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## MEDIA COMMUNIQUÉ

### CAO Visit to Honduras Related to IFC's Environmental and Social Performance of Investment in Dinant

Washington, D.C., March 27, 2017 – The Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO), the independent accountability mechanism for IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, is in Honduras, March 27-31, 2017, to meet with stakeholders in Tegucigalpa and the Lower Aguán as part of ongoing compliance work related to IFC's investment in Corporación Dinant, a palm oil and food company. CAO is monitoring IFC's actions to address compliance findings identified in its [2014 audit](#) of IFC's environmental and social performance related to Dinant. CAO is also conducting a compliance appraisal of two complaints regarding the project.

IFC's support for Dinant comprises a US\$30 million loan agreement to fund expansion of the company's snacks and edible oils processing facilities. CAO initiated a compliance audit of IFC's due diligence related to the investment in 2012 following reports of violent conflict in and around Dinant's palm oil plantations in the Aguán Valley. CAO's monitoring considers actions taken by IFC in response to the audit findings, which was released in January 2014. CAO's ongoing compliance appraisal considers IFC's performance in relation to issues raised in two complaints (Dinant-[02](#) and -[03](#)) received separately from *campesino* organizations in the Lower Aguán region.

While in Honduras, the CAO team will meet with representatives of Dinant, the Government of Honduras, local and international NGOs, the complainants, and other communities potentially impacted by Dinant's activities. The visit will inform CAO's third monitoring report of IFC related to the case, and a compliance appraisal report outlining next steps in relation to the complaints.

"The focus of CAO's compliance work is on IFC's performance. In carrying out this work, CAO recognizes the importance of meeting with affected communities and IFC clients." said Osvaldo Gratacós, CAO Vice President. "CAO continues to monitor progress by IFC to address identified compliance issues related to Dinant, and will complete its compliance appraisal shortly, after meeting with affected communities, their representatives, and other relevant stakeholders in Honduras."

More information about this case is available at [www.cao-ombudsman.org](http://www.cao-ombudsman.org)  
Information about the project can be found on IFC's website at [www.ifc.org/disclosure](http://www.ifc.org/disclosure)

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#### About CAO:

The Office of the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO) is the independent accountability mechanism for the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), members of the World Bank Group. CAO's mandate is to address complaints from people affected by IFC and MIGA projects in a manner that is fair, objective, and constructive and to improve environmental and social outcomes on the ground. [www.cao-ombudsman.org](http://www.cao-ombudsman.org)