

Mr Georges Dallemagne
Bureau au Parlement fédéral:
Maison des Parlementaires
Rue de Louvain, 21 (Bureau 1234)
1000 Bruxelles
Belgium

29 November 2012

Dear Mr Dallemagne

I believe that on 6th December 2013, the Belgian Parliament will be voting to pass a resolution to protect the Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), following the proposal you and your colleague Christian Brotcorne co-wrote in July 2012.

I do not believe you have been in touch with SOCO International plc ('SOCO') in the past, and I wanted to begin a channel of communication with you in the spirit of openness and transparency.

There have been several misconceptions surrounding SOCO's activities in the Virunga National Park and I would like to make sure you and your colleagues are aware of some key facts:

SOCO's involvement in Block V is at the express invitation of the Congolese Government.

Block V is a 7,500 sq km area which has been delineated by the DRC Government for the purpose of oil and gas exploration. It is located in Eastern DRC, adjacent to the border with Uganda. Block V includes Lake Edward (on the DRC side) and the adjacent lowland savannah, both of which are within the Virunga National Park.

It is emphasised that Block V is not located within the mountainous Mikeno Sector, home to the famous Mountain Gorillas. Furthermore, SOCO has stated it will never seek to have operations in the Mountain Gorilla habitat, the Virunga Volcanoes or the Virunga equatorial rainforest. This has been subject to much inaccurate media speculation.

Importantly, to clarify the context of SOCO's involvement in Virunga National Park:

- In March 2011, the DRC Government commissioned a Strategic Environment Evaluation ('SEE') of the area covered by the Virunga National Park and Block V. Relevant to SOCO, the SEE includes scientific studies to assess the region's petroleum resource potential, and it is this which forms the context for SOCO's activities and permits.
- To carry out the studies, the DRC Government is utilising oil exploration companies, such as SOCO, with whom it had already signed production sharing agreements.
- This approach is described in a press release issued by the DRC Government in August 2012, which is available on its website (http://www.mecnt.cd/images/DOWN/com_eerifalbertin.pdf).

Continued ...

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

2/Continued

Although there have been reports in the media to the contrary, no drilling has been planned, or is even warranted.

An aerial survey is the only exploration activity planned at this time and, as stated above, has been given the go ahead by the DRC Government within the context of its 'Strategic Environment Evaluation'.

I am uncertain what the Virunga National Park landscape looked like when it was declared a World Heritage Site in 1979. However, I am aware of what the area looks like today, scarred by decades of deforestation, poaching and violence against its inhabitants, and I can state with certainty that any adverse effects, if any at all, caused by our activities in the region will be inconsequential by comparison.

I would like to make the point that SOCO's agenda is not so dissimilar with that of environmental NGOs. SOCO cares about the environment and the local communities, and I am of the conviction that our activities will provide an economic stimulus in the region for the communities' livelihood, and accordingly will reduce the pervasive poverty that is currently one of the primary threats to conservation.

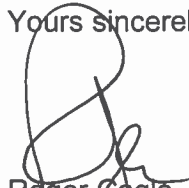
SOCO is committed to conducting all business activities in a responsible manner to ensure the protection of the environment.

Moreover, we intend for our positive social impact on the Block V surroundings to far outweigh any minor environmental impact that the Company's activities may have. It is absolutely our intention to have a positive social impact on the local communities' lives, so we can truly say as an organisation that we have been a positive presence.

We realise that a successful project can transform the economic and social wellbeing of a host country, by contributing to its ability to produce and supply its own natural resources, as well as the creation of jobs, up-skilling and the support of local communities, with whom we are in touch to understand their needs and priorities.

I hope the facts in this letter have been useful and that we can engage positively in the future.

Yours sincerely



Roger Cagle
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Chief Financial Officer
and Executive Vice President
SOCO International plc