

## KKO INTERNATIONAL SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES THE FIRST STAGE OF ITS RAINFOREST ALLIANCE CERTIFICATION

Paris & Brussels, 19th April 2016 (5.45 pm) – KKO INTERNATIONAL, the world's leading company in the innovative production of cocoa, has announced the successful completion of stage one of its Rainforest Alliance certification, with a conclusive pre-audit.



Rainforest Alliance is a non-profit international organisation that aims to preserve biodiversity and ensure the means for sustainable living. Producers that hold the Rainforest Alliance label commit to comply with a series of environmental, social and economic criteria for ensuring sustainable agriculture.

SOLEA, the production subsidiary of KKO INTERNATIONAL, is actively involved in the protection of soil and waterways. It also has a commitment to the ongoing improvement of living conditions, with infrastructure projects and programmes for providing safe drinking water. SOLEA, of course, does not allow child labour at its plantations and, more generally, fights against the exploitation of children through the major efforts it makes in the area of education, specifically having built a school. In addition, all SOLEA employees attend Rainforest Alliance training courses to ensure effective and sustainable agricultural management practices that minimise the impact on the environment.

Rémy Allemane, Chief Executive Officer of SOLEA, the production subsidiary of KKO INTERNATIONAL, said, *"We are very pleased with this conclusive pre-audit, which concludes and ratifies an important step in our Rainforest Alliance certification – a label with worldwide recognition that is underwritten by independent NGOs. Our aim from the very beginning of this project has been to bring together local communities and respect the environment in which we live and work. We selected this particular certification in order to bring our strong commitments to fruition. It is a long process that we embarked upon more than a year ago and that we intend to pursue at all times. We are determined to continue along this path so that we can produce excellent yields of high-quality cocoa while guaranteeing the income and enhanced means of support for everyone. We very much look forward to receiving the teams from AfriCert over the coming weeks for our final audit. Having this certification will make our cocoa even more attractive to chocolate manufacturers."*



### A propos de KKO International

KKO International, à travers sa filiale ivoirienne SOLEA, ambitionne de devenir la plus grande plantation de cacao en Côte d'Ivoire, premier pays producteur mondial de fèves de cacao. Grâce à des techniques agronomiques innovantes, KKO International vise des rendements de production de fèves de cacao jamais atteints sur une telle superficie et s'est fixée pour objectif d'exploiter 3 000 hectares d'ici fin 2017.

[www.kko-international.com](http://www.kko-international.com)

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