

The RSPO is an international non-profit organization formed in 2004 with the objective to promote the growth and use of sustainable oil palm products through credible global standards and engagement of stakeholders.

# MINUTES OF MEETING 12th Peatland Working Group 2 (PLWG-2) Meeting

Date : 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020 Venue : Virtual Meeting

#### **Attendees List**

SECTOR	SUBSTANTIVE MEMBERS	ALTERNATIVE MEMBERS
GROWERS (MALAYSIA)	<ul><li>Jason Foong (KLK)</li><li>Joshua Mathews (IOI)</li></ul>	Arif Sugandi (AAR KLK)
GROWERS (INDONESIA)	<ul><li>Lim Sian Choo (BGA)</li><li>Gotz Martin (GAR)</li></ul>	Desti Hertanti (GAR)
GROWERS (REST OF THE WORLD)	William Unsworth (NBPOL)	Sim Choon Cheak (SD)
SOCIAL NGO	<ul><li> Jason Hon (WWF)</li><li> Wida Nindita (Sawit Watch)</li></ul>	
ENVIRONMENTAL NGO	<ul><li>Faizal Parish (GEC)</li><li>Dato Kheizrul Abdullah (Wetlands International)</li></ul>	<ul><li>Mohd.Faizuddin (GEC)</li><li>Almo Pradana (WRI)</li></ul>
PALM OIL PROCESSOR AND TRADERS	<ul><li>Chin Kaixiang (Bunge Loders Croklaan)</li><li>Julia Lo (Musim Mas)</li></ul>	Feber Antarisu/Surya Purnama (Wilmar International)



NO	ITEM DESCRIPTION	MAIN DISCUSSION POINTS	ACTION POINTS	PROGRESS UPDATE	
16th	6th June 2020 (Tuesday)				
1	Review of previous minutes of meeting	Secretariat went through the agenda for this meeting. This was followed by walkthrough of action items and progress from previous meeting.  New member to PLWG was welcomed, Ian Orrell (NBPOL) was replaced by Willam Unsworth (NBPOL).  WG suggested to have a separate list on action items alone.			
2	Updates on Resolution GA16 -6E and peat inventory monitoring	Secretariat gave a breakdown of submission from previous update and the total area (planted & unplanted).  Follow up with growers of incomplete submission and clarifications are still on-going.  From the last meeting, Secretariat have reached out the companies identified to have exceptionally high area on peat that is unplanted to understand what this area constitutes or if there was a potential mistake in keying in the figures. Based on the clarifications received from 3 companies, the 3 major breakdown for unplanted area are conservation area, peat rehabilitation area and others (infrastructure, buildings etc). The clarifications on this will continue.  WG commented that there could also be potential enclave area coming from community areas, it will be good to check if there are any.  Secretariat also did a projection on drainability assessment based on first year of planting. This was done by looking at the first year of	To continue with follow-up and clarification from grower and P&T members.	<ul> <li>Current completion of the peat inventory submissions at 63% of 132 members (95% of members identified in Gunarso study)</li> <li>28 complete submissions, 2 certified only, 7 clarification required (total: 37 submissions)</li> <li>46 no peat declarations</li> <li>47 non-submitting members (9 Indonesia, 7 Msia, 20 LatAm, 10 Africa, 2 Thailand, 1 Cambodia)</li> <li>For non-submitting members, Secretariat has sent the list of the RSPO</li> </ul>	



		planting that was disclosed and assuming the peat was replanted after every 20 years (as crop cycle). The timeline to carry out the drainability assessment was based on 15 <sup>th</sup> years.		members to be circulated to all CBs for their further action. (circulated to CBs 25th August 2020).
3	Updates and discussion on Drainability Assessment monitoring	Secretariat gave a status update on Drainability Assessment Review as shown in Appendix 2. There are 18 DA reports consisting of 3 that has been approved and the balance 15 is being reviewed. This is a progress compared to previous meeting where only 1 report that was approved.  The 15 reports that are being reviewed consist of the following:  • 5 reports are being pre-reviewed which takes 7 working days  • 5 reports are being fully-reviewed which takes 30 working days  • 3 DA reports submitted using other than RSPO method, waiting for grower's feedback,  • 3 reports sent in requesting for approval using non RSPO DA methodology.  There was a suggestion to outsource the review which will be discussed later. Secretariat will be releasing TOR for new reviewers and also introduce the grower's checklist in attempt to reduce the duration taken for review.  Slide on issues/challenges faced so far on DA review and the improvements are attached in Appendix 2. While discussing on the list of improvements, the idea on discharge outlet was further explained by co-chairs. So, there are multiple outlets but it is not clear which distance should be selected for example is the case of dome peat where there can be multiple outlets for the water to flow. The straight-line approach is easy while using GIS but this underestimates the actual distance.	<ul> <li>To add mitigation measures to avoid exposing acid sulphate soil</li> <li>To share a content on methods of using GPS for elevation data</li> <li>TOR for DA review to add on timeline (compensation panel)</li> <li>DA reviewer's service agreement to mention the duration for review, consent to conduct review, declare conflict of interest. Allocation of job will be by case by case (ref: compensation panel's role)</li> <li>RSPO to come up with official letter for all current reviewers to confirm if they can continue reviewing DA</li> <li>DA Review panel to come up with a flow chart</li> </ul>	



WG also raised that the methodology should be updated by progress via public consultation since growers are struggling with the as is method. Co-chairs explained that this is a review process post the 1-year implementation period to discuss existing issues. So further meeting will follow up to accommodate to this revision as this will not be an immediate implementation. The procedure will be further discussed among the working group.

WG also added that it should be clear on the plot size for replanting that way it is easier during audit as well to explain to the auditor. Whereas for fragmented plot (less patch of 10h or 15ha) doesn't require DA. So, points like this are missing in the procedure which needs to be included. There will be flexibility given where companies can bundle up peat that are nearing 15 years to aggregate to a larger area for assessment.

On calculating the number of years taken for mineral years to be exposed, this is needed to ensure the calculation of drainage base is done correctly. The conclusion of reports where Ddb>Dp, they will conclude the reports as DA is not applicable provided the other information are given to ensure the calculation was done correctly.

On source of data for elevation, as long as the water level in outlet and drainability area is referenced to the same source then it should be acceptable especially in the case of Indonesia where this is can be challenging to get this data. This should be averaged from 12 months data.

WG raised scenarios where companies that would like to replant this year and doesn't have 12 months data. Over the implementation period, this is where the transition period comes in. There is an alternative approach by taking mean water level based on available data or based on rain fall curve this can be used as a conservative mean water level. If it's the dry season then maximum flood level will

- Peat audit checklist (minor review)
- Grower DA checklist (grower will sign this checklist)
- To add discussed question and re-circulate the FAQ
- DA review subgroup to look at the guidance for alternative method

 Guidance for alternative methods have been put onhold since there are no new request and companies with existing request have turned into using the RSPO DA method.



	be needed.  There were several other challenges raised such as if GPS reading car be used for elevation. WG explained that GPS error can be huge. The vertical error can be quiet high depending on the vegetation cover as well. So, GPS will not be an accurate elevation to be used. However, there are few processing that can be done to increase the accuracy.  It was also recommended that DTM must be given instead of DEM and DSM. There is also new technology available for cross checking of data, called GIDI for surface elevation.  DAP list of improvements to be added in the procedure:  Review panel to look into content for selection of water outlet as revision for DAP.  To add content on DA to be conducted for significant area, patches less than 15 - 20 ha not needed to do DA  To come up with a summary table in English for DA in Indonesian language.  To include a survey benchmark when using government data and for fields data need at least 12 months data  Interim measure for companies without complete 12 months data  Interim measure for companies without complete 12 months data  Input on how to do calibration for better accuracy  Content/procedure for DA that are conducted for palms of 15years old.	
4 Updates on RSPO DA Training by Wetlands International (WI)	etlands The breakdown of the modules as below:	



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		<ul> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> module: Drainability Assessment Procedure Drainability Process, design philosophy, DA, assessment procedure (Tier 1 &amp; Tier 2)</li> <li>3<sup>rd</sup> module: Step by step procedure using Tier 1 &amp; Tier 2</li> <li>4<sup>th</sup> module: Annex 3 and Annex 4</li> <li>5<sup>th</sup> module: Field work</li> <li>6<sup>th</sup> module: Tutorial</li> <li>WG was checking if both classroom and field work can be done via zoom due to Covid travel restriction. Dato Keizrul explained that this is possible.</li> </ul>		
5	Discussion on ISH BMP Chapter 2: Water Management	Secretariat showed the current approach suggested for Independent Smallholders (ISH) to conduct a flooding risk management. The concept to conduct flooding risk are there however the steps to carry out the assessment has not been designed yet.  The WG suggested to have this assessment against a risk matrix. Faiz, Pak Arif and Jason will be looking at developing this matrix and discuss this with the ISH PLWG subgroup.	<ul> <li>assessment table for ISH peat BMP</li> <li>Picture of collection drain to be adjusted to SH scenarios</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Faiz have shared input on how to carry out flooding risk assessment and the risk matrix chart.</li> <li>Discussion on this chapter is on-going and to potentially come up with a flood risk assessment template.</li> </ul>
7	Updates on Sustainability College	Secretariat have circulated BMP Volume 2 to all however to make the review easier, WG members were volunteered with few chapters that they are familiar.  Secretariat will be working on developing BMP Volume 1 into a slide	<ul> <li>Review of BMP Vol 2, send by modules:</li> <li>Secretariat and WG</li> <li>M1: Sian Choo</li> <li>M2, M3: All</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>All reviews have been received. Improvements based on review is on-going.</li> <li>Secretariat circulated BMP Volume 1 (ppt) for</li> </ul>



		format and circulate this for review.	M4, M5: Will M6: Julia M7: Dato Keizrul M8, M9: Gotz M10, M11: GEC M12: Jason Hon	<ul> <li>Both Vol 1 and Vol 2 of the BMP in Bahasa Indonesia has been received and is currently being reviewed by RRO, target for completion is before RT.</li> </ul>
6	AOB and next meeting	<ul> <li>Drainability Assessment Factsheet         All correction and comments have been reflected and transitional arrangement was also included in the factsheet.     </li> <li>Terms of Reference (ToR) for Drainability Assessment Reviewer Secretariat showed the TOR for DA reviewers which will be used to expand the current pool of reviewers. WG commented that its best to keep the timeline to annual duration, that way the service agreement will also be subjected to annual review. WG suggested to take up similar approach for LUCA reviewer. Reviewers will also need to declare if there are potential conflict of interest. The final version to be recirculated among WG members.</li> </ul>		Factsheet will be revisited upon completion of revised DAP.
		<ul> <li>Peat Audit Checklist in Bahasa Indonesia</li> <li>Guidance for approval on Non-RSPO Drainability Assessment (DA) Methodology</li> <li>The DA subgroup will be reviewing this guidance separately while comments from WG are also welcomed.</li> <li>Grower's Checklist for RSPO DA</li> <li>This checklist will come in effect with the revised DAP. Few comments were received from WG that was included in this</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Peat Audit checklist will be sent to Pak Arif, Almo and Pak Arya for the minor clarification. The overall checklist will be reviewed again to align with the updated DAP.</li> </ul>	The peat audit checklist post review was sent to Secretariat on 19 <sup>th</sup> June.



	checklist. The checklist was also recirculated among WG members.	

Appendix 1:

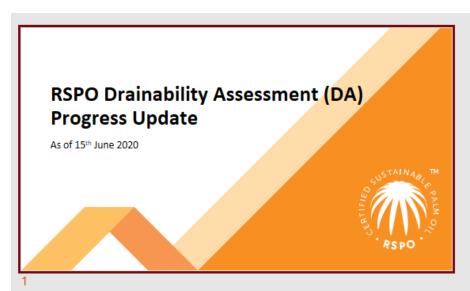


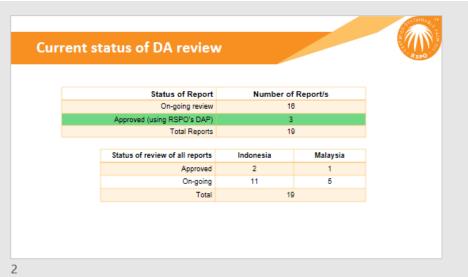
## 12<sup>th</sup> PLWG-2 meeting

# Meeting via Zoom Date of meeting: 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Time (MYT)	Agenda
9.00 am – 9.30 am	1. Updates on action items from previous meeting and introduction of
	new member
9.30 am – 10.00 am	2. Updates on peat inventory monitoring
10.00 am – 10.45 am	3. Updates on Drainability Assessment monitoring
	4. Discussion on Drainability Assessment Procedure
10.45 am – 11.00 am	Break
11.00 am – 11.45 am	5. Updates RSPO DA Training by Wetlands International
11.45 am – 12.30 pm	6. Discussion on ISH BMP Chapter 2: Water Management
12.30 pm – 1.00 pm	7. AOB and next meeting

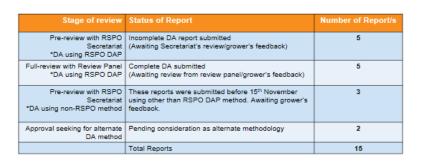






### Breakdown of 'On-going' DA review

There are 15 reports with 'on-going' DA review, which are grouped as below:



#### Issues

- urrently submitting in both
- There is no standard language mentioned which should be used for DA reporting. Growers are currently submitting in both English and Bahasa Indonesia.
- Current calculation for elevation measurement is a straight line between the field and outlet. In some plantation this 'straight line' is a much longer route eg when the land is hilly.
- 3. Some Companies are conducting DA for relatively small area (10 20ha) if the planted area for the target year is small.
- Companies are giving summary of findings without details of data measurement and calculation for assessment that results in Ddb > Dp since DA is not applicable.
- The procedure do not have a standard term to describe the number of years left before reaching mineral layer. This is to be used for fields that does not apply DLT and NRI.
- 6. Reports lack baseline reference points for terrain elevation study.
- The significance of non-approval of DA reports which have been submitted for palms that are more than 15 years old/more than 5 years before replanting should be clarified.

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### Improvements for revision of RSPO DAP



- The DAP needs to be specific on which discharge outlet should be selected (should be the one where water from the replanting site is discharged). Suggest to include:
- Map showing location of the outlet and the route that the water takes (ie map of drainage system with arrows showing flow direction) when flowing to this outlet
- Require the distance to the outlet to be measured as the actual distance flowed along the drainage system (not the straight line as currently).
- Need to include that DA is advised to be conducted for significant area of at least several hundred ha if necessary by including fields with ages less than 15 years after replanting. This would ensure that the company does not have to prepare reports every years for small areas.
- For area where DA is not applicable (Ddb > Dp), growers need to indicate the number of years until the mineral layer is exposed (Dp/s), which is currently not mentioned in the procedure.
- DAP reports should be in English or at minimum with an English summary. A summary Datasheet should be placed at the beginning
- If elevation is determined in reference to a government or other survey marker the location and details need to be included in the report

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