



France has no lessons to give on how to protect tropical forests

While the French government was parading on the occasion of a new international meeting on the preservation of the tropical forests of the Congo Basin, the One Forest Summit, co-organized on March 1st and 2nd of this year, the associations for the protection of nature in French Guiana, co-signatories of this letter, recall that they are fighting on a daily basis to face the destructive projects supported by the French government, which are threatening the lands of the French Amazon.

1 - On the 1st of March, five people were arrested by the French police for protesting against the deforestation work carried out for the construction of a photovoltaic power plant near Saint Laurent du Maroni. This land is home of the indigenous village of Prospérité. The activist Thomas Brail, a member of the National Tree Monitoring Group, and four young indigenous people were released after several hours of detention. The [videos showing the French military protecting the deforestation](#) have gone around the world !

The project, carried out by [SAS CEOG in Western French Guiana](#) is a perfect example of what is not to be done: raze down 80 hectares of old-growth forest in a Regional Nature Park to put up solar panels, without guaranteeing free, prior and informed consultation of the inhabitants. The project owner, a financier close to Emmanuel Macron, gained the authorizations in a record time and benefits from military support to devastate the Amazonian forest, while maintaining at a distance the associations whose mobilization continues.

2 - In addition, the signatories have been denouncing for several weeks the development of [the industrial production of biomass in French Guiana](#), which threatens the integrity of the Amazonian forest. The French government is lobbying the European authorities to obtain the extension of a derogation from the criteria of sustainability and reduction of GHG emissions in the draft directive on renewable energy, RED III. (see [page 62 point gb](#)).

Negotiations between the Parliament, the Commission and the European Council (trialogue) on these provisions will be held on Wednesday, March 29. The signatories denounce this renouncement from the ambitions of the EU on climate protection and the fight against deforestation, as this exemption could encourage in French Guiana the replacement by intensive monocultures of trees or plants for energy (including for the space sector) of thousands of hectares of forests rich in biodiversity and holding large carbon stock.

The signatories defend the forest of French Guiana, rich in biodiversity that is still far from having been inventoried by scientists, and we oppose these projects, which are blind to current issue and which run counter to ambitions in terms of renewable energies and fight against deforestation, in violation of the rights of the first peoples of French Guiana.

We therefore ask France and in particular President Emmanuel Macron to take commitments to the rainforest of Guiana in order to protect it from the threats related to the development of pseudo "green" energy projects. Those are false solutions, whose impact would be irreversible for a territory already strongly weakened by global warming and years of polluting and ecocidal mining activities

We ask you to oppose the derogation during the european negotiations in order to cancel this derogation or at least to suspend its effects for the time of a thorough impact study regarding the respect of the protection of biodiversity, and the engagements to fights against climate change and imported deforestation.

See the list of signatory associations :

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The file "Danger : Industrial biomass in the primary forest of French Guiana" to discover on this link:

<https://sites.google.com/site/maiourinature/fusee-bio>

Supporters of the struggle of the Amerindian village Prospérité :

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Association Nationale pour la Biodiversité :

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