

**ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL (RSPO)
NEW PLANTING PROCEDURES
SUMMARY REPORT OF SEI AND HCV ASSESSMENT**

FOR

**PRESCO PLC., NIGERIA
(OLOGBO CONCESSION, EDO STATE, NIGERIA)**

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1. Executive Summary

Introduction and general background

Presco Plc. is a subsidiary of the SIAT group, an agro-industrial group of companies specialised in plantation development and processing operations. SIAT's operations in the agriculture sector in Africa focus on oil palm and rubber. SIAT currently has four oil palm operations in three African countries including GOPDC in Ghana, SIAT in Gabon, and Presco and SIAT Nigeria both located in Nigeria. SIAT is a member of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and hence is committed to working towards RSPO certification for all of its oil palm plantations.

Presco Plc. operates three estates; the Cowan and Obaretin Estates which were existing plantations that the company inherited, and the Ologbo plantations which were established by the company in the former Ologbo Forest Reserve. The Edo State Government de-reserved and leased about 6,420 ha of the badly degraded parts of the Ologbo forest reserve to Presco in 2001 following large scale deforestation of the reserve and the failure of the State-sanctioned Taungya system of farming in the reserve to regenerate the forest. Presco acquired two additional leases as extensions of the Ologbo estate in 2012 (3,000 ha), and in 2014 (2,806) ha. **This HCV assessment report covers only the initial concession area of 6,420 ha (hereinafter called Ologbo Concession).**

Between 2003 and 2007, Presco commissioned a range of environmental and social surveys to determine areas in the concession suitable for oil palm planting, whilst protecting areas of social and environmental importance. In 2008, Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD) used the data from these extensive environmental and social surveys to finalise an HCV assessment report and HCV management and monitoring plan (Verwilghen & Chambon 2008, Verwilghen 2008). Based on the HCV assessment and the associated management plan, Presco agreed to set-aside about 55% of the concession area (~3,545 ha) as an HCV area, and began land preparation of the remaining 2,875 ha.

As a member of the RSPO and as part of its continual commitments to the RSPO requirements, Presco requested Proforest in 2010 to conduct peer review of the 2008 CIRAD HCV report to ascertain whether it complied with RSPO HCV assessment requirements. The findings of the peer review was that the earlier HCV assessment and fauna and flora surveys, though detailed and of good quality, was quite weak on stakeholder (particularly communities') consultations and also did not follow through the RSPO New Planting Procedures (NPP). Subsequently, Presco commissioned Proforest in December 2014 to address the weaknesses identified in the 2008 HCV report by undertaking further consultations with the host communities and integrating the findings into the 2008 HCV report. The update of the HCV assessment was therefore carried out in line with the RSPO requirements and that of the HCV Resource Network newly introduced HCV Assessor Licensing Scheme.

This report is a summary of the major findings and conclusions of the HCV and the social and environmental impact assessments conducted for the Ologbo Concession.

This report was prepared when the plantation has already been developed. However, evidence from pre-conversion satellite images, the information contained in the 2008 HCV report and consultations with stakeholders suggest that the areas that were converted for the oil palm plantations were areas that had been used repeatedly for various landuse activities including the State government sanctioned Taungya system and hardly contain any natural forests. Secondly, the land has been de-reserved many times and previously given to several state and non-state companies including Piedmont Plywood Nigeria Limited for plantation development, Pan Ocean Oil Company and the Nigeria Petroleum Development Corporation. These allocation occurred before the concession was granted to communities for Taungya farming. Upon allocation to Presco and prior to conversion, the company generally adopted and implemented the recommendations of the previous assessors and in line with the Green Ologbo objective decided to set aside the natural forest areas including the wetlands in the concession for conservation and sustainable management.

Assessment Results

Primary forests in the assessment area

There are no primary forests within the concession precisely because it has previously been used for several activities including tree plantation development and food crop farming by the population of the large number of communities in the landscape.

Areas required to maintain or enhance one or more High Conservation Values (HCVs)

The definition of the areas required to maintain or enhance HCVs is based on the information on HCVs present and their location within the Ologbo concession. Four (4) categories of HCVs were identified to be present in the concession. These are HCVs 1, 3, 4 and 5.

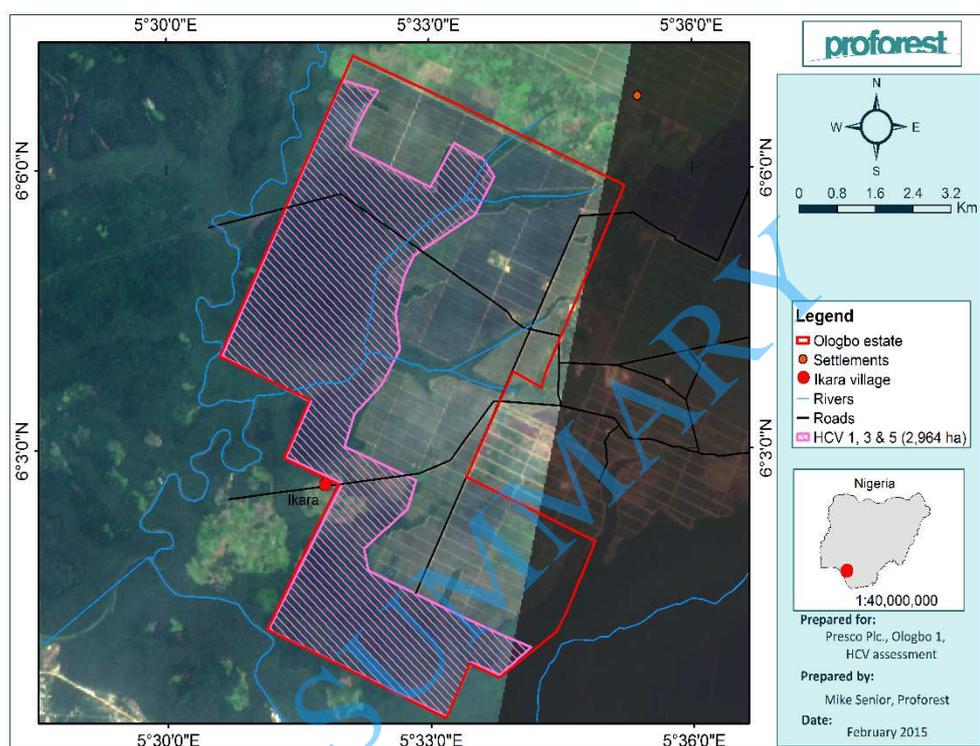


Figure 1: Proposed HCV management areas (by Proforest 2015), with allocation of HCVs to relevant categories

HCV 1 – Species Diversity: Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered (RTE) species that are significant at global, regional or national levels.

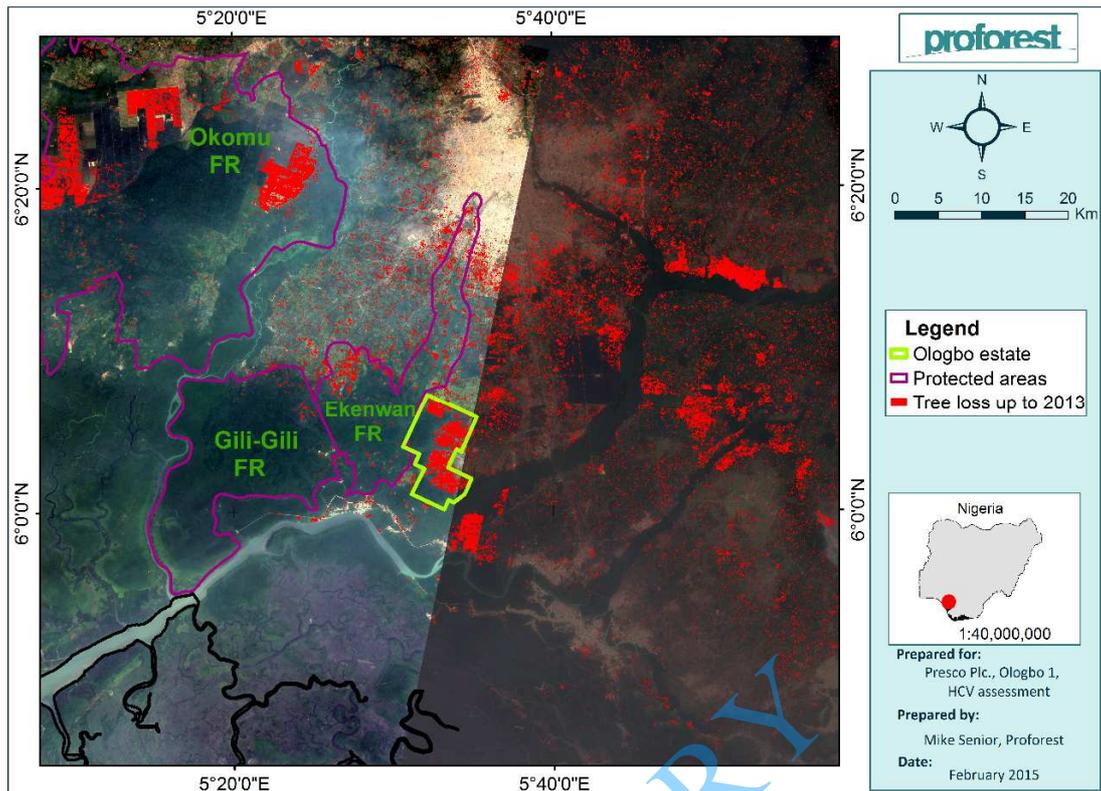


Figure 2: Satellite imagery (Landsat 8) from January 2015, overlaid with tree cover loss from 2000-2013 showing the landscape around the Ologbo estate. Note the large areas of tree cover loss in the north and east of the image compared to the area to the south a

In 2005 when CIRAD conducted the surveys for the initial HCV assessment, the protected areas of the Ologbo concession was connected to a larger block of lowland rainforest, freshwater swamp and mangrove forest which extended from the adjacent Ekenwan FR located west of the Ologbo concession, to the Gili-Gili FR located west of Ekenwan, and finally to the Okomu forest reserve and National Park (NP) to the further northwest. Primate surveys conducted by EJ Greengrass between 2005 and 2008 confirmed the presence of endemic and IUCN Vulnerable Nigerian white-throated guenon (*Cercopithecus erythrogaster*) in the Ologbo estate forest block. This species is endemic to the now highly fragmented forests of southern Nigeria and Benin, and the primary reason for the establishment of the Okomu National Park. Additionally, signs of chimpanzee (*Pan Troglodytes ellioti*) were also identified in the Ologbo forest block between 2006 and 2008. However, the sparseness of signs encountered suggests a very low and probably unviable population density of chimpanzees. Chimpanzee is listed as endangered species by the IUCN and the Nigeria-Cameroon subspecies is the most threatened chimpanzee subspecies.

Furthermore, the Okomu forest and the national park, in particular, supports some of the last remaining pristine lowland rainforest in southern Nigeria and is home to a number of IUCN Red listed species, including Forest elephant (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*: EN) and the endemic Nigerian White-throated guenon (*Cercopithecus erythrogaster*: VU), as well as a number of globally-threatened bird species that have led to the Okomu being identified as an Important Bird Area.

The species listed above would not qualify individually as HCV 1, with the exception of the potential Ologbo endemic: *Bicyclus ottossoni*. However, the large number of threatened species recorded at the site clearly represents a significant concentration that qualifies as HCV 1, particularly given the regional context of high deforestation and rapidly declining biodiversity.

HCV 3 - Ecosystems and habitats. Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia.

The lowland rainforest and freshwater swamp forests found in the Ologbo estate form part of the now highly fragmented and degraded Lower Guinea Forest ecosystem. The freshwater swamp is reminiscent of habitats found throughout the Niger Delta. The IUCN Red List of Ecosystems¹ has yet to assess the status of Nigeria's ecosystems or those in neighbouring West and Central African countries.

The lowland rainforest is arguably even more threatened than the freshwater swamp because of its attractiveness and perceived fertility for farmland.

This combination of factors suggest that the lowland rainforest and swamp forest found within the Ologbo concession should be classed as anthropogenically rare, and thus qualify as HCV 3.

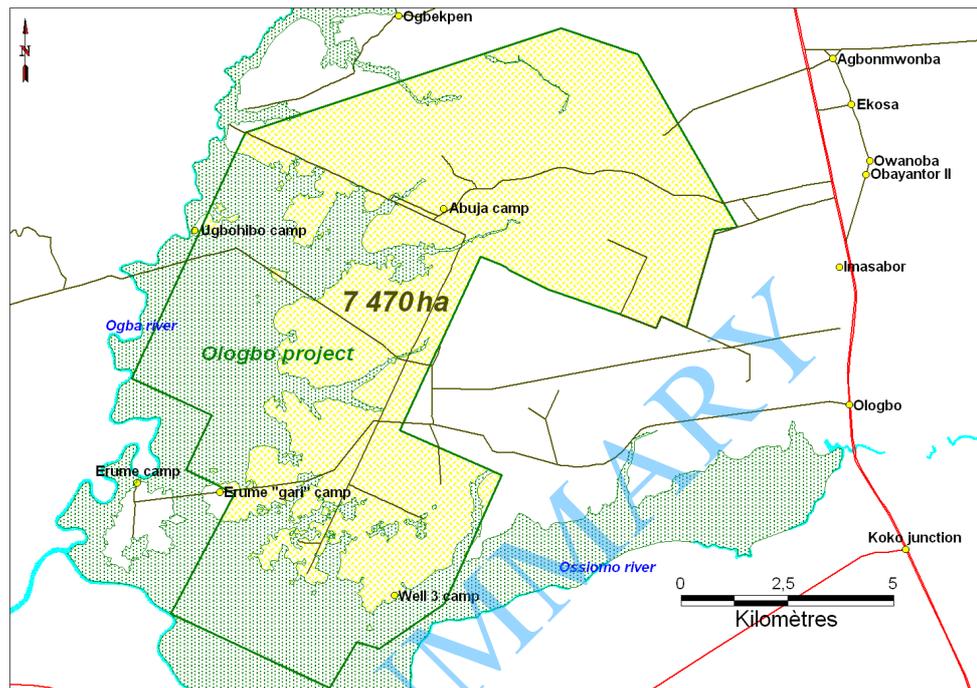


Figure 3: Vegetation cover map taken from Jannot et al 2009 showing the approximate distribution of forest (green) and non-forest (i.e. farms; yellow) in the Ologbo concession at the time of planting.

HCV 4 – Ecosystem services: Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.

Findings of the community consultations was that members of the Ikara, Ogbekpen, Ologbo, Iyanomo and Obayantor villages primarily get drinking water from bore-holes. However, rivers in the estate provide the main water sources for some community members and a secondary source of water for others: the Ossiomo River that runs south of the Ologbo estate is a source of drinking water and a fishing site for some Ologbo inhabitants. Both the Ossiomo and the Ogba River (that runs along the western edge of the Ologbo estate) are sources of drinking water for Ikara villagers, and the Ogbekpen River in the north of the estate provides drinking water for Ogbekpen and Ikara villagers.

In addition to the riparian forest along the Ogbekpen, Ogba and Ossiomo rivers, there are large areas of swamp in the concession around particularly the Ogbekpen and Ogba rivers. The freshwater swamp forest in these areas is fairly intact and will play a crucial role in buffering the rivers, maintaining bank stability and riparian as well as the wetland ecosystems.

¹ <http://www.iucnredlistofecosystems.org/>

Therefore, the vegetation along the rivers and the freshwater swamp forest have been identified as HCV 4 for this assessment. This area covers 1,743 ha.

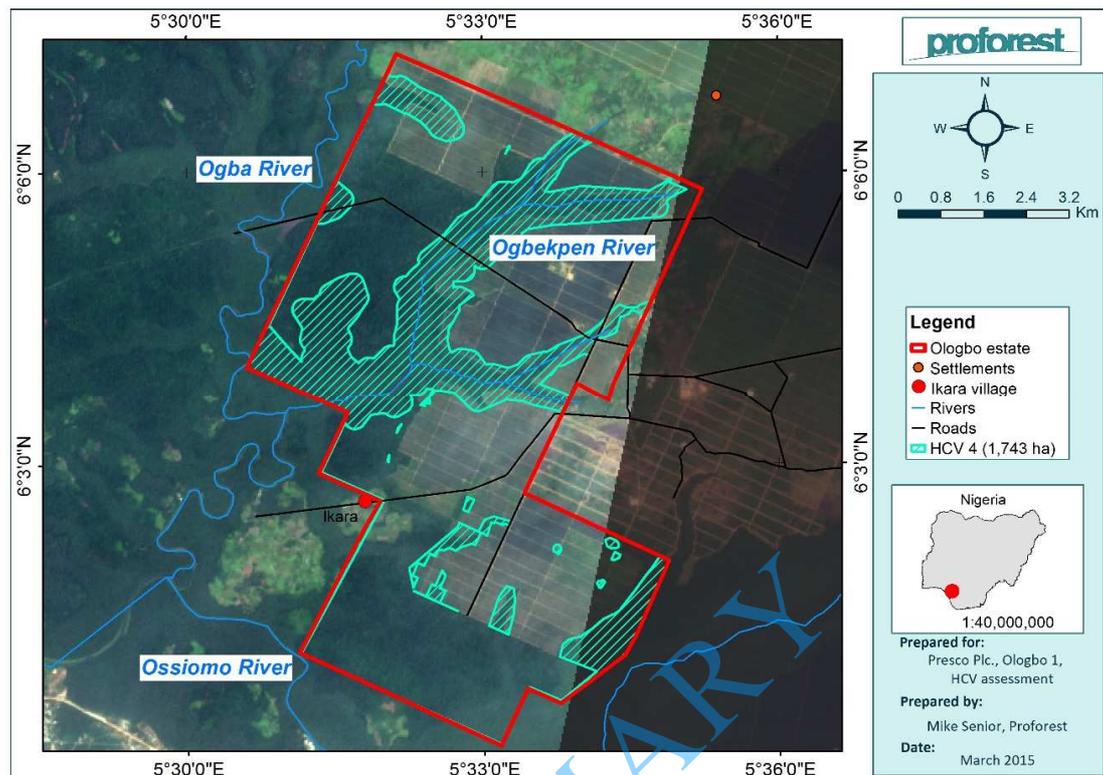


Figure 4: Recommended set aside areas for HCV 4

HCV 5 - Community needs: Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities or indigenous peoples (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc...), identified through engagement with these communities or indigenous peoples.

Consultations conducted by Proforest in January 2015 confirmed that surrounding villages, to some extent, still rely on resources such as herbs, fruits, nuts, game and other non-timber forest products (NTFPs) found in the concession, with the Ologbo and Ogbekpen communities seemingly more reliant than the other communities (such as Obayantor, Iyanomo and Ikara). These findings are broadly supported by the summary of the communities' natural resource use provided in the 2008 CIRAD report, which suggested that Ologbo villagers were most reliant on resources found in the Ologbo estate and that the area was of little importance to both the Obayantor or Iyanomo communities. Results of the communities' consultations suggest that there are no single locations that are of particular importance of the collection of natural resources, but that they can be found widely through the forested and swamp areas in the concession.

Overall, the forested area within the Ologbo estate is classified as HCV 5, because of the continued reliance on the area by some community members, particularly from Ologbo and Ogbekpen villages for natural resources that are critical to them.

Areas of peat soils

There are no areas of peat soil in the assessment area.

Local people's lands

There are no local people's lands within the boundaries of the concession. Although local communities have been allowed by the Edo State authorities to farm in parts of the concession, the local people do

not have any claim to the land. During the community consultations that formed part of the 2015 assessment, all the communities clearly admitted that the reserve land belonged to the State and they do not contest the State allocating it to Presco although they would have preferred that a much bigger portion of the land is allocated to the communities for food crop farming. The communities only requested that Presco gives the farmers in the concession sufficient notice and time to harvest their crops prior to commencement of operations and/or pay crop compensation for perennial crops.

2. Scope of the SEIA and HCV Assessments

Organisational information and contact persons

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Name of organisation: | Presco Plc. |
| Nature of business: | Oil palm plantation development; and extraction, refining and fractionation of crude palm oil into finished products |
| Address: | Obaretin Estate Km 22, Benin - Sapele Road Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area Benin City Edo State, Nigeria |
| Existing estates: | Obaretin estate (in Edo State), Cowan estate (in Delta State), and the Ologbo Estate (in Edo State) |
| Contact person: | |
| Email: | |
| Telephone: | |

List of legal documents, regulatory permits and property deeds related to areas assessed

- Certificate of Occupancy for the concession
- Concession maps
- Nigeria Landuse Act of 1978
- National Environmental Standards and Regulation Enforcement Agency (NESREA) Act 2007
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) CAP E12, LFN 2004
- Landuse Act, CAP 202, LFN 2005
- The Endangered Species Act, CAP E9, LFN 2004
- Water Resources Act, CAP W2, LFN 2004.
- Edo State's Executive Council ²conclusions on de-reserving the concession in the Ologbo Forest Reserve and allocating the concession to Presco (following compliance with all the requirements for de-reservation)
- Nigeria Biodiversity Strategy and Action plan

² Conclusion Extract. 16th Meeting of GC (2014) held on 22nd July 2014. Subject: Re – de-reservation [Council Approved – Re: de-reservation of 2000 ha of forest land in Ologbo forest area BC 25].

Location map – both at landscape level and property level

This HCV assessment report covers a concession area of about 6,420 ha of the Ologbo concession in Edo State, Nigeria. Edo State is in South-central of Nigeria, bordered on the west by Ondo State, southeast by Delta State and northeast by Kogi State.

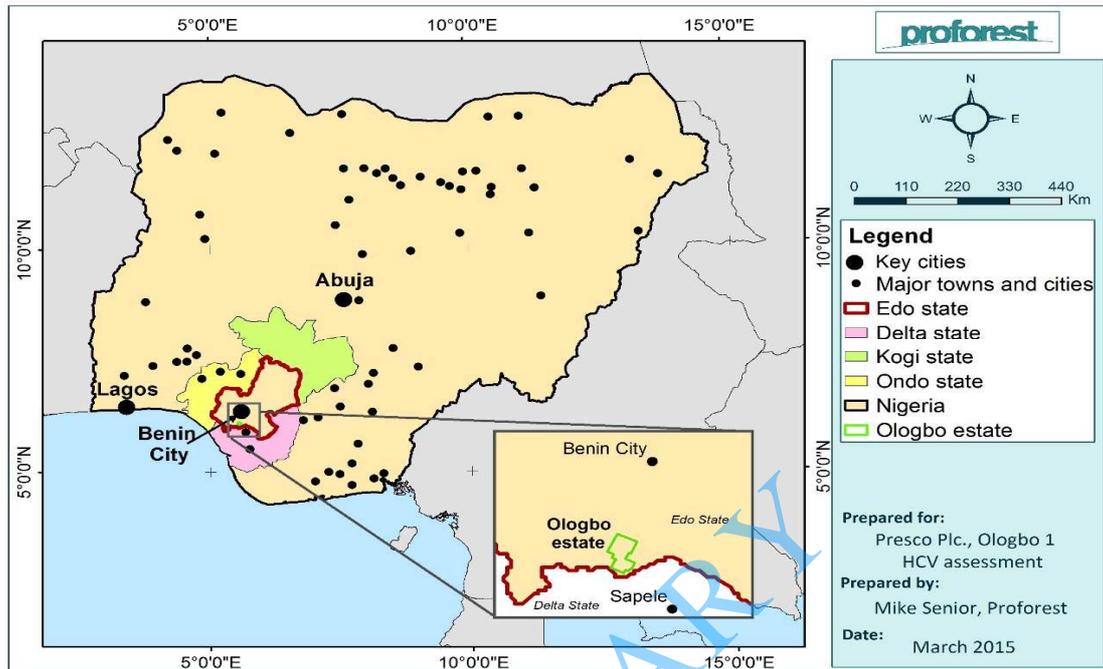


Figure 5: Location of the Ologbo concession in Edo State, Nigeria. Major towns and cities are also shown along with neighbouring Delta, Kogi and Ondo States.

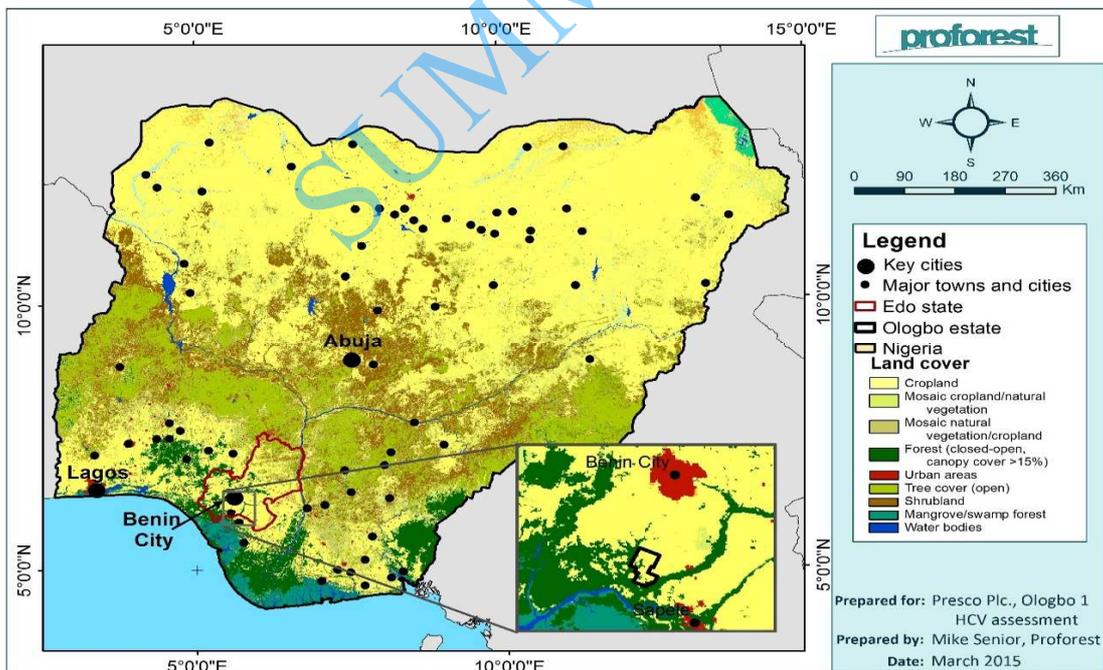


Figure 6: Location of the Ologbo estate overlaid with a 2005 land cover ³map showing the national land cover context prior to clearance of the Ologbo concession for planting

³ Land cover data is at a spatial resolution of 300m and is taken from the ESA's 2005 global land cover map (<http://maps.elie.ucl.ac.be/CCI/viewer/download.php>).

The Ologbo Forest Reserve is located south-south-west of Benin City (the capital of the Edo State), and to the west of the Benin-Sapele Highway. The Ologbo concession itself consists of an irregularly shaped block of 6,420 ha, within the following coordinates: in the north 6°7'00"N, 05°32'0"E; in the east 6°4'00"N, 05°35'0"E; south 6°0'00"N, 05°33'0"E and in the west 6°4'00"N, 05°30'0"E.

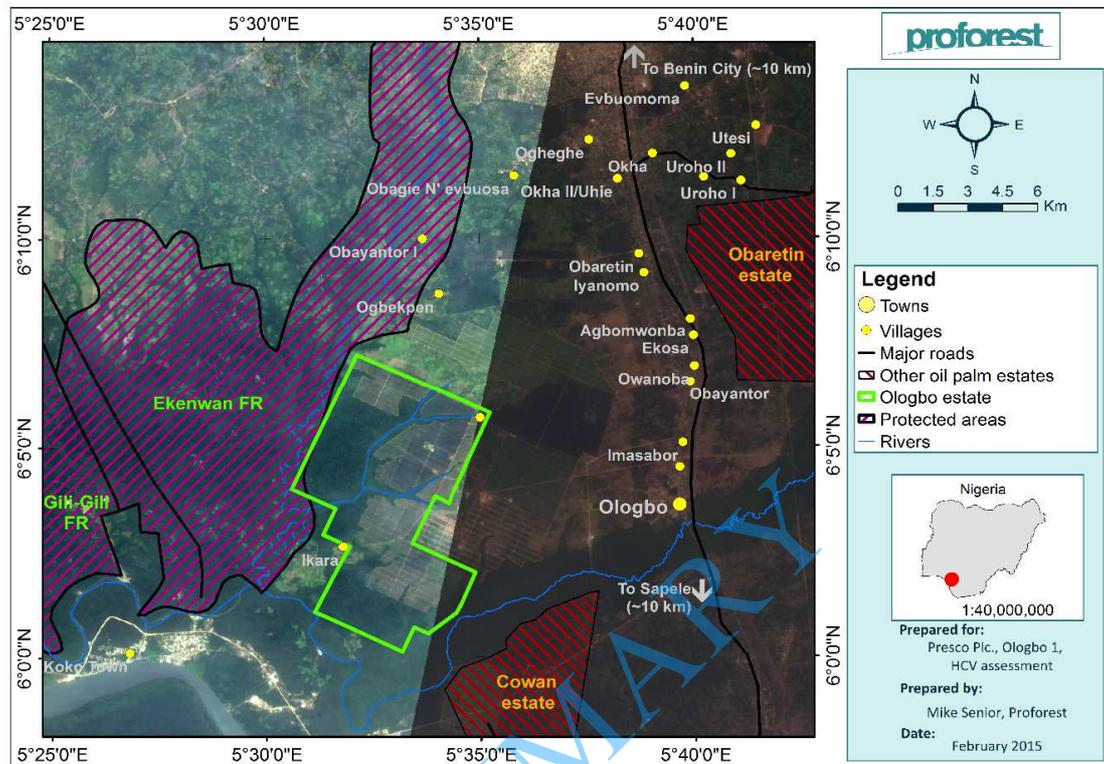


Figure 7: Landscape context of the Ologbo concession, showing neighbouring oil palm concessions, forest reserves, villages and towns.

Area of new plantings and time-plan for new plantings

The planted area in the Ologbo concession is about 2,875 ha (after excising approximately 3,545 ha of land for conservation and management of identified HCVs) representing approximately 45% of the total area of the concession. Planting in the concession was undertaken between 2007 and 2012.

3. Assessment Process and Procedures

Assessors and their credentials

The 2015 HCV assessment team was led by Abraham Baffoe of Proforest. The full list of team members is listed below in **Error! Reference source not found.** Note that the initial HCV assessment of the Ologbo concession conducted in 2008 was done by an entirely different team, led by Aude

⁴ The image is overlaid on a composite Landsat 8 satellite image (Bands 4,3,2) from January 2015, showing current land use and forest cover.

Verwilghen of CIRAD. Table 2 below provides the list of the original HCV assessment team as contained in the 2008 HCV assessment report).⁵

Table 1: Summary of HCV assessment team’s credentials. Contact email address of the lead assessor, Abraham Baffoe, is abraham@proforest.net

| Name | ALS Licence | Organisation | Role | Expertise |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------|------------------|---|
| Abraham Baffoe | Provisional (ALS15006AB) | Proforest | Lead assessor | Forest Ecology, Hydrology, Biodiversity, conservation and social expert |
| Isaac Abban-Mensah | Provisional (ALS15007IM) | Proforest | Team member | Social expert, conservation and forest ecology |
| Nana Darko Cobbina | NA | Proforest | Team member | Social and participatory mapping |
| Eli Dziwornu Agbitor | NA | Proforest | Team member | Forest ecology and conservation |
| Mike Senior | NA | Proforest | Team member, GIS | Forest ecology, GIS, conservation, PhD in tropical forest ecology. |

Table 2: Summary of the 2008 HCV assessment team and their expertise

| Name | Organisation | Role | Expertise |
|------------------|---|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Aude Verwilghen | CIRAD | Team lead | Agro-ecology |
| B. Chambon | CIRAD | Team member | Socio-economic survey |
| J. U Ekhaton | College of Education of Akiadolor | Team member | Environmental and conservation |
| E. G. Greengrass | Independent consultant | Team member | Conservation biologist, primatology |
| B. G. Ogunjemite | Federal University of Tech, Akure | Team member | PhD in Ecology, botany |
| J. Izebuwa | Independent Consultant | Team member | Botany, ecology |
| G. S. Mwansat | AP Leventis Ornithological Research Inst. | Team member | Entomology |
| L. G. Turshak | AP Leventis Ornithological Research Inst. | Team member | Ornithology |
| S. A. Manu | AP Leventis Ornithological Research Inst. | Teammember | Ornithology |
| R. Warren | Independent consultant | Team member | Ornithology |

Assessment methods (data sources, data collection, dates, programme, places visited)

This HCV assessment report is an update of an earlier HCV assessment, and thus the timeline and methods differ from those for a typical HCV assessment. The 2008 HCV report is supplemented by additional desktop study and literature review, analysis of data collected in previous social and biodiversity surveys at the site and additional stakeholder consultation.

⁵ Verwilghen, A. & Chambon, B. July 2008. High Conservation Value assessment of the Ologbo forest. In the framework of the “Green Ologbo” Project initiated under SIAT/CIRAD collaboration. Doc no 2205

As a result of the atypical timeline and the numerous reports available from the last 10 years, Proforest conducted this HCV assessment according to the following three step process.

1. **Summarise and review the 2008 HCV assessment** - including findings, discipline specialist reports and management recommendations,
2. **Review of the 2010 peer review of the 2008 report** to understand weaknesses with the 2008 report and identify gaps needing additional work.
3. **Address gaps identified in 2008 assessment** by:
 - Conducting additional data collection (stakeholder consultations),
 - Updating identified HCVs present at the site based on latest best practice guidance and RSPO requirements,
 - Updating HCV management and monitoring recommendations based on latest best practice and RSPO requirements,
 - Incorporating the above into an updated HCV assessment report for 2015 that is in line with ALS and RSPO requirements.

The methods involved in each of the above steps are outlined in greater detail in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Summary timeline of HCV assessment for the Ologbo oil palm concession

| Year | Activity |
|----------------------|--|
| 2003-2007 | Baseline environmental and social surveys conducted by CIRAD |
| 2005-2006 | Presco (SIAT) launches 'Green Ologbo' project in collaboration with CIRAD and DOEN |
| 2006 | HCV analysis and initial conservation action plan completed |
| 2008 | Final HCV assessment report and management plan submitted to Presco |
| 2010 | Proforest conducts peer review of initial CIRAD HCV assessment |
| 2014 | Presco commissions Proforest to update the original HCV assessment in line with latest RSPO requirements |
| 2015 | Proforest reviews and updates 2008 CIRAD HCV assessment as follows: |
| Dec 2014 to Jan 2015 | Review of 2008 CIRAD HCV assessment and 2010 peer review to identify gaps in relation to 2015 RSPO requirements and HCV best practice (see 0 for summary of weaknesses) |
| Jan 2015 | Additional fieldwork conducted to address weaknesses in 2008 report, specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community consultation and participatory mapping, • Stakeholder consultation. |
| Feb –March 2015 | Proforest writes up and finalizes updated HCV assessment report based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Findings of community and stakeholder consultations, • Improved management and monitoring recommendations for HCV 4-6, • Latest RSPO requirements, • Latest HCV best practice and HCVRN ALS requirements. |

Summarise and review the 2008 HCV assessment and supporting studies

In 2008 an HCV assessment report and separate Management Plan were produced by CIRAD, based on the findings of numerous supporting field studies and assessments. Subsequently there have been a number of other follow up studies and reports. A full list of these studies and summaries of methodologies used are provided in Table 4.

The general assessment timetable for the 2008 assessment is outlined as follows:

- **November 2004:** A preliminary mission to Nigeria conducted to identify potential environmental and social issues,
- **Mid-February 2005:** A. Verwilghen of CIRAD seconded to Presco to oversee the 'Green Ologbo' project including HCV assessment,
- **2005:** Basic landscape analysis and ecological surveys, analysis of social dynamics (including land and resource use), local and expert assessment of conservation values,
- **2006:** HCV analysis conducted and initial conservation action plan developed, based on more in-depth identification of HCVs in the concession through specific fauna surveys,
- **2007:** Implementation of active protection of the conservation area. Environmental and social monitoring begins,
- **2008:** Final HCV assessment report and HCV management plan submitted to Presco.

All of the reports and documents listed in Table 4 were reviewed during the 2015 assessment to to:

- Review methods and findings,
- Identify potential gaps in the initial HCV assessment, and
- Inform final HCV identification and management and monitoring recommendations.

Table 4: Summarised methodology for CIRAD's 2008 HCV assessment and other follow-up surveys

| Focus | Year | Summary of methods used for the study | Reference |
|--|------------------|--|--|
| HCV assessment | 2008 | See individual studies below | Verwilghen, A. & Chambon, B. July 2008. High Conservation Value assessment of the Ologbo forest. In the framework of the "Green Ologbo" Project initiated under SIAT/CIRAD collaboration. <i>Doc no 2205</i> . |
| HCV Management plan | 2008 | - | Verwilghen, A. March 2008. Green Ologbo project Management plan. Proposals and recommendations for follow-up of the "Green Ologbo" project initiated under SIAT/CIRAD collaboration. <i>Doc no 2180</i> . |
| Supporting studies | | | |
| Environmental Impact Assessment | 2004 | Stakeholder consultation, air, soil and water quality monitoring, vegetation plots (20 x 20 m on a grid across the estate), invertebrate and vertebrate surveys (quadrat sampling and reconnaissance walks respectively) | Blue Fin. 2004. Environmental impact assessment of proposed expansion and development of oil palm estates at Obaretin and Ologbo -Edo state- and Cowan -Delta State- and expansion of factory at Obaretin estate. <i>Final Report prepared by Blue Fin. Nig. Limited for PRESCO Plc... Lagos. 213 p.</i> |
| Socio-economic surveys | 2006 | Community consultation, development of social monitoring criteria and indicators. | Chambon B., 2006. Implementation at Presco Plc, Nigeria, of RSPO (Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil) social criteria for relations between agro-industrial companies and local populations. <i>CIRAD-CP: Montpellier, 23 p. + annexes. (CP_SIC 2008 UPR PERSYS)</i> . |
| Primate survey | 2005-2008 | A reconnaissance surveys were predominantly used. | Greengrass E.J., 2008. A chimpanzee survey of Ologbo Forest. <i>Report submitted to Presco Plc., Nigeria. 18 p.</i> |
| Vegetation survey | 2007 | Permanent plots were established in the swamp and secondary forests areas and at some randomly selected locations for the | Ogunjemite B.G., 2007. Vegetation survey of Ologbo (PRESCO) concession, Edo State, Nigeria. <i>Report submitted to Presco Plc.</i> |

| Focus | Year | Summary of methods used for the study | Reference |
|--------------------------|-------------|---|---|
| | | fallow land. Complete enumeration method was employed. Five plots (25×25m ²) were assessed in each of the recognized habitats. In each plot, tree density was estimated. Every tree and shrub ≥1m were tagged with a number, counted and identified to species level. The girth was measured at breast height (GBH) for species ≥ 3m high and at mid-point for those ≤3m. The date was used to calculate the basal area and the important Value of each species recorded. | <i>Federal University of Technology: Akure, 43 p. + appendix.</i> |
| Insect survey | 2007 | Two insect sampling techniques (Pitfall traps and Sweep netting) were employed during the survey to gather information on identity, abundance and diversity of entomological environmental indicators of the study sites. | Mwansat G.S., 2007. Report of entomological assessment conducted at Ologbo Concession and Obaretin Estates, Edo State, Nigeria. <i>Report submitted to PRESCO Plc. APLORI (A. P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute). University of Jos Biological Conservatory: Jos, 17 p. + appendix.</i> |
| Bird survey | 2006 | Transect method was used. Transects of between 1000 m and 2000 m were placed cutting across the different habitat types such as swampy habitats, derived savanna habitats, interior secondary forest habitats, forest fringes and edge, recent forest clearings and agricultural habitat types in the Ologbo concession. Transects were laid as much as possible to cover all representative habitat types. | Turshak L.G. & Manu S.A., 2006. Report on ornithological survey conducted at the Ologbo concession and the Obaretin Estate, Edo state, Nigeria. <i>Survey report, submitted to Presco Plc. AP Leventis Ornithological Research Institute (University of Jos Biological Conservatory): Jos, 25 p. + appendix</i> |
| Butterfly survey | 2007 | 2 day survey | Warren R., 2007. Report on a planning trip for surveying the butterflies of Ologbo Forest, Edo State, Nigeria. <i>Report submitted to Presco Plc.</i> |
| Soil survey | 2005 | Soil survey was carried out in soil pits excavated at regular intervals every 500 m along the ground traverses opened up in the forest formations, distributed in such a way as to reconcile the most uniform cover possible of all the soils to be studied within the study period. Overall, 58 soil pits with samples at 4 depths every 500 m along survey transects were made. | Bourgeon G., 2005. Ologbo extension, Reconnaissance soil survey. <i>CIRAD: Montpellier, 9 p. + appendix. Cirad Cp 1864.</i> |
| Amphibian survey | ? | The study was conducted in four (4) selected swamp areas within Presco Plc boundaries namely Ologbo north (petroleum pipeline), Ologbo central (piezometer line), Ologbo west (Ikara/Erume) and Ologbo south west (well 3 camp) Existing trails of about 3 km along the selected swamp areas were used as transects with effective study area of 0.036 km ² . Water samples were collected from each swamp area for chemical analysis. | Emelue, G.U. & Aremu, O.T. Preliminary survey of amphibian diversity in conservation areas of Presco Plc concession site, Ologbo, Edo State, Nigeria. |
| Follow up studies | | | |
| Bird monitoring | 2008 | Same survey transects as 2006 study, and some new transects | Author unknown. November, 2008. Report on the repeat ornithological survey |

| Focus | Year | Summary of methods used for the study | Reference |
|---------------------------|------|---|--|
| | | | conducted at the Ologbo concession and the Obaretin Estate, Edo State, Nigeria. |
| 'Green Ologbo' follow-up | 2009 | Review of Presco's implementation of the management and monitoring plan | Verwilghen, A. March 2009. Follow-up of the "Green Ologbo" project initiated under SIAT/CIRAD collaboration. Report on the mission to Presco, Nigeria 1-10 December 2008. <i>Confidential. Doc no 2262.</i> |
| 'Green Ologbo' follow-up | 2010 | Review of Presco's implementation of the management and monitoring plan | Verwilghen, A. March 2010. Follow-up of the "Green Ologbo" project initiated under SIAT/CIRAD collaboration. Report on the mission to Presco, Nigeria 2-12 December 2009. <i>Confidential. Doc no 2317.</i> |
| Butterfly survey | 2010 | Hand-netting and fruit-baited traps | Brattstrom, O. November 2010. Butterflies in Ologbo Forest. |
| Socio-economic monitoring | 2010 | Household interviews | Jannot, C. & CIRAD-PERSYST. October 2010. Implementation at Presco Plc, Nigeria, of RSPO social criteria for relations between agribusiness companies and local populations. Report on missions to Nigeria from 2-17 May and 10-24 Oct 2009. <i>Doc No. 2353. Montpellier, France.</i> |
| 'Green Ologbo' follow-up | 2012 | Review of Presco's implementation of the management and monitoring plan | Jannot, C. & Verwilghen, A. March 2012. Follow-up of the "Green Ologbo" project initiated under SIAT/CIRAD collaboration. Report on the mission to Presco, Nigeria 10-17 December 2011. <i>Confidential. Doc no 2457.</i> |
| Social Impact Assessment | 2013 | Focus group discussions, observations and photographs in communities. | Foremost Development Services Limited. June 2013. Social impact assessment report on Iyanomo, Ogbekpen, Obayantor And Ologbo communities in Edo State, Nigeria. <i>Draft report for Presco Plc.</i> |

Review of the 2010 peer review of the 2008 report

In order to support the review of the 2008 HCV assessment, supporting surveys and follow-up studies, the findings of an existing peer review of the 2008 report conducted by Proforest in 2010 was also used. While the peer review identified the methodology and process steps for the various field surveys and studies as robust and appropriate, it also identified the following gaps in the 2008 report, which focus on the identification and proposed management of social HCVs (4-6):

Major issues

- **Inadequate consultation process with local communities on social HCV management, particularly HCV 5.** This includes a lack of participatory mapping with all communities. Consultation focussed on informing communities of conservation area location and plans but without invited opinions on potential impacts of these plans.
- **Inadequate threat analysis and management recommendations for HCVs 4-6.** Threat analysis and management recommendations focus almost entirely on HCVs 1-3, but do not cover social HCVs. Need to develop an integrated social management plan covering threats to social HCVs, understanding community dependence on resources and discussing alternative livelihoods, if necessary, for impacted communities.

Address gaps identified in 2008 assessment

Proforest sought to address the gaps outlined above through the following key steps:

- A field visit in January 2015 to conduct additional stakeholder consultations, particularly with local communities and government officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Forestry Commission
- Communities consultations and participatory mapping with all the host communities,
- Updated and improved threat analysis for all HCVs, particularly HCVs 4-6 which were inadequately covered in the 2008 report,
- Production of the following updated maps of: 1) vegetation cover, 2) locations of individual HCVs, 3) updated HCV management areas, and 4) community maps
- Revised HCV management and monitoring recommendations,

It must be emphasised at this stage that concerns and recommendations raised by the stakeholders consulted have been considered during the development of the assessment report and in particular the recommendations made for Presco to adopt and implement.

Stakeholder consultation (stakeholders contacted, consultation notices and dates)

| Date | Stakeholder/Organisation/Community |
|----------------------------|---|
| 12 th June 2013 | Mr. Prince M. M. Ogedengbe (Permanent Secretary, Edo State) |
| 12 th June 2013 | Dr. Aibagun (Director, Edo State Ministry of Agriculture) |
| 12 th June 2013 | Dr. Umolu (Director, Edo State Ministry of Agriculture) |
| 12 th June 2013 | Mr. M. I Anogie (Director, Edo State Ministry of Agriculture) |
| 12 th June 2013 | Mrs. Nora Ohiwerei (Principal Economic Officer, Edo State Lands Commission) |
| 12 th June 2013 | Dr. O. S Ikponmwonba (Director of Forestry, Edo State Forestry Commission) |
| 12 th June 2013 | M. S. Okokhere (Deputy Director of Forestry) |
| 12 th June 2013 | Mr. V. Enebi (Director, Forest Conservation and Regeneration) |
| 21 st Jan 2015 | Ologbo Communities (Emasabor, Oghoobaye, Ologbo Central and Ikaye) |
| 21 st Jan 2015 | Ologbo Taungya Farmers Association |
| 22 nd Jan 2015 | Obayantor community |
| 22 nd Jan 2015 | Ikara communities (Ikara-tie, Odeyaja, Erhomie, Otumara, Bokoko and Bogolo) |
| 22 nd Jan 2015 | Ogbekpen community |
| 22 nd Jan 2015 | Iyanomor community |

List of legal, regulatory and other guidance referenced

- National Environmental (Control of Bush, Forest Fires and Open Burning) Regulations, 2011
- National Environmental (Surface and Groundwater Quality Control) Regulations, 2011
- National Environmental (Watershed, Mountainous, Hilly and Catchment Areas) Regulations, 2009
- National Minimum Wage (Amendment) Act of 2000
- National Policy on Environment 1999
- Nigeria National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- National Environmental (Sanitation and Wastes Control) Regulations 2009
- The National Environmental (Watershed, Hilly, Mountainous and Catchment Areas) Regulations, 2009
- Land Use Act of 1978

4a. Summary of assessment findings (for SEI assessments)

Summary of key findings in respect of socio-economic impacts to country, region and local communities

Insert text

Summary of key findings in respect of socio-economic impacts in respect of emergent communities (workers, suppliers etc)

Insert text

Issues raised by stakeholders and assessors' comments on each issue

The issues raised by stakeholders during the community consultations are summarised in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Summary of minutes of stakeholder consultations carried out during the 2015 assessment

| Name of stakeholder | Title/Role | Institution/Organisation | Key remarks/concerns and assessors response |
|------------------------|--|---------------------------|---|
| Prince M. M. Ogedengbe | Permanent Secretary | Edo State | The Landuse Act of 1978 vests lands into State. However, communities have their own lands which they use or can appropriate. The land allocated to Presco was State forest land and therefore communities have no control. However, Presco should maintain good relationship with the host communities and in particular ensure that workers are paid living wage while contributing to communities' development. |
| Dr Aibagun | Director | Ministry of Agriculture | The land allocated to Presco is a state forest land that has been de-reserved after attempt to use Taungya system to regenerate it has failed. The state therefore has the right to allocate it for whatever use it deem fit. |
| Dr Umolu | Director | | |
| Mr M. I Anogie | Director | Lands | The former Ologbo forest reserve has been legally allocated to Presco. Presco has and continues to pay annual land rent of 2000 Naira/ha to the state |
| Mrs Nora Ohiwerei | Principal Economic Officer | Lands | The former Ologbo forest reserve has been legally allocated to Presco. Presco has and continues to pay annual land rent of 2000 Naira/ha to the state |
| Dr. O. S Ikponmwonba | Director of Forestry | State Forestry Commission | Upon realising that the Ologbo forest reserve has been badly degraded, the state government decided to use the Taungya system to regenerate it but this failed. The State governor decided to de-reserve the forest reserve so it can be allocated for other commercial purposes. The only part of the forest remaining is the 768 ha which largely marshy forest is. The state government intends to maintain and manage this for conservation purposes. They however, recommended that although the communities do not have legal right to the land, Presco must listen to the communities concerns and agree with the communities, the best way to address their concerns. |
| M. S. Okokhere | Deputy Director of Forestry | State Forestry Commission | |
| Mr. V. Enebi | Director, Forest Conservation and Regeneration | Forestry Department | |

Table 6: Summary of minutes of community consultations carried out during this assessment

| Name of community | Key remarks/concerns raised | Assessors response |
|---|--|--|
| Ologbo (This is a group of communities including Emasabor, Oghoobaye, Ologbo Central and Ikaye) | <p>Population of this group of communities did not express any major concerns about the existing estate. They indicated that the land was a forest reserve but government de-reserved it and gave it to Presco. Prior to conversion, Presco gave them 12 months period to harvest their crops which they did to pave way for Presco to use the land. However, they were concerned that they have not been adequately informed by Presco or the state government on the allocation of additional land to Presco for their oil palm expansion and wished to have been informed from the time efforts were initiated to have the areas allocated to Presco. According to the communities, they were only informed when the process to lease the land to Presco has been completed and were subsequently informed by Presco about plans to convert the area to oil palm plantation. The local population informed the team that Presco has ceded part of their concession to the communities for farming. However, they indicated that the areas allocated to them for farming is too far from Ologbo group of communities. As a result, only a few farmers have been able to access the area for farming purposes. The community subsequently requested for an area closer to them to be ceded for Taungya farming to meet the needs of inhabitants of the Ologbo group of community. They confirmed that they did not have sacred site in the estates.</p> | <p>The assessment team advised the population of the Ologbo group of communities to continue to use dialogue in their engagement with the state government and Presco to address any concerns they have with the land allocations to Presco and the use of the land for oil palm plantations. The assessment team informed them that Presco intends to ensure its operations at Ologbo is carried out in a socially responsible and environmentally sustainable manner and therefore will be willing to work with the people to address their concerns</p> |
| Obayantor | <p>The community expressed concern about the size of the area allocated for Taungya farming, maintaining that it is not large enough to accommodate existing and future demand for farming areas. As a result, they suggested that a much bigger land is made available to them. They suggested that Presco rather than the state government should address this concerns by ceding one of the new allocated plots (Compartments 5 and 18) to the community for food crop cultivation by the local population. The community further expressed concern that Presco might be looking to acquire additional land in the reserve and ultimately assume development control of the entire reserve. This eventuality, they noted, would negatively impact the livelihood strategies of the people. They therefore requested that Presco stops any further land acquisition in the area. They confirm that the community has no shrine or sacred site in the existing plantation areas or the newly allocated areas.</p> | <p>The assessment team asked the people of Obayantor to discuss their concerns with Presco. The team also advised the people to also engage with the state government on the issues they have raised since the government has already given the land to Presco and will be expecting Presco to use the land for the purpose for which it was granted to it and that Presco on its own may not be able to vary the conditions upon which the land was granted.</p> |
| Ikara (This includes smaller villages and hamlets such as the | <p>This group of communities are closer to the area ceded by Presco for taungya farming. They expressed concern that there has in recent times been influx of farmers from</p> | <p>The population of these communities were advised to directly channel their</p> |

| Name of community | Key remarks/concerns raised | Assessors response |
|--|--|--|
| Ikara-tie, Odeyaja, Erhomie, Otumara, Bokoko and Bogolo) | <p>Ologbo to compete with them for farmlands. This has led to increase pressure on available land as well as on areas which have been earmarked as conservation areas (by the communities). According to the people, the buffer zone created between Presco operations and the community is quite small and therefore appealed to Presco not to make any attempt to encroach on the buffer zone. They also explained that as a result of progressive expansion of Presco's plantation area, birds and bush pigs have invaded most farms and are wrecking destruction to crops. There was also concern that the community is too close to the buffer area with fears being expressed that this proximity exposes inhabitants to attack by wild animals. It was suggested that further land should be set aside between area of habitation and the buffer zone. The community expects Presco to assist in diversifying the livelihoods strategies of the people by supporting with alternative livelihoods (or other development projects) as a strategy to reduce the effect of loss of farmlands to oil palm plantation development.</p> | <p>concerns to Presco and the state government in a more objective way to ensure collaborative decision towards a joint effort to addressing their concerns. The team also inform them that their concerns will be communicated to Presco particularly those relating to support in diversification of economic activities and livelihood sources to the local population.</p> |
| Ogbekpen | <p>According to the people of the community, the Ologbo area has been used as farmlands by several communities including Ogbekpen and while they are particularly grateful for area which has been allocated to the farmers, they expressed concern about the relatively small size of the area. It was generally accepted that the area is not big enough to meet the demands of the targeted farming populations. They were also concerned that Presco will continue to acquire the remaining land they currently use for food crop farming and advised that Presco should not acquire further land for oil palm development in the area. The people confirmed that they have no sacred sites in the estate.</p> | <p>The team agreed to convey their advice to Presco not to acquire further land in the area for oil palm development to the management of Presco.</p> |
| Iyanomor | <p>Farmers from the community have not benefitted from the area allocated as a Taungya farming area due to the relatively small size of the area. Concern was further expressed at the failure by Presco and government to create more employment opportunities. They appealed to Presco to provide employment opportunities to the people of the community. The people divulged that there were shrines at Ologbo but due to the intensification of agricultural activities, these have been re-located to areas outside the reserve and therefore there are no shrines in the estate.</p> | <p>The team advised them to appropriately channel all their grievances in the most appropriate way using dialogue to agree with Presco how best their concerns can be addressed.</p> |

4b. Summary of assessment findings (For HCV Assessment)

Overall HCV identification and proposed measures to maintain and enhance those identified

The table 7 below gives a summary of HCVs present, potentially present or absent in the Ologbo concession. The HCVs have been assessed and identified independently.

Table 7: Summary of HCV assessment findings

| HCV | Definition | Brief description and justification | | |
|-----|--|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------|
| | | Present | Potential | Absent |
| 1 | Species diversity. Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered (RTE) species that are significant at global, regional or national levels. | | | |
| 2 | Landscape-level ecosystems and mosaics. Large landscape-level ecosystems and ecosystem mosaics that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance. | | | |
| 3 | Ecosystems and habitats. Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia. | | | |
| 4 | Ecosystem services. Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes. | | | |
| 5 | Community needs. Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities or indigenous peoples (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc...), identified through engagement with these communities or indigenous peoples. | | | |
| 6 | Cultural values. Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or indigenous peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or indigenous peoples. | | | |

Proposed measures to maintain and enhance the identified values

In order to ensure effective and appropriate management of the identified HCV areas, it is recommended that Presco adhere to the recommendations proposed by the previous assessors and to ensure the Management Plan is fully implemented. It is also recommended that periodic biological surveys that can be used in assessing the health of the set aside areas and also to inform decisions on the needed management interventions are carried out periodically.

Other recommendations provided by this assessment include:

- There should be no conversion of the conservation area or part thereof into oil palm plantations
- Ensure there is adequate buffer zones set aside for the communities in the landscape as Presco seeks to expand its operations in the areas
- No hunting or removal of any fauna species by Presco or its staff, except where deemed necessary for the control of pests
- Establish effective consultation and grievance procedure with all the hosts communities

- No use of fire for any purpose permitted within the set aside areas
- Ensure effective maintenance of buffer zones including the gallery and marshy forests that exists in the plantations
- Support diversification of local communities' sources of livelihood in addition to contributing to community development efforts such as road building, construction of boreholes etc. depending on each community's development aspirations. This will reduce dependence and the pressure on the remnant forest areas in the concession.

Documentation showing the obtained Free, Prior and Informed Consent of any indigenous people affected by the development of the concession

The land allocated to Presco is a state land with no local community or group of people laying any claims to the land apart from the traditional right which allows them to maintain their shrines in any area they deem fit. There are no indigenous people in the area and local population do not have legal right to the land. However, the host communities in the landscape may be impacted both positively and negatively. The people who may be most affected are the farmers from the local communities who have their sacred sites and farms in parts of the concessions. The concerns of these farmers and host communities have been identified through the communities' consultations and Presco is collaborating with the communities and their leaders to ensure peaceful co-existence.

Data sources and quality

Data for the assessment were obtained from several sources in order to eliminate/minimise biases; data obtained from each source was cross-checked against data from other sources to ensure consistency. The sources of data included:

- Secondary data obtained from review of existing assessment reports
- Primary data obtained from field surveys (including flora and fauna as well as social surveys)
- Review of Nigeria laws and regulations
- Federal and State Ministries and Departments
- Local communities' consultations
- Presco
- Satellite images
- GIS and other survey maps from different sources (including Presco's GIS and Survey Unit and the Edo State Survey Department)

The HCV toolkits employed for this assessment

Nigeria currently has no HCV National Interpretation toolkit. The assessors therefore depended on generic HCV toolkits and guidance, as well as HCV National Interpretations from other countries within the West and Central African regions. The specific toolkits and guidance used include:

1. The Global HCV Toolkit
2. Brown, E., N. Dudley, A. Lindhe, D.R. Muhtaman, C. Stewart, and T. Synnott (eds.). 2013 (October). Common Guidance for the identification of High Conservation Values. HCV Resource Network. <https://www.hcvnetwork.org/resources/cg-identification-sep-2014-english>
3. Brown, E. and M.J.M. Senior. 2014 (September). Common Guidance for the Management and Monitoring of HCVs. HCV Resource Network. . <https://www.hcvnetwork.org/resources/cg-management-and-monitoring-2014-english>
4. Ghana HCV National Interpretations (2006)
5. Gabon HCV NI (2008)
6. Practical Handbook for Conserving High Conservation Value Species and Habitats within Oil Palm Landscapes. ZSL (2011)
7. Practical Toolkit for Identifying and Monitoring Biodiversity in Oil Palm Landscapes. ZSL (2011)

SUMMARY

Decision on HCV status and their related mapping

Table 8: Summary of HCVs status and their related mapping

| HCV | Findings | Management objective | Spatial presence | Status of mapping | Management recommendations |
|-----|----------------------------------|---|---|-------------------|---|
| 1 | Present in the Ologbo concession | To ensure the continual existence of the lowland and freshwater swamp forest block in the concession (together with protection of the associated RTEs) so it can continue to provide effective buffer protection to the adjoining Ekenwan FR and NP, Gili-Gili and Okumu FRs. | Lowland and freshwater swamp forest block on the southern and western portions of the concession | Fully mapped | All plantation and associated activity should be prohibited in this area of the concession. Periodic survey of RTEs in the concession to monitor their populations and viability. |
| 3 | Present in the Ologbo concession | To ensure the effective protection of the lowland and freshwater swamp ecosystems in the concession | The lowland and freshwater swamp forests in the southern and western portions of the concession | Fully mapped | Intensify monitoring in the block by Presco's ecoguards to detect and deter illegal activities in the forest block |
| 4 | Present in the Ologbo concession | To ensure perpetual flow of clean water for the host communities by setting aside and maintaining appropriate buffer zones along the Ossiomo river on the southern boundary of the concessions. | The Ossiomo, Ogba and Ogbekpen Rivers and tributaries, and associated riparian vegetation in the concession | Partially mapped | Riparian vegetation and buffering of all rivers and streams in the concession. Recommending a 10 metre wide buffer zone on each side of the river if river is up to 5 metres in width; a 50 metre wide buffer zone if river is greater than 5 metres but less than 20 metres in width; and a 100 metre wide buffer zone if river is more than 20 metres in width. These are to be established mapped and effectively managed. |

| HCV | Findings | Management objective | Spatial presence | Status of mapping | Management recommendations |
|-----|----------------------------------|---|---|-------------------|--|
| 5 | Present in the Ologbo concession | To ensure continual existence of, and local communities' access to NTFPs collection in the forested block | The lowland and freshwater swamp forests in the southern and western portions of the concession | Fully mapped | Continually engage local communities to agree on modalities for granting access to the forested block for NTFP collection without jeopardising protection of the block |

SUMMARY