cutting down any forest species, Article 20 of the Forestry Law No. 7575 must be observed, as well as Articles 14 and 16 of the Forestry Law regulations, Executive Decree No. 25721-MINAE.	NA	The Company

Impacting Action	Environmental Measure	Application Timeframe	Responsible for implementation
	• Ensure no impact on the forest coverage or the water protection zones associated with each of the farms. • Promote vegetation recovery plans in the associated water protection zones, in full coordination with MINAET.		

NA: Does not apply, D: Daily, W: Weekly, Q: Quarter, SE: Semester

Conservation, management and mitigation plan for HCV and its buffer zones potential threats

It is important to mention, that no High Conservation Areas (HCVA) were located in the 4 farms, yet some HCV were identified. With the purpose of preserving said HCV's and its buffer zones, the following chart details the environmental measures that must be observed:

Objective	Environ-mental Impact	Environmental Measure	Application Timeframe	Responsible Party
Ensure respect and maintenance of all bodies of water, forest coverage and it's buffer zones present in the farms and influence areas	Potential affectation on the biological environment (forest coverage, bodies of water, and it's buffer zones)	• Prior to cutting down any forest species, Article 20 of the Forestry Law No. 7575 must be observed, as well as Articles 14 and 16 of the Forestry Law regulations, Executive Decree No. 25721-MINAE. • Notify MINAET of the presence of endangered flora or fauna species, if found during the project's development. • If possible burrows, shelters or nests of any species are identified, coordinate with specialists and MINAET for relocation. • Ensure no impact on the forest coverage or the	Periodical application. However, constant alert should be in place with regards to these measures. For water monitoring, periodicity shall be every semester.	La Compañía

		water protection zones associated with each of the farms. • Keep strict erosion and sedimentation control practices, mainly regarding surface runoff draining towards the bodies of water associated with the farms. • Promote vegetation recovery plans in the associated water protection zones, in full coordination with MINAET. • Monitor the physical and chemical conditions in the associated bodies of water, twice a year. • Take samples from the bodies of water for benthic macro-invertebrates (biological indicators), twice a year. • Encourage natural regeneration in each of the buffer zones. • Respect a buffer zone of 15 meters, along all areas with forest coverage.		

Note: In Costa Rica every body of water, every forest even if it's a small patch, are considered to have important ecological attributes, that have to be protected by law, that's why, these characteristics found in the farms are known for this study only as isolated HCV. Nonetheless, the existence of isolated HCV does not make these farms into HCVA, it only means, that every body of water, and every forest, will have to be protected.

The farms themselves have bodies of water, river bank vegetation, and in some cases show patches of isolated secondary forests, in a very small portion. However, most of the land in these farms is covered by scrub and grassland, with no real high conversation potential, which is also a reason as for why these farms can't be considered HCVA according to the methodology used for identifying HCVA.

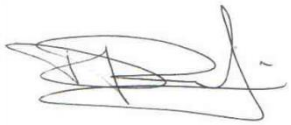
STATEMENT OF VERIFICATION:

The company opted for a document audit. Control Union Certifications was tasked to execute a desk study. During the main document audit, the Control Union auditor was in contact with the accredited assessors and the company (Compania Palma Tica S.A) to follow all aspects of this NPP report, verifying and reviewing the relevant documents, including interviewing the management team.

Compania Palma Tica S.A has adhered to the RSPO New Planting Procedures and has documented the assessments and plans according to the RSPO templates issued in May, 2010. The social and environmental assessments were detail, comprehensive and professionally carried out. The management plan has included the findings of the SEIA conducted by the RSPO approved assessor as well as incorporating the HCV and SIA assessments findings by consultants accredited and approved by the RSPO.

Control Union Certifications confirmed that the assessment and plans are comprehensive, professional and compliant of RSPO New Planting Procedure. It is the opinion of the Control Union Certifications auditors that Compania Palma Tica S.A has complied with the RSPO New Planting Procedures enforced on February, 4th 2013.This is part of an ongoing planting and this report is meant for notification only.

Signed on behalf of Control Union Certifications



Diego
Lead Auditor
Date: 18th February 2013