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## **Rougier further strengthens its development, with a 270,000 hectare forest concession awarded in the Central African Republic**

*Rougier, a market leader for certified African tropical timber with over two million hectares of forest concessions under management in Cameroon, Gabon and Congo, is announcing that it has been awarded a 270,000 hectare forest concession in the Central African Republic.*

### **Diversifying activities in the Central African Republic**

Awarded following an international tender process organized by the Central African Republic government, this concession, for a renewable 25-year period, covers the management and operation of a forest massif located in the Sangha-Mbaéré prefecture (southern Central African Republic) and made up of high value-added timber species such as Sapelli.

This acquisition will enable Rougier to develop new activities in the Central African Republic. Rougier Sangha Mbaéré, the dedicated new subsidiary set up, will benefit from all the expertise that the Group has already built up in the Congo Basin for responsible timber harvesting and industrial processing.

### **Major synergies with the Cameroon and Congo subsidiaries**

Adjoining the Northern Congo concession, operated by Mokabi, and following on from the Eastern Cameroon forest massif (Mbang), operated by SFID, Rougier Sangha Mbaéré is part of a regional integration project with extensive synergies - forest, industrial and logistics - that will ultimately enable it to become a major player for the sustainable management of forests in the Central African Republic.

Ultimately, the creation of Rougier Sangha Mbaéré will be accompanied by the establishment of a processing industry suitable for assigned area and its resources.

### **Wider recognition for Rougier's know-how in Africa**

Rougier Sangha Mbaéré's technical proposal, particularly in terms of local development and responsible forest management, was one of the key factors identified by the Central African Republic government, aiming to support its efforts to turn the timber industry around.

The awarding of this new concession offers further recognition of Rougier's know-how. A major forest operator in the Congo Basin, the Group is consolidating its economic development, while helping ensure that the forests entrusted to it are protected. Among other features, its commitments are reflected in chain of custody and legality verification and certification systems across all its concessions. Its actions are supported by the close partnerships established with local and international NGOs, including the WWF since early 2015.



*Founded in 1923, the Rougier Group is a market leader for certified African tropical timber. The Group operates around three business lines: Rougier Afrique International (natural forest harvesting, industrial processing and international trade), Rougier Sylvaco Panneaux (importing and distribution in France of timber from all origins), and Lignafrica (research, management and investment in industrial forest plantations in Africa).*

[www.rougier.fr](http://www.rougier.fr)



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**Contact:**  
Cyril Combe  
[cyril.combe@calyptus.net](mailto:cyril.combe@calyptus.net)  
Tel: +33 (0)1 53 65 68 68