PRESS RELEASE
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RIGHT OF REPLY FOLLOWING SURVIVAL INTERNATIONAL’S ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE ROUGIER GROUP IN CAMEROON

In response to the slanderous allegations made by Survival International concerning Rougier’s activities in Cameroon, the Group would like to issue a firm response to the malicious claims and misleading facts presented. Rougier would also like to highlight that the Friends of the Earth claims mentioned by Survival International, dating back to 2002, were all rejected by the courts in Cameroon and France.

Rougier is a family group with a longstanding commitment to the responsible management of forests in the Congo Basin, respecting both the environment and the communities living in and around forest concessions that have been legally awarded by the States.

Rougier strictly complies with the legal frameworks applying to its activities. Moreover, embracing its responsibilities, Rougier has been a pioneer for the past decade to establish a responsible forest management certification policy. All the forest sites managed by the Group in Cameroon are therefore audited each year by independent third parties and are fully certified.

Building on its ongoing social and environmental responsibility, Rougier also has strong commitments in the field, carrying out amongst others significant voluntary actions supporting local development.

For many years, Rougier has had dedicated social teams in place to coordinate platforms for consultation with local population and various stakeholders. With a view to further strengthening and improving its approach, the Group is also able to count on external expertise notably provided by specialized local and international NGOs.

“In response to Survival International’s accusations, we are proud to once again clearly reaffirm our commitment to responsible forest management respecting native communities”, declared Paul Emmanuel Huet, CSR Director.

In this context, the Rougier Group denies the validity of the charges made against it and will be quickly putting in place appropriate means of defense faced with these slanderous claims attacking the company and all its employees.

Founded in 1923, the Rougier Group is a market leader for certified African tropical timber. The Group has three core business lines: Rougier Afrique International (natural forest harvesting, industrial processing and international trade), Importing and distribution in France of timber from all origins (including Rougier Sylvaco Panneaux) and Plantations (research, management and investment in industrial forest plantations in Africa).

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