

# Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

## NEWSLETTER

For RSPO Members

Issue #9

October-December 2006



Top (L-R): RT4 speakers - David McLaughlin, Chiquita; Charlie Ross, Environmental Management & Monitoring Pty Ltd; Asril Darussamin, IPOC; David Ogg, Control Union; Ishmael Doodoo, ProForest; Umberto Villars, Migros; Bambang Dwi Laksono, PT PP London Sumatra; Hereward Corley; and Andrew Ng, RSPO. Bottom: RT4 was attended by 388 participants from 28 countries.

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Members of RSPO

# RSPO

Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

# RSPO

Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) is a global multi-stakeholder initiative on sustainable palm oil that was formally established under Article 60 of the Swiss Civil Code on 8 April 2004. The not-for-profit Association will have members representing major players along the palm oil supply chain. The RSPO is a unique platform for pragmatic co-operation to contribute to the expansion of sustainably produced palm oil and its uses.

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*Rikke Netterstrom - The Body Shop*

*Fitrian Ardiansyah - WWF-Indonesia*

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*M R Chandran*

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## President's Welcome Message



Dear Sustainable Palm Oil Supporters,

Roundtable conference # 4 in Singapore is over. You will find a report on the conference in this newsletter. Personally, I was pleased with the number of people who participated and the engagement of participants in the discussions. Clearly, there are still a lot of issues to resolve. Equally clear is that the market is anxious to see sustainable palm oil arrive on the scene. This is obvious for instance in the development of RSPO membership. As I am writing this, RSPO has 145 registered members, with 32 growers, 58 processors and traders, 22 consumer goods manufacturers, 15 retailers, 8 banks and investors, 6 environmental NGOs and 4 social NGOs. Most of the membership growth in recent months was in the processors/traders category (with quite a number of energy companies) and in the consumer goods and retailer sector.

We have taken steps to bring the work on the verification framework to a close, planned for June 2007. We will re-balance the Verification Working Group, finalise draft documents and circulate them for comments, add certification and accreditation expertise to the group, and hopefully come up with an operational framework in 6 months time.

The debate on biofuels and to what extent biofuels can contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases has only just begun. The fact that biofuels are renewable does in itself not mean they are carbon neutral i.e. that burning them does not have a net contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. Farm and plantation inputs, soil preparation and harvesting, transport, storage and processing, all require energy inputs and therefore contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. And according to a report published a few weeks ago by Wetlands International, in case plantations are established on peat soils the greenhouse gas emissions from that (when peat lands are drained, the peat starts to oxidize) are bigger than all of the above put together.

On top of that, it is becoming more and more obvious that large scale support for biofuels in the U.S.A. and Europe has potentially damaging effects on other sectors of industry. To name but one example, if the price of corn continues to rise in the U.S.A., the competitiveness of the US hog business compared to Brazil is under serious threat. The American hamburger might become more expensive. We intend to use the next RSPO Executive Board meeting in Europe to have some more discussions on these topics.

In the mean time, the Roundtable on Responsible Soy has been registered as an association under Swiss law. Please check out [www.responsiblesoy.org](http://www.responsiblesoy.org) for more information. Membership application forms can be found on the web site.

I send you all the best Seasonal Greetings.

Jan Kees Vis

# 4th Roundtable Meeting on Sustainable Palm Oil

Promoting the growth and use of sustainable palm oil

21-22 November 2006

Meritus Mandarin Singapore

# RT4

## Summary of Results & Recommendations



The 4th Roundtable Meeting on Sustainable Palm Oil (or RT4) was held in Singapore on 21-22 November 2006. With a total participation list numbering 388 individuals from over 28 countries. Compared to RT3 in 2005 with over 320 participants, the increasing number of participants reflects the growing stature and importance of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). As well the RT meeting week is becoming synonymous with a summit for all stakeholders with an urgent contribution or issue relating to sustainable palm oil – whether from the various sectoral or stakeholder groups to discussions on technical issues.

To understand the agenda set for RT4 requires a glance back 12-months at the 3rd Roundtable Meeting on Sustainable Palm Oil (RT3) and subsequent 2nd General Assembly of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil in 2005. At that time, the following were set out as the agenda for RSPO:

1. Prepare sustainable palm oil verification protocol options for RSPO Members consideration and endorsement.
2. Review, consult & select supply chain option(s).
3. Prepare a Code of Conduct for RSPO Members that binds them to a common goal.

As the dust settles on RT4, it is opportune to review how far RSPO has reached in the above 3 goals. The 4 working sessions at RT4 mirrored the 3 goals while the on-going showcase of RSPO Members and others' work on furthering the cause of achieving the production, procurement and use of sustainable palm oil made the final in the quartet.

In his opening, Jan Kees Vis, RSPO President touched on the growing debate arising as a consequence of increased interest in palm oil for biofuels. In meeting the demands of the world for food and fuel, he saw the work of RSPO of providing the world with sustainable palm oil becoming more crucial. The highlight of the opening session was keynote speaker David McLaughlin of Chiquita relating experiences from banana certification. In his keynote, he expressed in frank terms the frustrations, aspirations, challenges and finally pay-off from committing to a corporation / organisational policy to become sustainable. His final message was a positively framed urge to producers to take the step forward.

Session I titled *Presentation and discussion of verification protocol* aimed to provide a wide range of experiences with testing or trialing audits against the RSPO Principles & Criteria for Sustainable Palm Oil Production (P&C). Six presentations covered experiences from various perspectives in an audit exercise. The key paper on Verification Systems was presented by Ian Gray of ProForest. Gray elaborated on the process as it stood, with additional consultative meetings being held on 19 October 2006 and 20 November 2006. In light of concerns brought to the Executive Board at the 20 November meeting by an NGO grouping, it was clear that a Verification options paper cannot be tabled for the 3rd General Assembly of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil on 22 November 2006 (GA3). There needs a re-consideration of the VWG composition, and address the letter. Further deliberation with an inclusive working group and public consultation would be needed once discussions resume. The Malaysian Palm Oil Association (MPOA) highlighted Costs & implementation: concerns regarding verification and meeting RSPO criteria from the Malaysian producer perspective, including potential costs with meeting the RSPO P&C implementation. The following 4 presentations related experiences from varying perspectives, including producer (New Britain Palm Oil Ltd, NBPOL), independent consultant (Environmental Management & Monitoring Pty Ltd, EMandM), and two auditors with different angles from SIRIM (Oil palm for national interpretation in Malaysia) as well as Control Union (Challenges of certification from the certifiers' perspective). Simon Lord of NBPOL contended that meeting ISO standards gave advantage to NBPOL to test and adopt the RSPO P&C. While challenging, Lord cited tools like the Self-Assessment Toolkits being shared through RSPO as useful in starting the process and

# 4th Roundtable Meeting on Sustainable Palm Oil

Promoting the growth and use of sustainable palm oil

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# RT4

build up practices. Charlie Ross (EMandM) ended by stressing the importance of identifying indicators as it was critical in verifying an operating unit against the RSPO P&C. Sabarinah Marzuki (SIRIM) related testing and comparison between the Malaysian GAP (MSGAP) standard vis-à-vis RSPO P&C. While there was some convergence, the emphasis on food-safety for the former against the biodiversity and social requirements of the latter meant that both were aimed at different needs. Finally David Ogg (Control Union) presented results from a test audit conducted the week before RT4 and enthusiastically shared with RT4 participants that meeting and being verified against the RSPO P&C is possible with existing official documents like the RSPO P&C and its guidance document.

In drawing up a summary for Session I, it would be misleading to conclude that there is no commonality and results are heterogeneous. It definitely suggests that no formula or short-cut for achieving excellence or meeting certain performance standards exists. Whether one builds upon existing systems or tailor fits tools, both implementation and verification must take proactive steps to test and share information with other initiatives within RSPO as well as Members. The concerns on meeting the demands of the RSPO P&C and VWG process were well documented and elaborated through discussion during Session I's group-work.

Session II focused on projects and was aptly titled *Carrying the Principles & Criteria for Sustainable Palm Oil Production forward*.

As suggested, the focus was on projects and initiatives with clear progress, including on interpretation and implementation of the RSPO P&C. Four plenary papers preceded the Wall Gallery Walk that covered 12 poster presentations on various topics covering the various Principles & Criteria for the RSPO P&C. In the plenary, both Bambang Dwi Laksono of PT PP London Sumatra Indonesia and Dr Hereward Corley gave pragmatic suggestions based on experience. PT PP London Sumatra Indonesia echoes the conclusion by NBPOL in Session I that the ISO 14001 framework provides a strong. Dr Corley's presentation drew discussion on implementing the 10-steps recommended that covered specific criteria from Principles 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Dr Asril Darussamin of the Indonesian Palm Oil Commission (KMSI) presented results from work carried out with smallholders to raise awareness about RSPO, the RSPO P&C as well as gathering inputs from oil palm smallholders, a project financed by the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality through the Tripartite Partnership between Netherlands, Indonesia and Malaysia. The presentation examined interactions between smallholders and High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) and where practices threatened HCVFs. The results of a smallholder workshop on the RSPO P&C with WWF were presented, concluding that modifications were needed to suit the characteristics of smallholder operations. Documentation was a concern that needs joint effort by smallholders, nucleus estates, civil society and government. The results of the Self-Assessment exercise by the 2-year trial



RT4 Wall Gallery Walk Session featuring posters on P&C testing.

# 4th Roundtable Meeting on Sustainable Palm Oil

Promoting the growth and use of sustainable palm oil

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Meritus Mandarin Singapore

# RT4

group were presented, where 14 companies shared results using either one or both of the Lord/Thomas or Gan/KLK formats. Results indicated that Principle 6 was difficult to meet and understand while most turned in high competencies in Principles 2, 3, 4 and 7.

After lunch, an independent group of community farmers and smallholders from the Sanggau district of Kalimantan Barat (West Kalimantan) were granted a voice to share their concerns and demands as local communities, relating conflicts and struggles for smallholders against what they view as unacceptable conditions against them on issues like adapt/traditional land rights, economic opportunities and improvement of their community.

While Session II provided the setting for showcasing and sharing progress made by RSPO Members and stakeholders in carrying the RSPO P&C forward there was an undeniable thread of concern over implementation of the RSPO P&C. Large producers concerns on costs, setting of clear indicators, national interpretation and pilot testing remain looming while smallholders needs in meeting the RSPO P&C are as pressing. However, Session II in itself was testament to commitment shown by those who shared in presentations their efforts in the adoption and verification of the RSPO P&C.

Session III on *What happens in the supply chain?* covered the final recommendations of the Supply-Chain study by ProFor-

est as well as perspectives from advocates of various supply chain options. Ishmael Doodoo of ProForest presented the Supply chain options for sustainable palm oil and pointed out that all options were. The Supply chain study showed no one option can fit all as the profiles of players were heterogeneous. The session then continued with the Ghana Oil Palm Development Corp (GOPDC) sharing reasons for preference for segregation, stating that the returns from segregation justified the effort. Next, the Migros rationale for using a Mass balance approach was made followed by Aarhus Karlshamns (AAK)'s proposal for setting up a brokerage to trade certificates under a Book-and-claim system called GreenPalm. The Unilever presentation focused on Large-scale Handling and argued that meeting consumer expectation for traceability of their palm oil was critical. It did not extend to ensuring full identity preservation and instead advocated segregation of RSPO from non-RSPO oils.

Session IV, titled *From Words to Action: Meeting expectations of RSPO Members & stakeholders* takes off from where RT3 left off with the idea of developing a commonly agreed Code of Conduct to govern RSPO Members. In appreciation that RSPO is a multi-stakeholder platform, calls for a Code of Conduct that would be binding to all RSPO Members was made. Sectorally, each presenter gave their perspective on meeting the challenges ahead while sharing about the pressures faced from their sectoral constituents and stakeholders at-large. The varied pressure placed upon sectors



Breakout groupwork during RT4 Session IV.

# 4th Roundtable Meeting on Sustainable Palm Oil

*Promoting the growth and use of sustainable palm oil*

**21-22 November 2006**

**Meritus Mandarin Singapore**

# RT4

like the Retailer and Consumer Goods Manufacturer were largely elaborated by Tony Lass and Rikke Netterstrom respectively representing Cadbury Schweppes and The Body Shop. The presentation of Simon Harris for HSBC Malaysia also highlighted that responsiveness to stakeholder, customer and shareholder interests leads to investment screens in certain industries as well as increasing influence over clients.

The RT4 sessions, presentations and break-outs were designed to bring out the contentions that exist within deliberations by the various initiatives from RT3/GA2. An environment of constructive debate is necessary for discussions on difficult but key issues. Session IV encapsulated the differing views and perceptions of the sectoral membership within RSPO. These differences represent the starting point for achieving a commonly agreeable, credible and robust compromise.

From the development of a Verification protocol, cost of implementing the RSPO P&C, supply chain options to the Code of Conduct, sectoral concerns surfaced and each side asserted their positions while the stakes have risen. We are hitting a critical stage for those sharing the vision of seeing sustainable palm oil produced and used globally. The four elements below encapsulate sentiments that need to be reconciled over the next 12-months if sustainable palm oil is to not remain a pipe dream:

1. Producers say hang-on: Urge of caution in the manner and speed of deriving verification protocol, NII processes and testing of the P&C.
2. Buyers and users want it quickly: Immense pressure exerted by consumers and pressure groups in markets is questioning RSPO's credibility.
3. Smallholders want a voice: Time and again RT4 was reminded that sustainable palm oil cannot be a reality as long as the substantial smallholder community in producing countries are accorded the due consideration to meet sustainability standards.

4. The NGOs want it done right: With a quick start at the 20 November 2006 VWG meeting, NGOs are questioning the procedures and credibility of these in meeting the needs of all stakeholders to be affected by RSPO initiatives, including on smallholders, verification, traceability in the supply chain and adherence to a Code of Conduct.

Up to and including RT3, we witnessed a level of cohesion by stakeholders, with the Criteria Working Group (CWG) epitomising this spirit. One year down, that spirit is being challenged. RSPO has been a topic of hot debate and opinion, from producer stalwarts who are defending industry interests to civil society groups pressing for urgent action to save the magnificent Orang Utan. It will be a time to close ranks and rebuild working relations between sectoral members in key working groups and discussions. The ability to conclude with workable, agreed and robust tools for furthering RSPO's goals means making concessions as well as co-operating to define what is the best compromise.

Andrew Ng  
RSPO Secretary General

**Download** proceedings from RT4:  
<http://www.rspo.org/rt4.htm#agenda>

RT4 was attended by 388 participants from 28 countries.



## RSPO Indonesia Liaison Office Established



Ms Desi Kusumadewi, RSPO's newly appointed Indonesia Liaison Officer, addresses participants during an RT4 side event held on 21 November 2006 in Singapore.

RT4 in Singapore saw the launch of the RSPO Indonesia Liaison Office (RILLO) to support the RSPO secretariat in Kuala Lumpur and promote the overall objectives of the RSPO in Indonesia. A special meeting was held on 21st November, 2006 to brief stakeholders on the objectives and modus operandi of RILLO as well as to seek the views and support of the key players in the oil palm industry in Indonesia, particularly the Indonesian Palm Oil Commission (IPOC), Indonesian Palm Oil Association (GAPKI), WWF Indonesia and Sawit Watch.

Mooted by WWF Indonesia in October, 2004 after RT2 in Jakarta, RILLO became a reality with the financial support from the Dutch Government through the Trilateral Partnership among Indonesia, Malaysia and the Netherlands. Specific functions of RILLO include assistance in:

1. Service to members (mailing, contacts) in Indonesia
2. Communication, including contribution of materials in Bahasa Indonesia to the RSPO website, brochures and other print or electronic materials
3. Networking with other organizations/institutions
4. Recruiting new members in Indonesia.
5. Organization of RSPO meetings and stakeholder sessions in Indonesia
6. Assist in the implementation and monitoring of progress of RSPO projects in Indonesia
7. Assist and facilitate fruitful cooperation between the Partnership Market Access of Palm Oil and the RSPO where feasible

Ms Deuxiemi (Desi) Kusumadewi has been appointed the Liaison Officer to manage RILLO operations and the RSPO Secretary-General in the administration, management and implementation of activities and projects necessary for meeting the objectives of the RSPO in Indonesia. A graduate in BSc in Agricultural Social Economics from Bogor Agricultural University, Ms Desi has 6 years working experience with a plantation company (Lyman Agro Group) in Indonesia.

During the initial six months, RILLO office is located in the premises of IPOC in Jakarta. In order to ensure that RILLO makes good progress from commencement, Mr Teoh Cheng Hai, former SG of RSPO and Dr Rosediana Suharto, Chairman-in-charge of IPOC have been appointed as Advisors to provide support and guidance to the Liaison Officer during this period.

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## National Interpretation in Malaysia

**Kuala Lumpur, 18 December 2006** - A preparatory meeting to kick-start the Malaysian National Interpretation Working Group (MNIWG) was held during the MPOA Side-Event at RT4. The meeting was organized to gather representatives of interest groups who were expected to be present at RT4 for a preliminary discussion. Prior to the meeting, MPOA had sent out an email to Malaysian producers and expected participants of the MNIWG, including WWF-Malaysia and Tenaganita. An attempt was also made to announce the meeting at RT4. Due to time constraint, the brief meeting focused its discussion on the RSPO Flowchart for the NI process, need for participation by the relevant sectors e.g. government and local civil society and need to appoint a facilitator and seek funding for the process.



**Download** meeting announcement (PDF/15kb): <http://www.rspo.org/PDF/Projects/MAL/Announcement.pdf>

**Download** list of meeting participants (PDF/11kb): <http://www.rspo.org/PDF/Projects/MAL/List%20of%20participants.pdf>

**Download** MPOA's introductory presentation (PDF/72kb): [http://www.rspo.org/PDF/Projects/MAL/MPOA\\_Side-Event.pdf](http://www.rspo.org/PDF/Projects/MAL/MPOA_Side-Event.pdf)

**Download** flowchart for National Interpretation (PDF/17kb): <http://www.rspo.org/PDF/Projects/MAL/Flowchart.pdf>

## Interpretation Becomes Implementation in PNG

**Port Moresby, 13 December 2006** - Another milestone in Sustainable Palm Oil was reached in December by the PNG Oil Palm Industry. The National Interpretation Working Group (NIWG) concluded their efforts to develop a framework for ensuring the responsible growth of this rural industry. The goal of RSPO is to establish a set of principles regarding the environmental and social impact of the oil palm industry and then to get all producers to adhere to the principles. The working group has taken the eight principles and from them developed over one hundred indicators of performance. This was a big job for the group but they worked diligently over two days at the Airways Hotel in the Nations capital and in the end were well pleased with the effort. Oil palm growers and millers can now begin to implement sound environmental and social policies and procedures based on the RSPO principles. The indicators provide a way to measure achievements and identify areas needing improvement. The National Interpretation Working Group will now be known as the National Implementation Working Group and will continue to meet regularly to promote sustainable palm oil.

**Download** PNG Indicators & Guidance for RSPO (final draft) (PDF/135kb):

[http://www.rspo.org/PDF/Projects/PNG/PNG%20Indicators%20and%20Guidance%20for%20RSPO%20\(final%20draft\).pdf](http://www.rspo.org/PDF/Projects/PNG/PNG%20Indicators%20and%20Guidance%20for%20RSPO%20(final%20draft).pdf)

**Download** Minutes for PNG National Interpretation Working Group meeting (4-5 December 2006) (PDF/17kb):

<http://www.rspo.org/PDF/Projects/PNG/PNG%20NIWG%20minutes.pdf>

# Secretary-General's Report



The 4th Roundtable Meeting on Sustainable Palm Oil concluded recently with a clearly stirring reminder of the tenuous or fragile relationships that keep the RSPO going. If issues were not bubbling over with critical presentations from producers, communities and others, the results of the 3rd General Assembly are indicative of the challenge ahead for us.

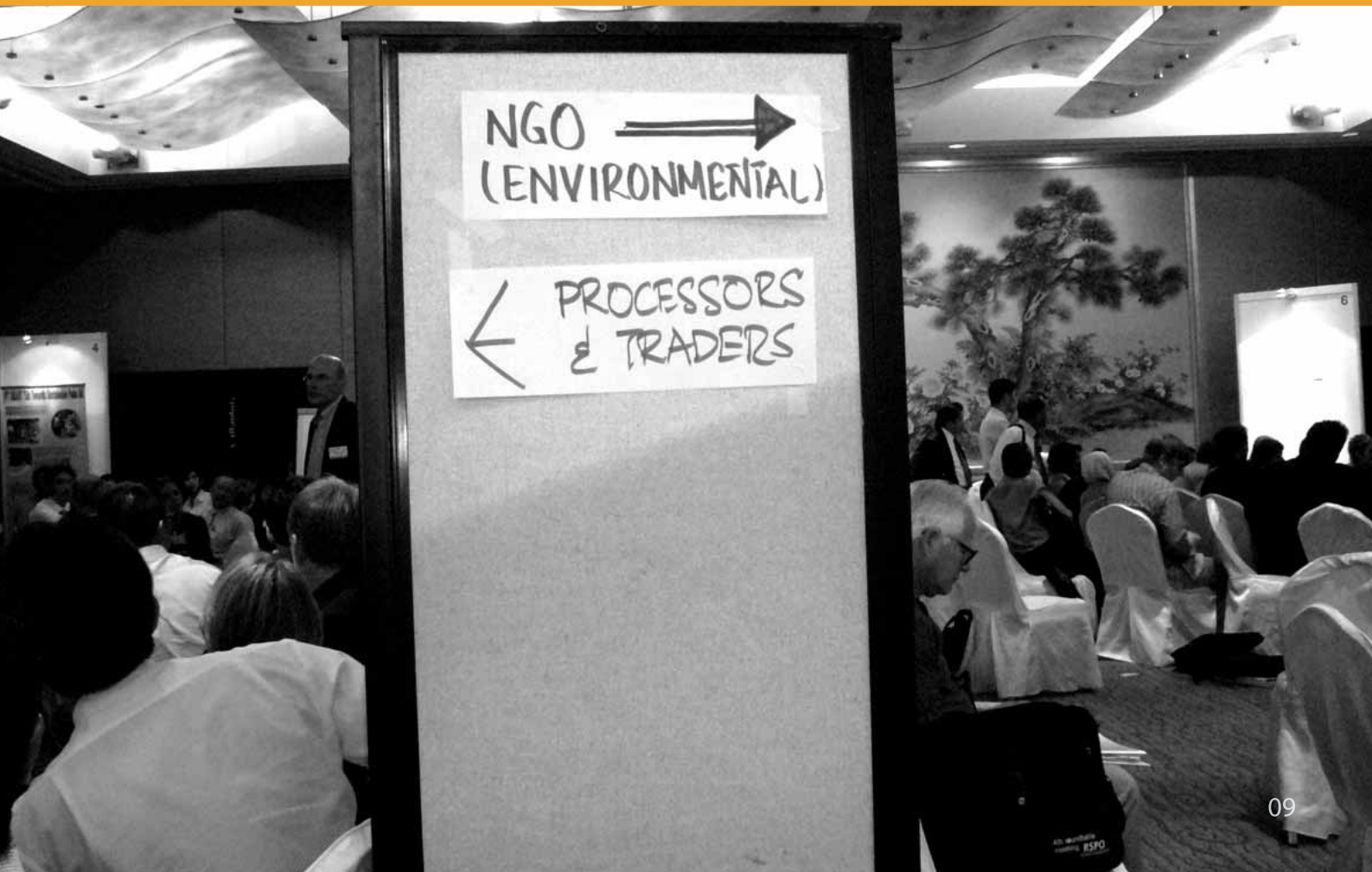
What would one take home from RT4? Are sectoral differences too difficult to reconcile? Would consumer and public patience with RSPO as it carries on one hard-fought step at a time wither? These are just some of the questions being posed to RSPO. Ultimately it is a question each Member has to address with their customers or stakeholders. While we all agree on a common goal of promoting the production, procurement and use of sustainable palm oil, each has their own vision of what that means – for now.

At RT3 the world witnessed how a multi-stakeholder grouping can co-operate to come out with commonly agreeable standards to decisively

define sustainable palm oil production and set a course for ensuring common responsibility along the supply chain. At RT4, I believe we saw how fine that balance is. RT4 showed us the gap between sectors exists. Are their demands are pushing them away from common ground. The need to ensure due consultation, inclusiveness, testing, shared responsibility, whether to have interim claims and a robust P&C are juxtaposed against growing consumer and stakeholder demand for sustainable palm oil. As we grapple with ramifications of the P&C, in implementation, national context and verification in this New Year, the urgent need for results is obviously more pressing.

I believe that we need to ensure our sectoral concerns and issues need proper and adequate attention by relevant working groups in the coming year. If we are going to do something, let's do it right! But we need to move forward. Issues that have been long endorsed by the Membership should be supported. This New Year, I hope to see more members becoming involved in initiatives through one way or other. In this rally to RSPO Members, it is poignant to remember that as Members, the success or failure of RSPO to deliver on its promise and maintain its reputation is entirely up to each Member.

*Are we headed in different directions?*





## Summary of 3rd RSPO General Assembly

The 3rd General Assembly of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil was held on 22nd November 2006 at the Sheraton Towers, Singapore. Coming at the end of RT4, it was important for deciding the direction of RSPO for the forthcoming year. The agenda for the 3rd General Assembly of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (or GA3) as provided in the Notice to Members were as follows:

1. Members' roll call
2. Opening address by the RSPO President, Mr Jan Kees Vis
3. To receive the Report of the RSPO President
4. To receive and adopt the Report of the RSPO Treasurer
5. To confirm minutes of the last General Assembly held on 23 November 2005
6. To adopt the Members' Code of Conduct
7. To adopt a new Financial Protocol for RSPO (approval of auditor)
8. To adopt RSPO verification protocol
9. To adopt proposals by RSPO Members:
  - 9.1 Appeal to RSPO to adopt patronage of pilot study (PanEco)
  - 9.2 Technical Committee on Biodiversity (IFC)
  - 9.3 Buyers/consumers to pay for auditing, certification and verification of claims by RSPO certified producers (MPOA)
  - 9.4 Restructuring RSPO membership subscription for smaller players & smallholders (MPOA)
  - 9.5 Staggered terms of EB members (WWF Switzerland)
10. To adopt proposed changes to the RSPO By Laws:
  - 10.1 Grievance procedure
  - 10.2 New membership category: Honorary Membership
  - 10.3 RSPO Vision and Mission
11. Lessons learnt from EB1: Advice to membership in election of sectoral representatives to EB
12. To elect a new Executive Board – Only relevant for RSPO Ordinary Members from the membership categories specified below:
  - 12.1 Oil Palm Growers (Rest of the World) – 1 seat
  - 12.2 Palm Oil Processors and/or Traders – 2 seats
13. Any other business

### A New Direction

- First 2 years saw rapid changes & shifting focus.
- In everyone's interest to ensure RSPO survives.
- Only platform to manage stakeholder demands.
- High profile = more scrutiny & expectations.
- Multi-stakeholder platform benefits all.



The highlights of GA3 can be seen through the deliberations and decision of RSPO Members on key topics, including agenda items 6, 8, 10 and 12. As it turned out, the long agenda meant that time allocation was challenging and compressed many topics. However, the documentation provided to Members in the lead up to GA3 through the Notice ensured that there was no real opportunity for misunderstanding the issues being brought forth and the expected action from the General Assembly.

In total, 94 Ordinary Members gave their presence at GA3 through attending, appointing a proxy or authorising others to be their proxies. The representation of the total RSPO Ordinary Membership at GA3 was 65.7%.

### Highlights of GA3:

Four areas of particular interest were deliberated and decided upon at GA3.

#### 1. Agenda item 6 (Members' Code of Conduct)

Concerns over the Code of Conduct's (CoC) implications were raised by the International Finance Corporation on behalf of the banking sector. Furthermore, IFC offered new wording to add to the CoC to better address concerns raised by banking sector members. In addition, Malaysian Palm Oil Association (MPOA) intervened and put forth concerns and suggested re-wording. It was agreed by RSPO that changes proposed would be incorporated by the new Executive Board.

As a result of deliberations, the General Assembly voted to approve and adopt the Code of Conduct, with the assurance that the EB would address issues raised by MPOA and IFC.

#### 2. Agenda item 7 (new Financial Protocol)

The New Financial Protocol proposed that RSPO management (i.e. RSPO Secretariat) are responsible for preparing the accounts and the appointment of audit firm Parker Randall was proposed as auditors for Financial Year 2005/06 and 2006/07, while the EB decided on suitable remuneration. The audited accounts would be signed by the auditor and the President of the RSPO.

The General Assembly approved this motion unanimously.

# Meetings

## 3. Agenda item 8 (RSPO verification protocol)

In light of concerns raised by NGOs and producers over the verification process (being developed through the RSPO Verification Working Group), the EB recommended the following as next-steps for the General Assembly's endorsement or approval:

- Balance out sectoral representation within the Verification Working Group (VWG).
- Invite additional verification experts as necessary to ensure that VWG has relevant expertise at hand.
- ProForest, as the appointed facilitator to the VWG, to revise present draft with suggested changes for VWG attention.
- Translate key documents to Bahasa and Spanish.
- ProForest to revise current budget and RSPO to source for funding.
- Conduct physical VWG meeting in early 2007.
- Verification protocol to be finalized by June 2007 for full testing.

The recommendation was accepted and endorsed by the General Assembly.

## 4. Agenda item 12 (elect new Executive Board)

The composition of the Executive Board is as such:

Sector	No. of seats
Oil Palm Growers:	4
1. Malaysia	
2. Indonesia	
3. Rest of World	
4. Smallholder	
Processors & traders	2
Consumer Goods Manufacturers	2
Retailers	2
Banks & investors	2
Environmental NGOs	2
Social NGOs	2

Within that EB, a President and Vice-Presidents are selected from amongst themselves. A Treasurer is also selected amongst the EB members.

At GA3, there was a contest for the following seats:

- i. Oil Palm Growers – Rest of World, 1 EB seat contested between 2 candidates; Jens Mesa Dishington (FEDEPALMA) and Simon Lord (New Britain Palm Oil Ltd.)
- ii. Processors & traders, 2 EB seats contested between 4 candidates; Don Grubba (IOI Group), John Hall (Peter Cremer GmbH), Ian McIntosh (Aarhus Karlshamns UK), and Alan Southworth (PT Musim Mas).

The final composition of the Executive Board is as follows:

### Sector / Representative

#### Oil Palm Growers:

1. Malaysia: Mamat Salleh, Malaysian Palm Oil Association
2. Indonesia: Derom Bangun, Indonesia Palm Oil Producers Association (GAPKI)
3. Rest of World: Simon Lord, New Britain Palm Oil Ltd
4. Smallholder: Mohd Nor Kailany, FELDA

#### Processors & traders:

Don Grubba, IOI Group & Ian McIntosh, Aarhus Karlshamns UK

#### Consumer Goods Manufacturers:

Jan Kees Vis, Unilever & Tony Lass, Cadbury Schweppes

#### Retailers:

Rikke Netterstrom, The Body Shop & Umberto Villars, Migros

#### Banks & investors:

Simon Harris, HSBC Malaysia & Samantha Lacey, Co-operative Insurance Society

#### Environmental NGOs:

Fitrian Ardiansyah, WWF Indonesia & Matthias Diemer, WWF Switzerland

#### Social NGOs:

Rudy Lumuru, Sawit Watch & Johan Verburg, Novib/Oxfam

## Key decisions from remaining GA3 agenda items:

Each agenda is referenced here for tracking to the text of proposals from the GA3 Notice.

### 9. To adopt proposals by RSPO Members:

- 9.1 Appeal to RSPO to adopt patronage of pilot study (PanEco)  
Approved by GA.
- 9.2 Technical Committee on Biodiversity (IFC)  
Approved by GA.
- 9.3 Buyers/consumers to pay for auditing, certification and verification of claims by RSPO certified producers (MPOA)  
Rejected by GA.
- 9.4 Restructuring RSPO membership subscription for smaller players & smallholders (MPOA)  
Rejected by GA.
- 9.5 Staggered terms of EB members (WWF Switzerland)  
Approved by GA.

### 10. To adopt proposed changes to the RSPO By Laws:

The following items were not discussed in plenary due to lack of time. The notes as given from the Notice were referred.

- 10.1 Grievance procedure  
This item was removed by the Executive Board pending refinement.
- 10.2 New membership category: Honorary Membership  
Approved by GA.
- 10.3 RSPO Vision and Mission  
Approved by GA.



## News & Views from Members

This column provides the platform for discourse among members to share experiences and ideas on the achievement of RSPO's objective of promoting the growth and use of sustainable palm oil.

Members could use this space to:

- Communicate their views and experiences on sustainable palm oil
- Critique on RSPO activities or decisions
- Provide suggestions for new projects
- Provide ideas for funding of new projects or activities
- Solicit partners for collaborative projects or activities
- Network, etc.

We invite contributions from all members, in any form they consider appropriate. Articles could include pictures, graphs, figures, etc. For inclusion in the next issue of the RSPO newsletter (Jan-Mar 2007), please submit your contributions to us by **15 March 2007**.

Their experience and dedication shone through as they made their newly-introduced charges feel very comfortable and assured by their expert handling of their individual medical attention and their jovial dispositions.

Dr. Koshy Thomas, President of MAAM was most gratified by the outcome of the visit. "It has been a mutually rewarding experience for us. As a first community project, we are heartened by the positive results achieved. Suffice to say, we have plans to carry on with similar projects on an annual basis. And perhaps even take it to estates throughout the country," said Dr. Koshy Thomas.

Dato' Dr. Jacob Thomas, Group Medical Advisor of Subang Jaya Medical Centre, who was also on the visiting medical team said, "we are pleased that the objective of the project has been met. It was a cheerful success by any standards and I look forward to continuing with the Alumni Association in their noble work in the future".

In presenting Certificates of Appreciation to each member of the medical team, Dr. Mohamed Nazeeb extended an open invitation to MAAM in rendering their valued services to other Sime Plantations' business units.



### Estate workers' well-being takes centre stage at Sime Plantations

Sime Plantations seemed like a good place to kick-off the idea of a medical camp for estate workers and the 50 medical doctors and volunteers from the Manipal Alumni Association of Malaysia (MAAM) were spot on in their choice. The proposal for their first ever community project met with enthusiastic response from the company, which readily saw them trooping into Sungai Buluh Estate in Bukit Rotan, Selangor on Sunday October 29, 2006 to do their good deed.

"We are encouraged by the willingness of professional groups such as the MAAM to sacrifice their time and energy to serve the community. Whilst we at Sime Plantations already provide for regular visits by medical officers and medical attendants to all our estates as standard procedure, this medical camp complements such efforts. It brings added value to our workers as they can seek further clarification on various medical considerations," said Dr. Mohamed Nazeeb, Plantations Director of Sime Plantations Sdn Bhd.

110 workers from the estate were given the opportunity to be screened by the doctors who are specialists in their respective fields. From dentists, dermatologists, radiologists, gynaecologists, ophthalmologists, pharmacists and paediatricians, they made good the unconventional clinical setting and performed their medical duties admirably.



Dr Koshy Thomas jotting down details from his patients.



The team from Sime Plantations and Manipal Alumni Association of Malaysia.



## News & Views from Members



### Safic-Alcan Commodities becomes ED&F MAN France

On 30 December 2005, the Natural Product Division of Safic Alcan, including the tropical oil, rubber and latex businesses, was acquired by ED&F Man Holdings Ltd, a British commodity trading group. The new entity is a 100% subsidiary of ED&F Man Holdings Ltd that has traded under the name of Safic-Alcan Commodities during 2006.

### From January 1st 2007, Safic-Alcan Commodities changes name and becomes ED&F Man France in order to finalise its integration to the Group.

With an expanding global network and presence in 74 countries, ED&F Man is mainly involved in sourcing, refining, warehousing, shipping, distributing and marketing sweeteners (Sugar and Molasses), animal feed, edible oils (Palm oil), food ingredients (Coffee and Cocoa) and biofuels (Ethanol, Vegoil Methyl Ester) to end users around the world.

The Group meets high ethical standards, and we are committed to sustainable producing methods, which improve the quality of life for growers and workers in developing countries. As a major trader, shipper and distributor of tropical oils for the last 30 years, ED&F Man France has developed a strong relationship with their customers and the growers in Indonesia and Malaysia. For customers, one of the most important demands is the highest level of traceability. ED&F Man France and its offices in Malaysia and Indonesia are able to trace material from growers to customers through a system of identification of material, monitoring all along the flow, supervision and surveyor at port during loading and discharge.

As an active member of the RSPO since December 2005, ED&F Man France organises regular visits and participates in audits on plantations and refineries in Malaysia or Indonesia. Last audit one was done last September on five plantations with the support of Charlie Ross in order to assess the implementation of RSPO Principles and Criteria and encourage growers in the approach.

ED&F Man France will continue to promote and communicate on RSPO approach and its commitment throughout its organisation and to its different partners.

Patricia Taylor

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France

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On a separate occasion on November 1, 2006, estate workers of Kempas Estate, Melaka, became the focus of much interest among four US delegates who were in the country to deliberate on the Free Trade Agreement with Malaysia. With Malaysia reputed as the number one producer of palm oil in the world, they were keen to visit an oil palm plantation and to gain an insight into how estate workers were managed and treated.

Accompanied by representatives from the Ministry of Human Resources and Labour Department, they were warmly received by the Kempas Estate management team and given a briefing on the various employment issues. Topics of particular interest included the recruitment of foreign labour, the terms of the Collective Agreement, employment benefits, calculation of wages, housing and other amenities provided.

The visit was made complete by a tour of the estate, bringing the delegates up close with the workers, enabling them to see for themselves the workers' quarters or linesite as well as the medical clinic set up for their needs.



Mr Sasheendran, Kempas Estate Manager, pointing out to the US delegates the organised approach to workers' housing as Plantations Director, Dr. Mohamed Nazeem (second from right) looks on.

Kempas Estate came through with flying colours, earning the affirmative nod of the US delegates for their fair dealings, treatment and care for the wellbeing of estate workers. Way to go!

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## News & Views from Members

**MIGROS**



In support of the RSPO field testing of the principles and criteria for sustainable palm oil production Migros and IOI group conducted a trial audit of 3 estates and one oil mill on 22 – 25 May 2006. This audit was commissioned by Migros and was conducted under the direction of ProForest with participation by Wild Asia. This was a full audit test of the RSPO guidance document dated March 2006.

Migros is the largest supermarket chain in Switzerland and is well known for its strong commitment to high standards of environmental and social management. IOI/Loders Croklaan, with businesses based in Malaysia, Europe and North America is a leading fully integrated grower, processor and downstream marketer of palm oil products who is fully supportive of the RSPO efforts to achieve globally recognized sustainable palm oil production.

The audit performance rating and comments were detailed for each principle and criteria (P&C) by ProForest at the conclusion of the audit and was presented to Migros and IOI for review and commentary. These results were then reviewed by the estates involved who in turn outlined specific actions for improvement and responsible parties to carry out the necessary actions. These improvements were then put in a timeline for completion for each of the P&C's.

IOI senior management then decided proactively to utilize this audit as a learning tool and initiated "cascade meetings" involving all plantation managers for the 79 estates under IOI management. These meetings were lead by senior management and highlighted the importance of the RSPO initiative. Then each of the P&C's was reviewed and discussed along with issues and challenges involved in the concluded audit and well as those facing each area in the coming implementation period.

Finally, the results of the reviews and the cascade meetings were discussed with Migros and members of the audit group to assure that the appropriate actions were in place along with expected completion dates and responsible parties.

Migros was satisfied with the results of the audit and is confident of the commitment of the IOI team toward achieving sustainable palm oil production as defined by the RSPO principles and guidelines. IOI welcomed the support and confidence of a retailing leader such as

Migros. There was excellent cooperation between the auditors, the plantations and the management teams involved. Both companies recognize the very large effort ahead and have recommendations for further improving the audit program. Migros and IOI will continue to be strongly committed to work together to advance the objectives of the RSPO.

Submitted by:  
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### **Netherlands on track with sustainability criteria for biomass**

The European Union and the Netherlands government have set ambitious targets for both the use of transport biofuels and the production of bio-energy (electricity and heat from biomass). Sufficient availability of suitable biomass is an essential precondition. Biomass may come from local agricultural and forestry residues and waste streams, locally grown energy crops, or from imported energy crop products.

Alongside the high expectations of biomass, the Dutch government has also concluded that large-scale use incurs certain risks, including negative environmental and socio-economic impacts. This perception has further been strengthened by campaigns of both environmental and social NGOs, who have successfully put the biomass sustainability issue on the political agenda.

In response, the government has expressed its intention to incorporate sustainability criteria for biomass in future policy instruments for stimulating biofuels and bio-energy, such as subsidies and tax exemptions. In preparation of this, a project group 'Sustainable Production of Biomass' was set up to formulate a set of sustainability criteria. The project group, often referred to as the Cramer Commission, presented a set of generic sustainability criteria and corresponding sustainability indicators for biomass in July 2006.

In the system that was developed, sustainability criteria for 2007 have been distinguished from criteria for 2011. The 2007 criteria include minimum requirements to prevent unacceptable biomass flows from being used. The 2011 criteria are stricter and aim for a pro-active protection of the environment, as well as care of economic and social circumstances. No distinction has been made between imported biomass and biomass produced in the Netherlands.

Criteria and indicators have been formulated for six categories: (1) greenhouse gas balance, (2) competition with food, local energy supply, medicines and building materials, (3) biodiversity, (4) economic prosperity, (5) social well-being and (6) environment.



## News & Views from Members

## Members of RSPO

as of 20 December 2006

### RSPO Ordinary Members (128)

#### Oil Palm Growers (32)

Agropalma Group / Asiatic Development Berhad / Boustead Plantations Berhad / CTP Holdings Pte Ltd / FEDEPALMA - National Federation of Oil Palm Growers of Colombia / FELDA \* / Golden Hope Plantations Berhad / Hap Seng Consolidated Berhad / IJM Plantations Berhad / Indonesian Palm Oil Producers Association (GAPKI) \* / KL Kepong Berhad / Kulim (Malaysia) Berhad / Kumpulan Guthrie Berhad / M P Evans Group PLC / Malaysian Palm Oil Association \* / New Britain Palm Oil Ltd \* / PPB Oil Palms Berhad / PT Agro Bukit / PT Agro Indomas / PT Inti Indosawit Subur / PT Perkebunan Nusantara III / PT PP London Sumatra Indonesia / PT SMART Tbk / PT Tunas Baru Lampung Tbk / Sawit Mas Group / SIAT SA / Sime Plantations Sdn Bhd / SIPEF Group / Socfin Group (PT Socfindo & Socfinco SA) / TH Plantations Sdn Bhd / United Plantations Bhd / YPJ Oil Palm Estate Sdn Bhd

#### Palm Oil Processors and/or Traders (58)

Aarhus Karlshamn UK \* / Aarhus Karlshamn Sweden / AB Fortum Värme samägt med Stockholm stad / Biofuels Corporation PLC / BioX / BP / Britannia Food Ingredients / Cargill BV / Cargill Palm Products Sdn Bhd / Carotino Sdn Bhd (a member of JC Chang Group) / Cefetra / China National Cereals, Oils and Foodstuffs Corp / CMS Resources / Cognis Deutschland GmbH & Co KG / D1 Oils PLC / Daabon Organic CI Tequendama SA / Danisco Emulsifiers / Essent Energy Trading BV / EUROENERGIE AG / Florin AG / Fuji Oil Group / Gardner Smith Pty Ltd / Gipp Energy / Glencore Grain BV / Godrej Industries Limited / Greenenergy Biofuels Ltd / Imperium Renewables Inc / Intercontinental Specialty Fats Sdn Bhd / IOI Group (Malaysia / Netherlands) \* / Itochu Corporation / Jin Wei (M) Sdn Bhd / Just Oil & Grain Pte Ltd / kemOleo Pte Ltd / KOG Edible Oils BV / Kuok Oils & Grains Pte Ltd / Lipidos Santiga / Mewah Oils Sdn Bhd / Midwest BD Limited / Mitsubishi Corporation (KL Branch) / Natural Fuel Group / Nidera Handelscompagnie BV / Nutriswiss AG / Pan Century Edible Oils Sdn Bhd / Permata Hijau Group / Peter Cremer (S) GmbH / PT Agro Jaya Perdana / PT Flora Sawita Chemindo / PT Musim Mas / Safic-Alcan / Spychiger Oil Trading AG / Sumi Asih Oleochemical / Uniqema (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd / UR POWER GmbH / US Food Group / Vance Bioenergy Sdn Berhad / Vegoil EP AB / Vinmar / Wilmar International Ltd

#### Consumer Goods Manufacturers (22)

Burton's Foods Ltd / Cadbury Schweppes plc \* / Cloetta Fazer AB / ConAgra Trade Group, Inc / CO-OP CLEAN Co Ltd / CSM NV / Ecologico Packaging Sdn Bhd / Ferrero SPA / Goodman Fielder Ltd / Johnson & Johnson Consumer Companies, Inc / Lion Corporation / Matthews Foods / Neste Oil Corporation / Northern Foods plc / Reckitt Benckiser plc / RHM / Santa Maria AB / Saraya Co Ltd / SAS Devineau / Unilever \* / W Jordans (Cereals) Limited / Walter Rau Lebensmittelwerke GmbH & Co KG

As for palm oil, the Dutch sustainability criteria overlap to a large extent with RSPO Principles & Criteria. An important difference is the greenhouse gas balance which is included in the Dutch criteria. This criterion prescribes that use of biomass shall lead to a minimum greenhouse gas emission reduction of 30% in 2007 and 50% in 2011 (calculated over complete production and usage chain), compared to fossil fuel reference.

Currently, a number of Working Groups are further detailing the criteria and indicators for each category. It is expected that the outcome of this work will be discussed in the Dutch Parliament in early 2007, after which further steps will be defined, including pilot testing and development of systems for certification and traceability. BioX currently provides active input to various working groups, and will be involved in the pilot testing.

It is expected that the Dutch system of sustainability criteria will form a major input to a comparable system to be developed by the European Commission over the next 1-2 years. Already other European countries have taken the system as a reference.

The final first phase report '[Criteria for sustainable biomass production](#)' can be downloaded from [www.biox.nl](http://www.biox.nl) (-> sustainability -> NL sustainability criteria). Future documents on the Dutch sustainability criteria will also be made public through our website.

For further information on these or related subjects, please contact:

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# Members of RSPO

as of 20 December 2006

## Retailers (15)

Asda stores / Coop / Co-operative Group / Earthcycle Packaging Ltd / EDF Energy / Federation of Migros Cooperatives \* / IKEA / Marks & Spencer / RWE npower / Sainsbury's Supermarkets / Tesco Stores Ltd / The Body Shop International \* / The Boots Group plc / Waitrose Limited / WM Morrison Supermarkets PLC

## Banks/Investors (8)

Co-operative Insurance Society \* / EcoSecurities Group PLC / International Finance Corporation (IFC) / HSBC Bank Malaysia Berhad \* / HSBC Indonesia / Rabobank / Standard Chartered Bank / WestLB AG

## Environmental/Nature Conservation NGOs (6)

Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOS) / Global Environment Centre / PanEco / WWF-Indonesia \* / WWF-Malaysia / WWF Switzerland \*

## Social/Developmental NGOs (4)

Both ENDS / Oxfam GB/Novib \* / Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Asia and the Pacific / Sawit Watch \*

\* RSPO Executive Board Member

## Individuals (3)

Dr Reza Azmi / Dato' Henry S Barlow / Mr Fritz Moedinger

## RSPO Honorary Members (1)

### Individuals (1)

Mr MR Chandran

Read more: [www.rspo.org/Members.htm](http://www.rspo.org/Members.htm)

## RSPO Affiliate Members (49)

### Organizations (46)

Alterra (Wageningen - UR) / Applied Agricultural Resources Sdn Bhd / Bayer CropScience AG / Bayer CropScience (M) Sdn Bhd / Behn Meyer & Co (M) Sdn Bhd / Borneo Child Aid (Humana Child Aid Society) / Cirad Tree Crops Department / Control Union (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd / EcoOils Sdn Bhd / Environmental Management & Monitoring Pty Ltd / EPChem International Pte Ltd / FEDIOL (EC Seed Crushers' & Oil Processors Federation) / Grenidea Technologies Pte Ltd / HIF TECH Sdn Bhd / International Association of Seed Crushers (IASC) / IOPRI (Indonesian Oil Palm Research Institute / Jonganeel Agencies BV / Liebenauer Feld GmbH / London Commodity Brokers Ltd / Malaysia Oleochemical Manufacturers Group (MOMG) / Malaysian Estate Owners' Association / Margarine & Spreads Association / National Edible Oil Distributors' Association / Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation / Oilpalmworld Sdn Bhd / PALMBASE (M) Sdn Bhd / PalmPool / Palm Oil Refiners Association of Malaysia / Papua New Guinea Oil Palm Research Association Inc / POIC Sabah Sdn Bhd / Pon Power BV / Product Board for Margarine, Fats and Oils / PT Syngenta Indonesia / qa plus asia-pacific Sdn Bhd / Renewable Fuel Supply Ltd / SAI Platform / Schutter International BV / Seattle Biofuels / Southeast Asia Program (SEAP) of PPI/PPIC and IPI / SGS (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd / SIRIM QAS International Sdn Bhd / Syngenta Crop Protection AG / Syngenta Crop Protection Sdn Bhd / Transworld Commodity Consultants (TCC) / Tropical Oil Products / TSL (Trading Services London)