

National Contact Point of Switzerland

Specific Instance regarding the World Wide Fund for Nature International (WWF) submitted by Survival International Charitable Trust

Berne, 7 September 2017

Statement of the Swiss NCP on the publication of confidential information by Survival International regarding the mediation process with WWF International

The National Contact Point of Switzerland (Swiss NCP) has received a written submission on 19 February 2016 to consider a specific instance under the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises regarding WWF International. This specific instance raised by Survival International concerns the rights of the Baka people of southeast Cameroon related to the environmentally protected areas, which the government of Cameroon has introduced with the financial and logistical support of WWF. On 20 December 2016, it has published the report on the Initial Assessment which resulted in the conclusion that the issues raised in the submission merit further consideration, and that the Swiss NCP therefore accepts the specific instance. Thus, it has offered its good offices to the parties in order to facilitate a dialogue between them and to find mutually satisfying, forward-looking solutions.

If the parties decide to participate in the mediation, they agree to respect the rules on confidentiality according to the Procedural Guidance of the Swiss NCP. Consequently, the parties involved may not make public any information on the mediation process unless the other party expressly agrees to it or except from the final statement disclosed by the NCP. On 5 September 2017, Survival International published a statement about the ongoing NCP procedure and informed about its withdrawal from this process. The Swiss NCP regrets this breach of confidentiality rules and reminds that mutual trust is a very important aspect of successful mediation. The Swiss NCP does not agree with the description of the mediation process and the alleged lack of impartiality of the Swiss NCP. As Survival International is solely responsible for the content of its public statement, the Swiss NCP will not further comment on its accuracy.

In view of Survival International's withdrawal from this process, the Swiss NCP will now close this specific instance and publish a final statement on its website.

Please find further information on the specific instance procedure in the Swiss NCP's Procedural Guidance:

https://www.seco.admin.ch/seco/en/home/Aussenwirtschaftspolitik_Wirtschaftliche_Zusammenarbeit/Wirtschaftsbeziehungen/NKP.html