



“EU bailout packages should be strictly conditional on building a new, low-carbon economy. Any policy incentives or financial assistance directed towards auto, tire, and rubber companies cannot simply seek to resuscitate the industry as it was, but must instead help stimulate a green transformation. In the wake of the current crisis, such a transition is more urgent than ever. Mighty Earth will therefore endeavor to work with both policymakers and members of the ERTMA to ensure that short-term measures to support the sector are fully aligned with the longer-term vision of a new Green Deal for Europe.”

### **About Mighty Earth**

*Mighty Earth is a global environmental campaign organization that works to protect forests, conserve oceans, and address climate change. We work in Southeast Asia, Latin America, Africa, and North America to drive large-scale action towards environmentally responsible agriculture that protects native ecosystems, wildlife, and water, and respects local community rights. Mighty Earth’s team has played a decisive role in persuading the world’s largest food and agriculture companies to dramatically improve their environmental and social policies and practices. More information on Mighty Earth can be found at [www.mightyearth.org/](http://www.mightyearth.org/).*

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**FW: Olam faces investigation into deforestation**

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Wed 5/6/2020 1:39 PM

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**From:** Alex Armstrong <alex@mightyearth.org>**Date:** Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 12:51 PM**To:** "[REDACTED]@sph.com.sg" <[REDACTED]@sph.com.sg>**Subject:** Olam faces investigation into deforestation**'World's largest farmer' faces investigation into deforestation***Olam cleared rainforests over half the size of Singapore*

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), a global certification body on responsible forest management, has just initiated an [investigation](#) into the deforestation liabilities of the world's largest farmer, Olam International, which trades in 47 agricultural commodities across 70 countries.

The FSC investigation will assess Mighty Earth's [complaint](#) filed with the FSC in December 2016, which provides damning evidence that Olam cleared vast areas of rainforest for oil palm and rubber plantation development in Gabon and, as a result, violated the FSC Policy of Association. The complaint was filed based on evidence presented in the report "[Black Box](#)," co-authored by Mighty Earth and Gabonese Goldman Award winner Marc Ona Essangui's organization Brainforest.

In Olam's response, the company [admitted](#) that the company had cleared 25,735 hectares of rainforest while establishing its oil palm plantations in Gabon: "58% (25,735 ha) of the planted area was originally highly logged and degraded secondary forest." Such levels of deforestation violate the FSC Policy for Association, which was established to ensure that no company should benefit from the FSC's eco-forestry certification if it engages in activities that have devastating impacts on ecosystems, biodiversity, and the rights of forest peoples.

In February 2017, following [negotiations](#) between Mighty Earth and Olam, mediated by the World Resources Institute, the company agreed to suspend further land clearing of rainforests in Gabon for palm and rubber plantations for a year, Olam also overhauled its palm oil policy, its global policy on how the company treats workers, and its company-wide global policy on protecting forests for all its agricultural commodities. As a result, Mighty Earth agreed to suspend its campaign targeting Olam's oil palm and rubber



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