

Environmental Destruction, Land Grabs: Controversial Oil Palm Plantations in the Peruvian Amazon

Melka group plans to sell off its Plantations

By [Forest Peoples Programme](#)

Global Research, June 28, 2016

Forest Peoples Program 28 June 2016

Region: [Latin America & Caribbean](#)

Theme: [Environment](#), [Law and Justice](#)

A [public notice placed in the Jakarta Post](#) on June 23 outlined plans to sell the estate and plantations on the estate in public auctions on June 30, July 7 and July 14. Interested parties were invited to make contact in order to hear further details of the property.

The properties in question are highly controversial and subject to numerous challenges and complaints in the Peruvian courts, at the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil and by investment regulators. The Peruvian government has investigated these properties and already [ordered the suspension of operations](#) as the owners failed to secure the relevant authorisations prior to clearance of the forest.

[Satellite imagery](#) has shown that these companies are clearing primary forests without permits and contrary to Peruvian laws and RSPO norms.

The RSPO itself has insisted on a [suspension of operations](#) as indigenous peoples have filed complaints accusing the company of taking their lands without their consent.

The same indigenous people have [filed a lawsuit in Peru](#) in which they are suing both the regional government and the company called Plantaciones de Pucallpa for the illegal acquisition of their traditional lands. Meanwhile, the Alternative Investment Market of the London Stock Exchange is investigating the complaint by more than 60 Peruvian organisations which requests the delisting of [United Cacao Ltd](#), which is also part of the same consortium operating in Peru.

According to Marcus Colchester, senior policy advisor at Forest Peoples Programme, “The proposed sale of these properties in Peru reflects the dark side of the palm oil sector whereby companies professing to uphold sustainability and business ‘best practice’, in line with RSPO and IFC standards, choose to sell off their properties when they are caught violating the standards or the law. When the International Finance Corporation (IFC) was challenged over its financial support for Wilmar in Indonesia in 2009 and found to be in violation of its own Performance Standards, it promptly divested from all its other palm oil properties in Indonesia. When Jardines was challenged over its palm oil property in Tripa, it sold the company off instead of sorting out the problems on the ground.”

Additional government regulations, in both host and home countries, are needed to hold transnational companies to account for their legal, human rights and environmental

violations.

Forest Peoples Programme has contacted the Jakarta Post, urging further investigations of the Peru case and prospective buyers to be aware of these 'trash and run' practices.

For more information contact Conrad Feather, Conrad@forestpeoples.org

The original source of this article is Forest Peoples Program
Copyright © [Forest Peoples Programme](#), Forest Peoples Program, 2016

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Forest Peoples Programme](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca
www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca