



Natural Rubber CSR Policy

TROPICORE SA

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1. Introduction

Through its activities, TROPICORE SA commits to purchase and sell natural rubber which has been produced responsibly and sustainably, throughout its value chain, in accordance with the 12 Principles of the Global Platform for Sustainable Natural Rubber (GPSNR).

While most of the actions are undertaken in the field, at the farmer level, we can also take part to the effort through encouraging, and supporting to some level, all the players of the value chain to putting in place and implementing a corporate social responsibility policy.

Each player on the natural rubber global market, from the small holder to the car manufacturer, has a role to play, in this constantly evolving market which has many environmental, social and economic challenges, in order to achieve this sustainability goal.

As a sales agent, positioned right in the middle of the value chain, precisely between the Natural Rubber (NR) producers and the tire manufacturers and other natural gum users, we commit to continuously improve the environmental and social performances in our products production processes.

We will focus our efforts on the following principles:

- **The respect and alignment to the national and international applicable regulations.**
- **The respect and protection of Human Rights.**
- **The protection and conservation of natural resources.**
- **The improvement of agriculture practices and support to the communities.**

We also commit to put in place a management system and the needed processes in order to implement and monitor the implementation of this policy, all through our supply chain.



2. Principles

The following describe the main principles on which we set our CSR commitment. Our principles uphold and comply with the GPSNR principles, the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as well as the ILO Core Conventions and other relevant legislation.

I. The respect and alignment to the national and international applicable regulations

TROPICORE SA commits to respect the national and international laws and regulations relevant to its operations as well as to ensure that its supply chain partners respect the national and international laws and regulations applicable to their own operations.

TROPICORE SA will not tolerate any form of corruption, active or passive, of any type, whatever the jurisdiction, even where such practices are practically accepted, tolerated or exempted of judicial proceedings.

For any act of corruption which will be reported to TROPICORE SA, a corrective action will be taken towards the employee, the supplier or the client.

II. The respect and protection of Human Rights

TROPICORE SA attaches importance to the well-being of the workers as well as to the respect of Human Rights through the implementation of the social and wages regulations in the country where we operate.

In addition, TROPICORE SA will ensure that Human Rights as described in the following paragraphs will be protected and respected.



a. Workers' rights

TROPICORE SA wants to ensure that the following are respected all through its supply chain, those include the ILO Core Conventions:

- Freedom of association and collective bargaining (ILO Convention No. 87 and No. 98)
- No forced labour (ILO Convention No. 29 and its 2014 Protocol), No abusive practices (ILO Convention No. 105)
- No child labour (ILO Convention No. 138 and No. 182)
- No discrimination linked to gender, civil status, sexual preference, religion, ethnic group, nationality, age, origin, social status, mental or physical disability, political opinion or affiliation to a trade union, or any other characteristic (ILO Convention No. 111 and No. 100) and support for equal opportunities.
- Decent living wages and the respect of legal working hours.
- Safe and healthy workplaces.

Our aim is to implement the best social practices for our workers as well as to enforce those principles to all our suppliers in order to guarantee a value chain respecting human conditions.

b. Local communities' rights

It is important to TROPICORE SA that the development and the management of rubber trees' plantations, needed to the natural rubber production, are done in a way which respects local communities' rights.

We recognise the formal and customary rights of indigenous people and local communities as defined by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), including land tenure rights.

We will ensure that the communities linked to our supply chain, have had the right to give or withhold their Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) to any activity which could affect their rights.

We maintain ongoing, effective, transparent, open and culturally appropriate channels of dialogue with indigenous people and local communities



c. Grievance management

It is important to TROPICORE SA that any party feeling damaged can claim anonymously its grievance, with no fear of reprisal, recrimination or dismissal, and that a solution to address the issues is worked towards. Therefore, we will ensure that fair and transparent grievance management procedures are in place throughout our supply chain.

III. The protection and conservation of natural resources

Production, transformation and sales activities of natural rubber may lead to a number of environmental impacts, when developing new rubber trees' plantations, through the management of these plantations, during the transformation of the products or through its transportation and sales.

TROPICORE SA requires its products to come from activities which are managed in a way to avoid those negative impacts on the environment, the natural resources, the global warming, the ecosystems, the flora and fauna. It is particularly important that:

- They do not contribute to deforestation or destruction of High Conservation Values (HCV), of High Carbon Stock (HCS) forests or peat areas, whatever are their specificities (depth; drained, dried or flooded; planted or unplanted)¹,
- They contribute to the protection of natural forests and other ecosystems, or rare, threatened or endangered habitats or species (according to the IUCN Red List),
- Measures are taken to prevent sourcing from natural rubber plantations on peat areas, whatever are their specificities.
- Adequate measures are implemented to restore protected areas, deforested and degraded rubber landscapes;
- Measures are implemented to protect the soil and water resources (both in quality and quantity),

¹ TROPICORE SA uses April the 1st, 2019 cut-off date, as defined by the GPSNR, as the date from which any new plantation development or existing plantation shall meet the requirements set in the integrated HVC-HCSA toolkit.



- The use of fire is prohibited except in well documented cases where specific threats of phytosanitary or other risks prevent from doing so,
- Measures are implemented in order to minimise the use of energy and, to minimize and mitigate the greenhouse gases' emissions,
- Waste production is limited and waste management minimises any form of pollution,
- Measures are implemented in order to maximize natural resource efficiency.

IV. The improvement of agriculture practices and support to the communities

TROPICORE SA is conscious that the communities living from NR production and sales or living around rubber trees' plantations have a precarious and fragile livelihood. Therefore, we will ensure that our supply chain partners will assist these communities in supporting and enhancing their livelihood. We'll make sure as well that they will work towards improving the quality and the yield of NR production (plantation, storage, transformation, etc.) in order to reduce the area needed for the production.

3. Implementation

TROPICORE SA will favour the procurement of NR which production and transformation meet our Policy (it-self aligned to the GPSNR Principles and Policy Framework).

Thereby, in order to ensure the monitoring and progress in these principles' implementation, TROPICORE SA commits to develop an implementation plan including all our activities linked to the procurement and sales of NR products.

This implementation plan will include:

- The development of an annual action plan guiding our actions to progress and improve our practices and the conformity of our products, with precise geographic-specific objectives and timelines



- The mapping of our supply chain allowing a maximum visibility on the origin of our products as well as on the potential environmental and social risks, in order to prioritize risk mitigation actions.
- Support for traceability of natural rubber to an appropriate jurisdictional level.
- The assessment of our suppliers' performance against our policy and the development, with the ones who want to, of an action plan to improve their alignment with our CSR commitment, and therefore their integration to our set of preferred suppliers.
- The support to initiatives that enable and enhance sustainable natural rubber uptake in the global marketplace.
- The production of an annual report assessing the progresses and the challenges met in implementing our policy as well as the envisioned next steps, and making this report available publically and to anyone asking for it.

TROPICORE SA will maintain an active, regular stakeholder dialogue to provide relevant information, and to afford opportunities for feedback and suggestions related to fulfilment of its commitments.