Category: Obligations Relating to Non-State Actors

Sub-Category: Corporate Actions Relating to Human Rights and Environmental Protection

Name of Good Practice: Coca-Cola’s Commitments to Protect the Environment and Human Rights

Key Words: Access to Information, Awareness Raising, Corporations, Human Rights-Based Assessments, Indigenous, Land Grabbing, Monitoring

Implementing Actors: Corporation: Coca-Cola Company

Location: Global

Description: **​**The Coca-Cola Company, a multinational headquartered in the United States, produces multiple brands of non-alcoholic beverages, including its flagship product, Coca-Cola. In recent years, the company has undertaken many initiatives promoting environmental protection and human rights.

For example, the company has adopted a human rights policy, which applies to the company, the entities that it owns, the entities in which it holds a majority interest, and the facilities that it manages. The human rights policy provides that the Company “respects human rights” and that “it is committed to identify, prevent, and mitigate adverse human rights impacts resulting from or caused by our business activities before or if they occur through human rights due diligence and mitigation processes.” The company has also adopted supplier guiding principles (SGPs) that set out a series of human rights principles that it requires its suppliers to meet, which include a requirement that suppliers “will comply with all applicable local and national environmental laws.” According to the company, the SGPs are part of all contractual agreements between the company and “its direct and authorised suppliers,” and since the inception of the SGPs, it has undertaken over 17,500 independent human and workplace rights assessments of its bottling and supplier partners. The company explains that if “a supplier fails to uphold any aspect of the SGP requirements, the supplier is expected to implement corrective actions. The Company reserves the right to terminate an agreement with any supplier that cannot demonstrate that they are upholding the SGP requirements.” The company has also made a “commitment on zero tolerance for land grabs,” based on works brought to its attention from Oxfam, and has made a commitment to “conduct third-party social, environmental and human rights assessments” by 2020 in the top 16 countries where the Company sources sugar, including in Brazil, Guatemala, India, Philippines, Thailand and South Africa.

Further Information: More information on the company’s environmental initiatives: <http://www.coca-colacompany.com/topics/environment>; the SAGP: <http://assets.coca-colacompany.com/bb/28/0d592b834e9d8fd9afcccb1829b6/sustainable-agricultural-guiding-principles.pdf>; commitments to zero tolerance for land grabbing: <http://assets.coca-colacompany.com/6b/65/7f0d386040fcb4872fa136f05c5c/proposal-to-oxfam-on-land-tenure-and-sugar.pdf>.