

Topic: Pollution of the Aguán River

Updated as of April 2025

No.	Date and Topic	Complainant	Allegations
Q.002	May 28, 2024 Environmental Impact: Pollution of the Aguán River.	Criterion.hn	-Corporación Dinant has been accused by peasant communities in the Bajo Aguán region of causing environmental pollution, contamination of the Aguán River, and soil degradation, which negatively affect the health and well-being of peasant families.
Description of the Facts	No direct complaints have been received from the communities within the area of influence of the plantations or extraction plants regarding environmental impacts on the river. Nor has any official communication been received concerning a complaint filed by any official or governmental entity.		
Company Response	The Aguán Agroindustrial Complex is located approximately 3.5 kilometers away from the Aguán River, and the processing plant does not discharge into any receiving water bodies. Therefore, contamination associated with production processes is not possible. Additionally, the facility has an industrial wastewater treatment system in place, which consists of: Lagoon Treatment System: To treat the effluents generated by the palm oil extraction plants, the treatment system includes several components: The oil removal or equalization ponds regulate flow, recover oil, and reduce temperature; the cooling towers ensure the proper temperature for the microorganisms; the anaerobic ponds, where anaerobic bacteria decompose organic matter in two stages, reducing between 80% and 90% of the organic load and solids; and the facultative ponds, which contain aerobic and anaerobic layers, achieving further degradation. Prior to the invasions of the plantations, once the organic load of the effluent was reduced in the anaerobic ponds, the water would pass to the aerobic system. Due to its high content of organic nutrients, the effluent was reused in our oil palm plantations as monitored liquid organic fertilizer (applied through an irrigation system). Due to the issue of invasions on the oil palm plantations, the application of the monitored liquid organic fertilization has been discontinued, as the company no longer has control over the land. As a result, the following measures have been implemented: • Construction of new drying yards. After the drying process, the sludge is transferred to the oil palm plantations as part of the organic fertilization program.		

	Expansion and improvements of the wastewater treatment system. This expansion includes the installation of an aerobic reactor and a dissolved air flotation (DAF) system, to discharge the water into a receiving body, in compliance with the regulations established by the Wastewater Unit of the Ministry of Environment.
Status	Closed