SOCIETE AFRICAINE DE PLANTATIONS D'HEVEAS

PRESS RELEASE

SAPH obtains FSC® certification for production from its rubber plantations, a first for the sector in Africa!

The Toupah, Bettié and Rapides-Grah factories awarded FSC® Chain of Custody certification for five years

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Abidjan, November 6, 2026 – Société Africaine de Plantations d'Hévéas (SAPH), a subsidiary of SIPH and member of the SIFCA Group, has obtained Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) Chain of Custody certification for natural rubber, rubberwood and rubber-tree by-products sourced from its industrial plantations and processed at its facilities in Toupah (Dabou), Bettié and Rapides-Grah (San-Pédro). The certification was issued by Preferred by Nature, an FSC-accredited auditing body.

A first for the sector on the African continent

SAPH becomes the first African natural rubber producer to obtain this multi-site certification. Valid for five years from the date of issuance, it covers all production from its industrial plantations: natural rubber, as well as rubberwood and tree by-products such as seeds. These products may be marketed with the "FSC 100%" claim, the most stringent under the FSC system, meaning that all the material comes from FSC-certified sources.

Chain of Custody certification ensures material traceability at every stage, from receipt at the factory through to dispatch. SAPH customers thus benefit from independently verified assurance of the responsible origin of the rubber they purchase.

A long-term commitment

This certification is the culmination of several years of work by SAPH teams on sustainable plantation management, ecosystem protection and respect for the rights of workers and neighboring communities, in line with key principles of the FSC standard. It could also serve as a springboard for a future expansion of the standard to natural rubber from smallholder plantations in Côte d'Ivoire. It forms part of the SIFCA Group's sustainable development policy.

A new milestone: creating value in demanding markets

SAPH now intends to promote this certified rubber to customers and markets seeking responsible, traceable raw materials. Demand for certified rubber is growing, particularly in tires, consumer goods and capital equipment. The FSC® label establishes a credible link between responsible production and consumption, enabling consumers to choose products that are socially and environmentally responsible. It therefore opens access for SAPH to higher-value market segments.

"This FSC® certification is a source of pride for all SAPH teams and a first for our sector on the continent. It confirms that African rubber cultivation can meet the most demanding international standards. Our challenge now is to build on this achievement: to secure commercial recognition commensurate with these standards among customers who consider traceability and responsible management to be purchasing criteria," said Thierry SERRES, Managing Director of SAPH.

"This certification comes at a particularly important time for Côte d'Ivoire and the region's forestry sector. It follows the official launch of Côte d'Ivoire's new national FSC forest stewardship standard and precedes the entry into force of the requirements of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). We are convinced that FSC standards will continue to support companies and forest managers in strengthening traceability, responsible resource management and access to international markets with increasingly demanding sustainability requirements. SAPH's certification demonstrates that economic performance, environmental responsibility and access to the commercial opportunities offered by sustainable supply chains can go hand in hand. It also sends a strong signal for the future development of certified natural rubber in Côte d'Ivoire and across Africa," said Annah Agasha, FSC Deputy Regional Director for Africa.

SAPH's FSC® trademark license code is FSC-C230282. The validity and scope of certificate PBN-COC-061973 can be verified at search.fsc.org.search.fsc.org

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About SAPH

A subsidiary of SIPH and member of the SIFCA Group, Société Africaine de Plantations d'Hévéas (SAPH) has been a leader in natural rubber production and processing in Côte d'Ivoire for 70 years. It operates industrial plantations and processing plants and purchases rubber from tens of thousands of smallholder growers, whom it supports. SAPH is listed on the Bourse Régionale des Valeurs Mobilières (BRVM), the regional stock exchange.

About FSC

The Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting responsible management of the world's forests. Founded in 1993 in response to global concerns about deforestation, FSC is an association with a participatory, democratic, fair and transparent governance structure. FSC brings together individuals, businesses, governments and NGOs around a shared goal: to preserve forests so they remain healthy and resilient, for everyone, forever.

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