DRAFT 2 RSPO Independent Smallholder (ISH) Standard 2023

Public commenting period: 1 June to 30 June 2023

Note:

This Draft 2 of RSPO ISH Standard 2023 is:

- 1) Meant for public comments and NOT to be used for implementation compliance check.
- 2) The Stepwise Approach for ISH Certification is not for commenting.
- 3) Principle, Criteria, Indicators and Internal Control System, including list of definition and Annex 2. Smallholder Declaration for ISH Standard are revised and open for public comments.
- 4) Refer to column with (Draft 2) BLUE Texts.

1 Who can use the RSPO Independent Smallholder Standard to pursue RSPO Certification

This RSPO ISH Standard is only applicable to those smallholders that qualify as independent smallholders and is applicable for sustainable palm oil production worldwide. Smallholders can be both men and women. A smallholder can pursue certification through the RSPO ISH if:

- They are NOT a scheme smallholder (see definition Annex 1).
- The total size of their oil palm production area is
 - smaller than or equal to 50 hectares(ha) if no threshold is defined in a National Interpretation; OR
 - smaller than or equal to the maximum size defined in a National Interpretation (e.g., for Indonesia this implies threshold size is 25 ha or below and for Ecuador 75 ha or below).
- They have the enforceable decision-making power on the operation of the land and production practices.
- They have the freedom to choose how they utilise the land, type of crops to plant, and how to manage them (how they organise, manage and finance the land).
- They meet any further criteria relative to the applicability of this standard as provided in the National Interpretation of their country.

2 To what does the RSPO Independent Smallholder Standard apply

The RSPO ISH Standard applies to the total combined plots of an individual smallholder that are under oil palm production. This is provided that the total area belonging to the individual smallholder does not exceed the size threshold (50 ha or as defined in a National Interpretation).

This ISH Standard is applicable for:

- Existing plots under oil palm production; AND
- Plots that are allocated for replanting or new planting of oil palm; AND
- Plots that are, or may potentially, be allocated for new planting of oil palm.

How to define the total size of a palm production area?

- i) The total size of the oil palm production area is defined by accumulating all plots owned by a smallholder, regardless of where they are located.
- ii) This includes existing plots with oil palm planting as well as areas available for replanting or areas allocated for new oil palm planting, that are owned by an individual smallholder within or outside the unit of certification (e.g. the group that the smallholder is part of).
- iii) This means if a smallholder owns and operates oil palm plots outside the group (unit of certification) that is being certified, even if this plot is in another village or another region, it is also counted as part of the cumulative hectares).

Principle 1: Optimise productivity, efficiency, positive impacts and resilience

Crit	eria			Indic	ators		
(Draft 2)	(ISH 2019)	Eligibility (E) (Draft 2)	Eligibility (E) (ISH 2019)	Milestone A (MS A) (Draft 2)	Milestone A (MS A) (ISH 2019)	Milestone B (MS B) (Draft 2)	Milestone B (MS B) (ISH 2019)
1.1 Smallholders establish a legal entity independent from the milling company that has the organisational capacity to comply with the RSPO ISH Standard.	1.1 Smallholders establish a legal entity that has the organisational capacity to comply with the RSPO ISH Standard.	1.1 E Legally registered entities have documented evidence that include: (i) Legal formation (as per country requirements) (ii) Fair and transparent decision- making and governance (iii) Additional documents per requirements for Group Formation and Management. (iv) Signed or thumb printed	1.1 E Legally registered entities have documented evidence that include: 1. Legal formation (as per country requirements) 2. Fair and transparent decision- making and governance 3. Additional documents per requirements for Group Formation and Management. 4. Signed or thumb printed Smallholder Declaration from all smallholder members (Reference Annex 2).	1.1 MS A Group manager and group members have an Internal Control System (ICS) that meets all the ICS Eligibility and MS A requirements (section 3.2 below) and complete training on oil palm pricing mechanisms, production costing, financial management, and best practices for smallholder organisations.	1.1 MS A Group manager and group members have an Internal Control System (ICS) that meets all the ICS Eligibility and MS A requirements (section 3.2 below) and complete training on oil palm pricing mechanisms, financial management, and best practices for smallholder organisations.	1.1 MS B Smallholder groups are operating in accordance with Best Management Practices (BMP) for groups, including: • Fair and transparent decision-making and governance • Financial management.	1.1 MS B Smallholder groups are operating in accordance to best management practices for groups including: • Fair and transparent decision-making and governance • Sustainable financial management.
1.2 Smallholders have the capacity to effectively manage their farm.	1.2 Smallholders have the capacity to effectively manage their farm.	,	1.2 E	1.2 MS A Smallholders complete training on farm business operations, monitoring, and planning. The training includes capacity building on record keeping for production, including inputs, cost, yields, use of labour, and transaction data of FFB sales.	1.2 MS A Smallholders complete training on farm business operations, monitoring and planning. The training includes capacity building on record keeping for production, including inputs and yields, transactions, and variety.	1.2 MS B Smallholders are managing their farms effectively and maintain records of production and transaction data of all FFB sales.	1.2 MS B Smallholders are managing their farms effectively and maintain records of production and transaction data of all FFB sales.
1.3 Smallholders implement Best Management Practices (BMP) on their farms according to minimum topics recommended by RSPO.	1.3 Smallholders implement good agricultural practices (GAP) on their farms.	Smallholders commit to implementing Best Management Practices (BMP) on their farms (reference to Smallholder	1.3 E Smallholders commit to implementing good agricultural practices on their farms. (reference Smallholder Declaration, 1.1 E, Annex 2).	1.3 MS A Smallholders complete training on Best Management Practices (BMP) that includes good agricultural practices (GAP).	1.3 MS A Smallholders complete training on GAP.	1.3 MS B Smallholders have adopted BMP that include good agricultural practices (GAP) on their farms and are tracking their productivity through, but not limited to records of FFB sales.	1.3 MS B Smallholders have adopted GAP on their farms and are tracking productivity through, but not limited to, records of FFB sales.

	Principle 2: Ensu	re legality, respect for lan	d rights and community w	ellbeing			
Crit	eria			Indic	ators		
(Draft 2) 2.1 Smallholders have legal or customary rights to use the land in accordance with national and local laws, and customary practices.	(ISH 2019) 2.1 Smallholders have legal or customary rights to use the land in accordance with national and local laws, and customary practices.	Eligibility (E) (Draft 2) 2.1 E Smallholders provide the coordinates or maps of their plots and evidence of ownership, or rights to use the land or demonstrate that they are in the process of legalisation of that right. (reference Indicator 1.1 E, Annex 2).	Eligibility (E) (ISH 2019) 2.1 E Smallholders provide the coordinates or maps of their plots and evidence of ownership, or rights to use the land. (reference Indicator 1.1 E, Annex 2).	Milestone A (MS A) (Draft 2) 2.1 MS A Smallholders provide the coordinates or maps of their plots, and can demonstrate legal ownership or native and/or customary rights to use the land.	Milestone A (MS A) (ISH 2019) 2.1 MS A Smallholders can demonstrate legal ownership or native and/or customary rights to use the land or demonstrate that they are in the process of legalisation of that right.	Milestone B (MS B) (Draft 2) 2.1 MS B Smallholders' plots are clearly and visibly demarcated and maintained. The smallholders operate only within these boundaries and can demonstrate legal ownership or native and/or customary rights to use the land.	Milestone B (MS B) (ISH 2019) 2.1 MS B Smallholders plots are clearly and visibly demarcated and maintained, and the smallholders are operating only within these boundaries.
2.2 Smallholders have not acquired lands from Indigenous Peoples, local communities or other users without their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), based on a simplified FPIC approach.	2.2 Smallholders have not acquired lands from Indigenous Peoples, local communities or other users without their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), based on a simplified FPIC approach.	2.2 E For existing plots, smallholders can demonstrate that they have not acquired land without free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of Indigenous Peoples, local communities or other users (reference Indicator 1.1 E, Annex 2).	2.2 E For existing plots, smallholders can demonstrate that they have not acquired land without free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of Indigenous Peoples, local communities or other users (reference Indicator 1.1 E, Annex 2).	2.2 MS A Same as Eligibility	2.2 MS A Same as Eligibility	2.2 MS B Same as Eligibility	2.2 MS B Same as Eligibility
2.3 The right to use the land is not disputed by Indigenous Peoples, local communities or other users.	2.3 The right to use the land is not disputed by Indigenous Peoples, local communities or other users.	2.3 E Smallholders declare any existing disputes on the land, commit to resolving said disputes, develop a plan to address them, including initiating a participatory mapping with relevant stakeholders as may be required, and provide information on the current status of those disputes (if any). (Reference Indicators 1.1 E, Annex 2).	2.3 E Smallholders declare any existing disputes on the land, commit to resolving said disputes and provide information on the current status of those disputes (if any). (Reference Indicators 1.1 E, Annex 2).	2.3 MS A There is an absence of disputes among Indigenous Peoples, local communities, or other users regarding land, resource use, and access rights; or, where there is a dispute, a dispute resolution plan is implemented, and the process is accepted by all parties involved.	2.3 MS A There is an absence of disputes among Indigenous Peoples, local communities, or other users regarding land, resource use, and access rights; or, where there is a dispute, a dispute resolution plan is implemented, and the process is accepted by all parties involved.	2.3 MS B Same as Milestone A	2.3 MS B Same as Milestone A
2.4 Smallholder plots are located outside areas prohibited by national park or protected area, as well as steep terrain, as defined by national, regional, or local law, or as specified in National Interpretations.	2.4 Smallholder plots are located outside of areas classified as national parks or protected areas, as defined by national, regional or local law, or as specified in National Interpretations.	2.4 E Smallholder plots are located outside areas prohibited by national park or protected area management plans, as defined by national, regional, or local law, or as specified in National Interpretations.	2.4 E Smallholder plots are located outside of areas classified as national parks or protected areas as defined by national, regional or local law, or as specified in National Interpretations (Reference 1.1 E, Annex 2).	2.4 MS A Same as Eligibility	2.4 MS A Same as Eligibility	2.4 MS B Same as Eligibility	2.4 MS B Same as Eligibility
2.5 Do any smallholders within the group have plans for new planting of oil palm? If none, SKIP. For new planting, smallholders do not clear or acquire any land without obtaining FPIC of Indigenous Peoples and/or local communities and/or other users, based on a simplified FPIC approach.	2.5 Do any smallholders within the group have plans for new planting of oil palm? If none, SKIP. For new planting, smallholders do not clear or acquire any land without obtaining FPIC of Indigenous Peoples and/or local communities and/or other users, based on a simplified FPIC approach.	2.5 E For new oil palm planting, smallholders commit not to clear or acquire land from Indigenous Peoples, local communities, or other users (e.g. State government, commercial owner) without their FPIC, based on a simplified FPIC approach (reference 1.1 E, Annex 2).	2.5 E For new oil palm planting, smallholders commit not to clear or acquire land from Indigenous Peoples, local communities, or other users without their FPIC, based on a simplified FPIC approach (reference 1.1 E, Annex 2).	2.5 MS A Do any smallholders within the group have plans for new planting of oil palm? If none, SKIP. Smallholders complete training on how to conduct a simplified FPIC approach.	2.5 MS A Do any smallholders within the group have plans for new planting of oil palm? If none, SKIP. Smallholders complete training on how to conduct a simplified FPIC approach.	2.5 MS B Do any smallholders within the group have plans for new planting of oil palm? If none, SKIP. Based on a simplified free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) approach, smallholders jointly agree on a plan with the affected Indigenous Peoples and/or local communities and/or other rights holders, including vulnerable groups, for new oil palm developments, if these involve land-use change.	2.5 MS B Do any smallholders within the group have plans for new planting of oil palm? If none, SKIP. Based on a simplified FPIC approach, smallholders jointly agree on a plan with the affected indigenous peoples and/or local communities and/or other rights holders, including vulnerable groups, for new oil palm developments, if these involve land-use change.

	Princ	ciple 3: Respect human righ	its. including workers' righ	its and conditions			
Cri	teria	Spic of Nespect Haman rigi	its) including Workers Tight		ators		
(Draft 2)	(ISH 2019)	Eligibility (E) (Draft 2)	Eligibility (E) (ISH 2019)	Milestone A (MS A) (Draft 2)	Milestone A (MS A) (ISH 2019)	Milestone B (MS B)	Milestone B (MS B)
3.1 There is no use of forced labour.	3.1 There is no use of forced labour.	Simily (e) (ent. 2) Smallholders agree not to use forced labor and ensure that any use of forced labor on the farm ends at the Eligibility stage. At a minimum, a simplified labor agreement (i.e., a labor register) stipulates workers' basic employment terms, in accordance with national context and regulation. In addition, smallholders provide information on the source of labor, including family members working on the farm, and hired labor, including contracted workers (reference 1.1 E, Annex 2).	Sample (c) (and c) (an	3.1 MS A	3.1 MS A Smallholders complete training on free and fair labour and implement measures to ensure that all work is voluntary, and the following practices are prohibited: • Retention of identity documents including but not limited to passports; • Payment of recruitment fees by workers; • Contract substitution; • Involuntary overtime; • Lack of freedom for workers to resign; • Penalty for termination of employment; • Debt bondage; • Withholding of wages.	3.1 MS B	3.1 MS B Workers on the farm, including their families, have unrestricted access to their identity documents, have freedom of movement and can declare that their employment is freely chosen.
3.2 Children are not employed or exploited. Work by children is acceptable on family farms, under adult supervision and when not interfering with education programmes. Children are not exposed to hazardous working conditions as defined by ILO.	3.2 Children are not employed or exploited. Work by children is acceptable on family farms, under adult supervision and when not interfering with education programmes. Children are not exposed to hazardous working conditions.	3.2 E Smallholders are aware of what entails child labour and ensure that any child labour in farm operations ends at Eligibility stage. Awareness of child labour and commitment to no child labour, even on family farms, includes: 1. Compliance with the minimum age of workers and as defined by local, state, or national law, or international law in the absence of local, state or national laws. 2. Not exposing children to hazardous work. 3. Providing adult supervision of children and/or young workers on the farm. 4. Ensuring the practice of children's right to education is unrestricted and respected (reference 1.1 E, Annex 2).	3.2 E Smallholders are aware of what defines child labour and ensure that any child labour in farm operations is terminated at Eligibility. Awareness of child labour and commitment to no child labour includes: 1. Compliance with the minimum age of workers and as defined by local, state, or national law, or international law in the absence of local, state or national laws. 2. Not exposing children to hazardous work. 3. Providing adult supervision of children and/or young people working on the farm. 4. Ensuring the practice of children's right to education is unrestricted and respected (reference 1.1 E, Annex 2).	3.2 MS A Group managers and smallholders implement measures to protect children as follows: (i) There are no workers on smallholder farms under the age of 15 or under the minimum age defined by local, state or national law, whichever is higher. (ii) Children are only permitted to help on family farms and are not permitted to perform dangerous, hazardous or heavy work. (iii) If young workers are employed, their work is not mentally or physically harmful and does not interfere with their schooling, if applicable.	3.2 MS A Group managers and smallholders implement measures to protect children as follows: 1. There are no workers on smallholder farms under the age of 15 or under the minimum age defined by local, state or national law, whichever is higher. 2. Children are only permitted to help on family farms and are not permitted to perform dangerous, hazardous or heavy work. 3. If young workers are employed, their work is not mentally or physically harmful and does not interfere with their schooling, if applicable.	3.2 MS B Same as MSA	3.2 MS B Same as Eligibility
3.3 Are there workers on the farm? If no, SKIP Workers' pay complies with minimum legal requirements, mandatory industry standards as defined by national law or collective bargaining, whichever takes priority in local regulations. The term workers includes permanent and non-permanent workers, and based on the regional extraporary for	Are there workers on the farm? If no, SKIP Workers' pay complies with minimum legal requirements, mandatory industry standards as defined by national law or collective bargaining, whichever takes priority in local regulations.	3.3 E Smallholders commit to pay workers according to minimum legal requirements or mandatory industry standards (reference 1.1 E, Annex 2).	3.3. E Smallholders commit to pay workers according to minimum legal requirements or mandatory industry standards (reference 1.1 E, Annex 2).	3.3. MS A Workers receive payments as expected and agreed in accordance with at least the legal minimum wage rate (excluding overtime premiums) and without discrimination against vulnerable groups, including women.	3.3. MS A Workers receive payments as expected and agreed in accordance with at least the legal minimum wage rate (excluding overtime premiums) and without discrimination against vulnerable groups, including women.	3.3 MS B Workers receive payments as expected and agreed in accordance with at least the legal minimum wage rate (excluding overtime premiums) and without discrimination against vulnerable groups, including women.	3.3 MS B Workers receive payments as expected and agreed in accordance with at least the lega minimum wage rate (excluding overtime premiums) and withou discrimination against vulnerable groups, including women.

regional customary for temporary workers.

Principle 3: Respect human rights, including workers' rights and conditions

Crit	eria	Indicators						
(Draft 2)	(ISH 2019)	Eligibility (E) (Draft 2)	Eligibility (E) (ISH 2019)	Milestone A (MS A) (Draft 2)	Milestone A (MS A) (ISH 2019)	Milestone B (MS B)	Milestone B (MS B)	
Are there workers on the farm? If no, SKIP Workers understand their rights and freedom to file a complaint/grievance to group manager or relevant	3.4 Are there workers on the farm? If no, SKIP Workers understand their rights and freedom to file a complaint/grievance to group manager or relevant third parties, including RSPO.	Smallholders commit to respect the rights of workers to file a complaint/grievance (reference	3.4 E Smallholders commit to respect the rights of workers to file a complaint/grievance (reference 1.1 E, Annex 2).		3.4 MS A Smallholders complete training on workers' rights to file a complaint/ grievance and communicate to workers the means to file a complaint/ grievance.	3.4 MS B Workers are aware of and have access to an effective means for filing a complaint/ grievance.	3.4 MS B Workers are aware of and have access to an effective means for filling a complaint/ grievance.	
3.5 Working conditions and facilities are safe and meet minimum legal	3.5 Working conditions and facilities are safe and meet minimum legal requirements.	Smallholders commit to providing safe working conditions and facilities including appropriate	3.5 E Smallholders commit to providing safe working conditions and facilities (reference 1.1 E, Annex 2).	members complete training and	3.5 MS A Smallholders, workers, and family members complete training and aware of health and safety risks associated with farm work, (including that of pesticide use) and how to mitigate them.	3.5 MS B Workers, including smallholder family members, have access to safe working conditions and amenities that include: • Safe and adequate housing, where applicable; • Access to basic first aid supplies; • Health and safety equipment, including minimum personal protective equipment (PPE) if appropriate for the type of work; • Adequate drinking water; • Access to toilets.	3.5 MS B Workers, including smallholder family members, have access to safe working conditions and amenities that include: • Safe and adequate housing, where applicable; • Access to basic first aid supplies; • Health and safety equipment, including minimum personal protective equipment (PPE) if appropriate for the type of work; • Adequate drinking water; • Access to toilets.	
	3.6		3.6 E	3.6 MS A	3.6 MS A	3.6 MS B	3.6 MS B	
farm? If no, SKIP	Are there workers on the farm? If no, SKIP There is no discrimination,	discrimination, harassment or abuse on the farm (reference 1.1	Smallholders commit to no discrimination, harassment or abuse on the farm (reference 1.1 E, Annex 2).	Smallholders complete training on workplace discrimination, harassment and abuse and are aware of the need for a safe	Smallholders complete training on workplace discrimination, harassment and abuse and are aware of the need for a safe	No evidence can be found of discrimination, harassment, or abuse.	Workers freely express that they are working in a place that is free from discrimination, harassment or abuse.	
harassment, or abuse on the	,	L, Ailliek 2).	E, Aimex 2).	workspace.	workspace.		or abuse.	

Principle 4: Protect, conserve and enhance ecosystems and the environment

Crit	teria			Indio	cators		
(Draft 2)	(ISH 2019)	Eligibility (E) (Draft 2)	Eligibility (E) (ISH 2019)	Milestone A (MS A) (Draft 2)	Milestone A (MS A) (ISH 2019)	Milestone B (MS B) (Draft 2)	Milestone B (MS B) (ISH 2019)
4.1 High Conservation Value (HCVs) areas and High Carbon Stock (HCS) forests after November 2019, in the smallholder plot or within the managed areas, identified through the simplified combined HCV-HCS approach, are managed to ensure that they are maintained and/or enhanced.	4.1 High Conservation Values (HCVs) on the smallholder plot or within the managed area and High Carbon Stock (HCS) forests identified after November 2019 using the simplified combined HCV-HCS approach, are managed to ensure that they are maintained and/or enhanced.	4.1 E Smallholders commit to protecting HCV areas and HCS forests through the precautionary practices approach, and care and protection of RTE (rare, threatened, or endangered) species. (reference 1.1 E, Annex 2)	4.1 E Smallholders commit to protect HCVs and HCS forests through the precautionary practices approach (reference 1.1 E, Annex 2).	4.1 MS A Smallholders and workers (if any) complete training on and are aware of: • the importance of maintaining and conserving HCVs and HCS forests • human-wildlife conflict and mitigation efforts • RTE species and important ecosystems.	4.1 MS A Smallholders complete training on and are aware of: • the importance of maintaining and conserving HCVs and HCS forests • human-wildlife conflict and mitigation efforts • RTE species and important ecosystems.	4.1 MS B Smallholders implement precautionary practices and manage and maintain Rare, Threatened and Endangered (RTE) species, HCVs and HCS forests, where applicable.	4.1 MS B Smallholders implement precautionary practices and manage and maintain RTE species, HCVs and HCS forests, where applicable.
4.2 Where the existing smallholder plot has been planted and cleared after November 2005 or is on an area identified as HCS forest after November 2019 up to the eligibility period, a Remediation and Compensation Procedure (RaCP) process appropriate for smallholders based on Land Use Change Analysis (LUCA) will be applicable (reference preamble).	4.2 Where the existing smallholder plot has been planted and cleared after November 2005 or is on an area identified as HCS forest after November 2019 up to the eligibility period, a RaCP process appropriate for smallholders based on Land Use Change Analysis (LUCA) will be applicable (reference preamble).	4.2 E Smallholders and Group Manager provide information on all smallholder plots converted and planted with oil palm after 2005, through the result of Land Use Change Analysis (LUCA) or any other tools approved by RSPO. (reference 1.1 E, Annex 2)	4.2 E Smallholders provide information on all smallholder plots converted and planted with oil palm after 2005, through use of the simplified combined HCV-HCS approach for Smallholders (reference 1.1 E, Annex 2).	4.2 MS A Group members develop a plan to identify the maximum area for on-site remediation of HCVs lost since 2005 and HCS forests lost since November 2019, through a participatory process and the plan is submitted to RSPO.	4.2 MS A Group members develop a plan to identify the maximum area for on-site remediation of HCVs lost since 2005 and HCS forests lost since November 2019, through a participatory process and the plan is submitted to RSPO.	4.2 MS B An RSPO approved plan to remediate HCVs lost since 2005 and HCS forests lost since November 2019 is implemented.	4.2 MS B An RSPO approved plan to remediate HCVs lost since 2005 and HCS forests lost since November 2019 is implemented.
4.3	9.3	4.3 E	4.3 E	4.3 MS A	4.3 MS A	4.3 MS B	4.3 MS B
Do any smallholders within the group have plans for new planting of oil palm? If none, SKIP.	Do any smallholders within the group have plans for new planting of oil palm? If none, SKIP.	Smallholders provide information on all planned new planting and commit to no new planting are-on HCVs or HCS forests, on steep slopes (more	Smallholders provide information on all planned new planting and commit to no new planting are on HCVs or HCS forests, on steep slopes (more	Do any smallholders within the group have plans for new planting of oil palm?	Do any smallholders within the group have plans for new planting of oil palm?	Do any smallholders within the group have plans for new planting of oil palm?	Do any smallholders within the group have plans for new planting of oil palm?
New planting of independent smallholders, since November 2019: Do not replace any HCVS Do not replace any HCS forests as defined by the simplified combined HCV-HCS approach Are not on steep slopes (more than 25 degrees or as in the National Interpretation) Are not on peat areas of any depth Are not located in restricted areas or protected by national laws Are not on riparian areas	New planting of independent smallholders, since November 2019: • Do not replace any HCS • Do not replace any HCS forests as defined by the simplified combined HCV-HCS approach • Are not on steep slopes (more than 25 degrees or as in the National Interpretation) • Are not on peat areas of any depth.	than 25 degrees or as in the NI) or on peat until the HCV-HCS procedure is completed (reference 1.1 E, Annex 2)	than 25 degrees or as in the National Interpretation) or on peat (reference 1.1 E, Annex 2).	Before any land preparation commences, group members develop an integrated management plan through a participatory approach to maintain or enhance HCVs as well as HCS forests identified after November 2019, as identified by the simplified combined HCV-HCS approach, before any land preparation commences.	Before any land preparation commences, group members develop an integrated management plan through a participatory approach to maintain or enhance HCVs as well as HCS forests identified after November 2019, as identified by the simplified combined HCV-HCS approach, before any land preparation commences.	Smallholders have an RSPO approved integrated management plan for their planned new planting and share a notice of this plan with those involved in the participatory mapping before any land preparation commences.	Smallholders have an RSPO approved integrated management plan for the planned new planting and share a notice of this plan with those involved in the participatory mapping before any land preparation commences.
4.4 Do any smallholders within the group have existing plots on peat? If no, SKIP Where smallholder plots exist on peat, subsidence and degradation of peat soils are minimised by use of best management practices.	4.4 Do any smallholders within the group have existing plots on peat? If no, SKIP Where smallholder plots exist on peat, subsidence and degradation of peat soils are minimised by use of best management practices.	4.4 E Group manager confirms presence of peat on existing plots within the group and smallholders on peat commit to using Best Management Practices (BMPs), and minimising subsidence and degradation of peat soils (reference 1.1 E, Annex 2).	4.4 E Group manager confirms presence of peat on existing plots within the group and smallholders on peat commit to using best management practices (BMPs), and minimising subsidence and degradation of peat soils (reference 1.1 E, Annex 2).	4.4 MS A Smallholders complete training on Best Management Practices (BMPs) for peat. The Group Manager and smallholders established-an action plan to minimise risk of fire, to apply BMPs for planting on peat and manage water systems in the certification unit.	4.4 MS A Smallholders complete training on best management practices (BMPs) for peat. The group has an action plan to minimise risk of fire, to apply BMPs for planting on peat and manage water systems in the certification unit.	4.4 MS B Smallholders implement the group's action plan based on Best Management Practices (BMPs), including fire and water management, and monitoring of subsidence rate for existing planting on peat.	4.4 MS B Smallholders implement the group's action plan based on BMPs, including fire and water management, and monitoring of subsidence rate for existing planting on peat.
4.5 Do any smallholders within the group have plans for replanting plots that are located on peat? If no, SKIP. Plots on peat are replanted only on areas with low risk of flooding or saline intrusion as demonstrated by an RSPO approved flood risk assessment, in accordance with the RSPO ISH Flood Risk Assessment Template.	4.5 Do any smallholders within the group have plans for replanting plots that are located on peat? If no, SKIP. Plots on peat are replanted only on areas with low risk of flooding or saline intrusion as demonstrated by a risk assessment.	4.5 E Smallholders commit to providing information on all plans for replanting and commit that replanting will only be in areas with low risk of flooding or saline intrusion (reference 1.1 E, Annex 2).	4.5 E Smallholders commit to provide information on all plans for replanting and commit that replanting will only be in areas with low risk of flooding or saline intrusion (reference 1.1 E, Annex 2).	4.5 MS A All smallholders with plots on peat complete training on identification of future risks of flooding or saline intrusion, and alternate land development strategies.	4.5 MS A Smallholders with plots on peat complete training on identification of future risks of flooding or saline intrusion, and alternate land development strategies.	4.5 MS B Prior to replanting on peat, smallholders complete a risk assessment related to flooding or saline intrusion and, where there is high risk, present a plan that includes alternate land development strategies, preferencing alternative livelihood planning.	4.5 MS B Prior to replanting on peat, smallholders complete a risk assessment related to flooding or saline intrusion and, where there is high risk, present a plan that includes alternate land development strategies, preferencing alternative livelihood planning.
4.6 Fire is not used on the oil palm plot for preparing land or for pest control, and no open burning for waste management on the farm.	4.6 Fire is not used on the oil palm plot for preparing land or for pest control, nor open fire for waste management on the farm.	4.6 E Smallholders commit to no burning for preparing land or for pest control, and no open burning for waste management. Group Manager records evidence of prior burning by members joining the group (reference 1.1 E, Annex 2).	4.6 E Smallholders commit to no burning for preparing land or for pest control, nor open fire for waste management. Group manager records evidence of prior burning of members joining the group (reference 1.1 E, Annex 2).	4.6 MS A There is no physical evidence of new burning (after eligibility) for land preparation for oil palm by smallholders. Smallholders complete training on and are aware of: • alternatives to fire for land preparation and farm waste management (where appropriate and possible) • alternatives to fire for pest control • fire prevention and how to respond to and manage fires in their community and village.	4.6 MS A There is no physical evidence of new burning (after eligibility) for land preparation for oil palm by smallholders. Smallholders complete training on and are aware of: • alternatives to fire for land preparation and farm waste management (where appropriate and possible) • alternatives to fire for pest control • fire prevention and how to respond to and manage fires in their community and village.	used only in exceptional circumstances, i.e. where no other effective measures exist and with	4.6 MS B Smallholders do not use fire or practice burning for land preparation, waste management or pest control on the farm. For pest control, fire may be used only in exceptional circumstances i.e. where no other effective measures exist and with prior approval of relevant authority.

Principle 4: Protect, conserve and enhance ecosystems and the environment

Crit	teria			Indic	ators		
(Draft 2)	(ISH 2019)	Eligibility (E) (Draft 2)	Eligibility (E) (ISH 2019)	Milestone A (MS A) (Draft 2)	Milestone A (MS A) (ISH 2019)	Milestone B (MS B) (Draft 2)	Milestone B (MS B) (ISH 2019)
4.7 Riparian buffer zones are identified and managed to ensure maintenance and/or improvement, in accordance with national legislation and taking into account the RSPO Manual for the latest version of the Management and Rehabilitation of Riparian Reserves - Simplified Guide	4.7 Riparian buffer zones are identified and managed to ensure they are maintained and/or enhanced.	4.7 E Group manager identifies riparian buffer zones within the group and smallholders, in accordance with the latest version of the RSPO Manual for the Management and Rehabilitation of Riparian Reserves - Simplified Guide, in order to manage them in existing plantations and commit to no new planting in riparian zones (reference 1.1 E, Annex 2).	4.7 E Group manager identifies riparian buffer zones within the group and smallholders commit to no new planting in riparian zones (reference 1.1 E, Annex 2).	4.7 MS A Smallholders complete training on and are aware of riparian buffer zone management, and the group has an action plan to maintain and/or enhance riparian buffer zones.	4.7 MS A Smallholders complete training on and are aware of riparian buffer zone management, and the group has an action plan to maintain and/or enhance riparian buffer zones.		4.7 MS B Smallholders maintain and/or enhance riparian buffer zone areas.
endanger the health of workers, family,	4.8 Pesticides are used in ways that do not endanger the health of workers, family, communities or the environment	4.8 E Smallholders commit to phase out paraquat and pesticides categorised as WHO Class 1A or 1B and those listed by the Stockholm or Rotterdam Conventions by: • immediately stopping purchase of these pesticides • phasing out use of remaining stock by MS B • providing information for the Group Manager to keep records of pesticide purchase and use (reference 1.1 E, Annex 2).	4.8 E Smallholders commit to phase out paraquat and pesticides categorised as WHO Class 1A or 1B and those listed by the Stockholm or Rotterdam Conventions by: • immediately stop purchasing these pesticides • phasing out use of remaining stock by MS A • providing information for the group manager to keep record of pesticide purchase and use (reference 1.1 E, Annex 2).	4.8 MS A Smallholders complete training on BMPs for pesticides including pesticide usage, awareness on risks for pregnant and breastfeeding women and young workers; storage and disposal; paraquat and pesticides listed by WHO Class 1A or 1B, the Stockholm or Rotterdam Conventions (and in compliance with 3.5).	4.8 MS A Smallholders complete training on BMPs for pesticides including pesticide usage, awareness on risks for pregnant and breastfeeding women and young workers; storage and disposal; paraquat and pesticides listed by WHO Class 1A or 18, the Stockholm or Rotterdam Conventions (and in compliance with 3.5).	Smallholders implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) for all pesticide use, including prohibiting use of pesticides by pregnant and breastfeeding women and young workers, and exclusion of paraquat and pesticides that are categorised as WHO Class 1A or 1B, or those listed by the Stockholm or Rotterdam	4.8 MS B Smallholders implement BMPS for all pesticide use, including prohibiting use of pesticides by pregnant and breastfeeding women and young workers, and exclusion of paraquat and pesticides that are categorised as WHO Class 1A or 1B, or those listed by the Stockholm or Rotterdam Conventions, unless when authorised by relevant authorities for pest outbreaks.
diseases, weeds and invasive introduced species using appropriate techniques, including but not limited to Integrated Pest	4.9 The group and smallholders manage pests, diseases, weeds and invasive introduced species using appropriate techniques, including but not limited to integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques.	4.9 E Not applicable	4.9 E Not applicable	4.9 MS A Smallholders complete training on and are aware of BMPs, including, but not limited to safe chemical use, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), weed and invasive species management.	4.9 MS A Smallholders complete training on and are aware of BMPs, including, but not limited to safe chemical use, IPM, weed and invasive species management.	The group and smallholders maximise use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approaches to minimise use of	4.9 MS B The group and smallholders maximise use of IPM approaches to minimise use of pesticides and herbicides on their farm.

			A - ICS: Group entity	and group management requ	uirements		
Cri	teria			Indi	cators		
(Draft 2)	(ISH 2019)	Eligibility (E) (Draft 2)	Eligibility (E) (ISH 2019)	Milestone A (MS A) (Draft 2)	Milestone A (MS A) (ISH 2019)	Milestone B (MS B) (Draft 2)	Milestone B (MS B) (ISH 2019)
A1 The group demonstrates	A1 The group demonstrates	A1.1 E The group has appointed a group	A1.1 E The group has appointed a group	A1.1 MS A Same as Eligibility	A1.1 MS A Same as Eligibility	A1.1 MS B Same as Eligibility	A1.1 MS B Same as Eligibility
that they are legally formed.	that they are legally formed.	manager. A1.2 E The Group Manager has evidence of the existence of the legal entity.	manager. A1.2 E The group manager has evidence of legal identity.	A1.2 MS A Same as Eligibility	A1.2 MS A Same as Eligibility	A1.2 MS B Same as Eligibility	A1.2 MS B Same as Eligibility
		A1.3 E The group has membership requirements.	A1.3 E The group has membership requirements.	A1.3 MS A Same as Eligibility	A1.3 MS A Same as Eligibility	A1.3 MS B Same as Eligibility	A1.3 MS B Same as Eligibility
		A1.4 E All members have signed and	A1.4 E All members have signed and acknowledged membership requirements.	A1.4 MS A All members can demonstrate understanding of membership requirements.	A1.4 MS A All members can demonstrate understanding of membership requirements.	A1.4 MS B Same as MSA	A1.4 MS B NA
A2 The group manager is responsible for managing the group for certification.	A2 The group manager is responsible for managing the group for certification.	A2.1 E The group manager includes members' participation and/or consultation in planning for the implementation of the group's Internal Control System (ICS). The group manager has planned for the implementation of the group's ICS that includes members' participation.	A2.1 E The group manager has planned for the implementation of the ICS.	A2.1 MS A The Group Manager can demonstrate compliance with the ICS through the implementation of individual members.	A2.1 MS A The group manager can demonstrate compliance of the ICS by individual members.	A2.1 MS B Same as MSA	A2.1 MS B NA
		A2.2 E The group manager demonstrates understanding of the RSPO ISH	A2.2 E The group manager demonstrates understanding of the RSPO ISH Standard, group certification and related topics and has sufficient resources to manage the group.	A2.2 MS A The Group Manager can demonstrate capacity to manage and operate group certification and certification requirements.	A2.2 MS A The group manager can demonstrate capacity to manage and operate group certification and certification requirements.	A2.2 MS B Same as MSA	A2.2 MS B NA
		A2.3 E A group annual training plan is available covering the RSPO ISH Standard, group management (which includes group objectives, structure, relevant procedures and the	A2.3 E A group annual training plan is available covering the RSPO ISH Standard, group management (which includes group objectives, structure, relevant procedures and the certification process) and other topics as outlined in the ISH Standard.	A2.3 MS A The Group Manager implements a phased approach to ensure members have progressively attended training on the ISH Standard, group management and other topics as outlined in the ISH Standard according to the group annual training plan.	A2.3 MS A The group manager implements a phased approach to ensure members have progressively attended training on the ISH Standard, group management and other topics as outlined in the ISH Standard according to the group annual training plan.	A2.3 MS B All members attended training and can demonstrate understanding of the ISH Standard, group management and certification requirements including awareness on BMPs, HCV, environmental protection, social welfare of workers and business operations.	A2.3 MS B All members attended training and can demonstrate understanding of t ISH Standard, group management at certification requirements including awareness on BMPs, HCV, environmental protection, social welfare of workers and business operations.
			B - ICS: I	Policies and management			
C~:+	teria			- In all	cators		
(Draft 2)	(ISH 2019)	Eligibility (E) (Draft 2)	Eligibility (E) (ISH 2019)	Milestone A (MS A) (Draft 2)	Milestone A (MS A) (ISH 2019)	Milestone B (MS B) (Draft 2)	Milestone B (MS B) (ISH 2019)
R1	B1	B1.1 E	B1.1 E	B1.1 MS A	B1.1 MS A	B1.1 MS B	B1.1 MS B
The group ICS contains documented policies, procedures and organisational information for operational management.	The group ICS contains documented policies and procedures for operational management.		A group ICS is available for operational management including procedures of expulsion and sanctions for members who fail to comply, and a procedure to conduct internal audits.	The ICS is implemented and an	The ICS is implemented and an	The ICS is implemented and an annual	The ICS is implemented and an annu internal audit of the group is conducted for all group members ar all audit findings are resolved.

B1.2 MS A Same as Eligibility B1.2 MS A Same as Eligibility B1.2 MS B Same as Eligibility

B1.2 E Basic information, farm information,

production data, legal documentation of group members and signed Smallholder Declarations are available

to the group manager.

B1.2 E

Basic information, farm information,

production data, legal documentation of group members and signed Smallholder Declarations are available

o the group manager.

		Indicators					
(Draft 2)	(ISH 2019)	Eligibility (E) (Draft 2)	Eligibility (E) (ISH 2019)	Milestone A (MS A) (Draft 2)	Milestone A (MS A) (ISH 2019)	Milestone B (MS B) (Draft 2)	Milestone B (MS B) (ISH 2019)
C1 The group has a business	C1 The group has a business plan prepared with the participation and contributions of all group members. C2 The ICS of the group is	C1.1 E An annual group business plan is available, which includes: • production and income forecasting based on historical records • plans for expansion. C2.1 E A group management plan is available, which covers: • plan on training/capacity building plans to Improve productivity of group members • approach to strengthen links within the supply chain • plan for continuous improvement projects (i.e. on waste,	C1.1 E An annual group business plan is available, which includes: production and income forecasting based on historical records plans for expansion. C2.1 E Agroup management plan is available, which includes: training/capacity building plans to Improve productivity of group members an approach to strengthen links within the supply chain plan for continuous improvement projects (i.e. on waste, soil, etc.), if any.	C1.1 MS A The group business plan is implemented and reviewed at least annually. C2.1 MS A The group management plan is implemented and reviewed at least annually.	C1.1 MS A The group business plan is implemented and reviewed at least annually. C2.1 MS A The group management plan is implemented and reviewed at least annually.	C1.1 MS B The group demonstrates its ability to support itself financially, with results according to the businness plan C2.1 MS B The group demonstrates the implementation of management plan activities by members.	C1.1 MS B The group demonstrates financial stability and growth and is able to support itself financially. C2.1 MS B The group manager demonstrates the group's compliance with this ISH Standard.

D - ICS: ICS: Group trading system for certified volumes

				Indic	ators		
(Draft 2)	(ISH 2019)	Eligibility (E) (Draft 2)	Eligibility (E) (ISH 2019)	Milestone A (MS A) (Draft 2)	Milestone A (MS A) (ISH 2019)	Milestone B (MS B) (Draft 2)	Milestone B (MS B) (ISH 2019)
	The group has a procedure and system in place for the	There is a procedure and records are kept to track the annual production	D1.1 E Record sheets to track the annual production and sales of certified volumes, covering traceability of		D1.1 MS A Group manager maintains annual production records and sales of certified volumes.		D1.1 MS B Group manager maintains annual production records and sales of certified volumes of all FFB sources.
, and the second		covering traceability of producers and/or traders are available.	producers and/or traders are available.				
D2 The group documents and implements a system for the tracking of FFB.		D2.1 E Not Applicable	D2.1 E NA	production data and sales of certified volumes through Book and Claim for	D2.1 MS A The group manager maintains annual production data and sales of certified volumes through Book and Claim for the group based on actual receipts for and sales by all members.	The group manager maintains annual production data and sales of certified volumes through physical or Book and Claim for the group based on actual receipts and sales for all members and	D2.1 MS B The group manager maintains annual production data and sales of certified volumes through physical or Book and Claim for the group based on actual receipts and sales for all members and 100% of all certified volumes.
D3 The group has a procedure and system for premium distribution.	The group has a procedure and system for premium	The group and group manager have agreed on how the premiums should be used and the agreement is recorded and communicated to the group members. Prices, premiums, and timing of premium payment are clearly communicated and transparent to all group members. Premiums disbursed to members at all stages are recorded and the premiums are paid in a timely and convenient		The disbursement of premiums, including price and timing of the disbursement to group members is clearly recorded.	D3.1 MS A The disbursement of premiums, including price and timing of the disbursement to group members is clearly recorded.	D3.1 MSB Same as MS A	D3.1 MSB NA

Term	Definition	Source
Affected Communities	All Communities that are likely to be affected directly and significantly by the proposed development, i.e. those with land holdings and other user rights, within the affected area must be included in the assessment and FPIC process. Other communities that are likely to be affected only indirectly, such as by possible longer term	RSPO Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Guide, 2022
Agreement	changes to the ecosystem services provision due to the water usage of the operation for example, also need to be taken into account. An arrangement (usually informal) between two or more parties that is not enforceable by law.	RSPO P&C 2023
Child	The term child applies to all persons under the age of 18.	ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)
Child labour	Child labour is work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. The term applies to: • All children under 18 involved in the "worst forms of child labour" (as per ILO Convention No. 182) • All children aged under 12 taking part in economic activity; and	ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)
	 All 13 to 15-year-olds engaged in more than light work. The ILO defines light work as work that is not likely to be harmful to children's health or development and not likely to be detrimental to their attendance at school or vocational training. Those under 18 years old should not engage in hazardous work that might jeopardise their physical, mental or moral well-being, either because of its nature or the conditions under which it is carried out. For young workers above the legal minimum age but below 18, there should be restrictions on hours of work and overtime; working at dangerous heights; with dangerous machinery, equipment and tools; transport of heavy loads; exposure to hazardous substances or processes; and difficult 	
Communities	conditions such as work at night. Communities refer to Indigenous Peoples, Tribal Peoples, Local Communities (including women, children, and people with disabilities), displaced persons, migrants, and	RSPO P&C 2018
Family farm	other land users. A farm operated and mostly owned by a family, for the growing of oil palm, sometimes along with subsistence production of other crops, and where the family provides the majority of the labour used. Such farms provide the principal source of income, and the planted area of oil palm is below 50 ha in size. Work by children is acceptable on family farms, under adult supervision; when not interfering with education programmes; when children are part of the family and when they are not exposed to hazardous working conditions.	P&C 2013
Contract substitution	The practice of substituting or changing the terms of employment to which the worker originally agreed, either in writing or verbally, which results in worse conditions or less benefits. Changes to the employment agreement or contract are prohibited unless these changes are made to meet local law and provide equal or better terms.	ILO Report to the Committee examining alleged noncompliance by Qatar of Forced Labour
Contract worker	Contract worker refers to persons engaged in temporary work, or work for a specific period of time. It also refers to workers who are not employed directly by the company, but employed by a contractor or consultant with whom the company has a direct contract.	ILO, NonStandard Forms of Employment
Debt bondage	Debt bondage is work exchanged for a debt. It is also known as bonded labor or debt slavery, where workers are told they can pay off a loan of their own or of a family member by working it off. Debt bondage exists when labourers (sometimes with their families) are forced to work for an employer to pay off their own debts or those they have inherited.	ILO Global Business Network on Forced Labour/ See also https://www.ilo.org/empent/areas/business- helpdesk/WCMS_DOC_ENT_HLP_FL_EN/lang en/index.htm
Deforestation	Loss of natural forest as a result of:	Draft Accountability Framework Initiativea (AFI) (July 2018). Refer to latest AFI definition
	i) conversion to agriculture or other non-forest land use; ii) conversion to a plantation forest; or iii) severe and sustained degradation.	
Development	Development means land disturbing activities, structural development (construction, installation or expansion of a building or other structure), and/or creation of impervious surfaces on a previously undeveloped site, for palm oil production purposes.	P&C 2023
Discrimination	Any distinction, exclusion or preference made on the basis of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin, which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation; Such other distinction, exclusion or preference which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation as may be determined by the Member concerned after consultation with representative employers' and workers' organisations, where such exist, and with other appropriate bodies.	United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Comissioner, Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)
Forced labour	All work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which said person has not offered him or herself voluntarily. This definition consists of three elements: 1. Work or service refers to all types of work occurring in any activity, industry or sector including in the informal economy.	ILO Forced Labour Definition ILO, Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)
	2. Menace of any penalty refers to a wide range of penalties used to compel someone to work. 3. Involuntariness: The terms "offered voluntarily" refer to the free and informed consent of a worker to take a job and his or her freedom to leave at any time. This includes when an employer or recruiter makes false promises so that a worker takes a job he or she would not otherwise have accepted.	ILO, Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (P029)
		ILO, Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)
		ILO, Forced Labour Recommendation 2014 (No. 203)

Term	Definition	Source
Group manager	Person, group of people or organisation	RSPO ISH Standard 2019
	responsible for running the internal control	
	system and managing the group. This can be a	
	mill, an organisation or an individual.	
Hazardous work	Hazardous work is work performed in hazardous conditions; or "in the most hazardous sectors and occupations, such as agriculture, construction, mining, or ship-breaking,	Article 3 (d) of ILO Convention concerning the
	or where working relationships or conditions create particular risks, such as exposure to hazardous agents, such as chemical substances or radiation, or in the informal	Prohibition and Immediate Action for the
	economy." (https://www.ilo.org/safework/areasofwork/hazardouswork/langen/index.htm)	Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour,
		1999 (No. 182)
	Hazardous work is also defined as "any work which is likely to jeopardise children's physical, mental or moral health, safety or morals" and which "should not be done by	
	anyone under the age of 18." (https://www.ilo.org/ipec/facts/ ILOconventionsonchildlabour/langen/index.htm)	
High Carbon Stock forest	Forests that have been identified using the High Carbon Stock Approach (HCSA) Toolkit	HCSA website www.highcarbonstock.org
High Conservation Value (HCV) areas:	The areas necessary to maintain or enhance one or more High Conservation Values (HCVs):	High Conservation Value Resource Network
		(HCVRN) Common Guidance for Identification of
	HCV 1 – Species diversity; Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered (RTE) species, that are significant at global, regional or national levels.	HCVs 2017
	HCV 2 – Landscape-level ecosystems, ecosystem mosaics and Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL); Large landscape-level ecosystems, ecosystem mosaics and IFL that are	
	included a comparation of the control of the contro	
	algument at goods, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.	
	uistributori and abundance.	
	HCV 3 – Ecosystems and habitats; RTE ecosystems, habitats or refugia.	
	HCV 4 – Ecosystem services; Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.	
	HCV 5 – Community needs; Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities or indigenous peoples (for livelihoods, health,	
	nutrition, water, etc.), identified through engagement with these communities or indigenous peoples.	
	HCV 6 – Cultural values; Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural,	
	ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or indigenous peoples, identified through engagement with these	
	local communities or indigenous peoples.	
Indigenous peoples	"Indigenous Peoples" is used in a generic sense to refer to a distinct, vulnerable, social and cultural group possessing the following characteristics in varying degrees: (a)	World Bank Operational Manual 4.10
	self-identification as members of a distinct indigenous cultural group and recognition of this identity by others; (b) collective attachment to geographically distinct habitats	
	or ancestral territories in the project area and to the natural resources in these habitats and territories; (c) customary cultural, economic, social, or political institutions	
	that are separate from those of the dominant society and culture; and (d) an indigenous language, often different from the official language of the country or region.	
Integrated Management Plan (IMP)	An Integrated Management Plan consists of the set of coordinated mitigation, monitoring, and institutional measures to be taken during implementation and operation to	P&C 2023
	eliminate adverse environmental and social impacts, offset them, or reduce them to acceptable levels. The IMP is to maximize economic outcomes and social welfare in an	
	equitable manner without compromising ecosystem sustainability.	
Internal Control System (ICS)	A set of rules, policies, and procedures which	RSPO ISH Standard 2019
	an organisation implements to provide	
	direction, increase efficiency and strengthen	
	adherence to policies to manage a group.	
Land clearing	Conversion of land from one land use to another. Clearing actively managed oil palm plantation to replant oil palm is not considered land clearing. Within existing certified units, clearing of less than 10 ha is not considered new land clearing.	P&C Review 2018
Livelihood	A person's or a group's way of making a living, from their environment or in the economy, including how they provision their basic needs and assure themselves and	P&C 2013
	following generations secure access to food, clean water, health, education, housing and the materials needed for their life and comfort either through their own direct	
	use of natural resources or through exchange, barter, trade or engagement in the market.	
	A livelihood includes not just access to resources but the knowledge and institutions that make this possible such as time for community participation and integration,	
	personal, local or traditional ecological knowledge, skills, endowments and practices, the assets that are intrinsic to that way of making a living (e.g. farms, fields, pastures,	
	crops, stock, natural resources, tools, machinery and intangible cultural properties) and their position in the legal, political and social fabric of society.	
	The risk of livelihood failure determines the level of vulnerability of a person or a group to income, food, health and nutritional insecurity. Therefore, livelihoods are secure	
	when they have secure ownership of, or access to, resources and income earning activities, including reserves and assets, to offset risks, ease shocks and meet	
	contingencies.	
	[Compiled from various definitions of livelihoods from Department for International Development (DfID), Institute of Development Studies (IDS) and FAO and academic	
	texts from: http://www.fao.org/docrep/X0051T/X0051t05.htm).	
Local Community	Refer to a community in a particular place where local people share common concern around local facilities, services and environment, and which may at times depart	RSPO Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)
	from traditional or State definitions. Generally, local communities attach particular meaning to land and natural resources as sources of culture, customs, history and	Guide, 2022
	identity, and depend on them to sustain their livelihoods, social organisation, culture and traditions, beliefs, environment and ecology.	lune i a la l
National law	A binding rule or body of rules prescribed by the government of a sovereign state that holds force throughout the regions and territories within the government's	UN Environment Programme https://leap.unep.
	dominion. In the context of international law a State party to an international treaty must ensure that its own domestic law and practice are consistent with what is	org/knowledge/glossary/national-law
No. of all all a	required by the treaty. National law includes subsidiary legislations, regulations, by-laws, rules, orders issued by the government.	NDD 2045
New planting	Planned or proposed planting on land not previously cultivated with oil palm.	NPP 2015
Non-hazardous work	See definition for hazardous work	

Term	Definition	Source
Other conservation areas	Areas (in addition to HCV, HCS forests and peatland conservation areas) that are required to be conserved by the RSPO P&C (such as riparian areas and steep slopes) and other areas allocated by the unit of certification.	P&C Review 2018
Participatory Mapping	A map making process to make visible the association between land and communites. This is done jointly by the Unit of Certification and the Communities.	Good Practices in Participatory Mapping by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) 2009
Peat	A soil with cumulative organic layer(s) comprising more than half of the upper 80 cm or 100 cm of the soil surface containing 35% or more of organic matter (35% or more Loss on Ignition) or 18% or more organic carbon. Note for management of existing plantations in Malaysia and Indonesia, a narrower definition has been used, based on national regulations: namely soil with an organic layer of more than 50% in the top 100 cm containing more than 65% organic matter.	PLWG2 July 2018 Derived from FAO and USDA definition for histosols (organic soils) (FAO 1998, 2006/7; USDA 2014)
Pesticide	Substances or a mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pest. Pesticides are categorised into four main substituent chemicals: herbicides; fungicides; insecticides and bactericides.	P&C 2013
Plan	A time-bound and detailed scheme, programme, or method for achieving objective(s) and desired outcome(s). Plans shall have clear targets with timelines for delivery, actions to be taken and a process for monitoring progress, adapting plans to changing circumstances and reporting. Plans shall also include the identification of named individuals or positions responsible for the delivery of the plan. There shall be evidence that sufficient resources are available to carry out the plan and the plan is implemented in full.	P&C 2013
Rare, threatened or endangered (RTE) species	Species as defined by the High Conservation Value Resource Network (HCVRN).	HCVRN Common Guidance for the Identification of HCVs
Replanting	Clearing actively managed oil palm plantations to replant oil palm.	RSPO P&C 2023
Rights	Rights are legal, social or ethical principles of freedom or entitlement, in accordance with the International Bill of Rights and other relevant international human rights instruments, including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. 1. Customary rights: Patterns of long-standing community land and resource usage in accordance with Indigenous Peoples' customary laws, values, customs and traditions, including seasonal or cyclical use rather than formal legal title to land and resources issued by the State. 2. Legal rights: Rights given to individual(s), entities and others through applicable local, national or ratified international laws and regulations. 3. User rights: Rights for the use of land and resources that can be defined by local custom, mutual agreements or prescribed by other entities holding access rights. 4. Demonstrable rights: Indigenous peoples, local communities and users may have informal or customary rights in land that are not registered or recognised by the government or national laws. Demonstrable rights are distinguished from spurious claims by direct engagement with local communities, so they have adequate opportunities to justify their claims, and are best ascertained through participatory mapping with the involvement of neighbouring communities	RSPO Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Guide, 2022
Riparian	Riparian is used to refer to land located next to natural lakes, as well as streams and rivers, although the latter are more commonly found within oil palm concessions.	RSPO Manual for the Management and Rehabilitation of Riparian Reserves 2018
Risk assessment	A systematic process of identifying and evaluating the potential risks that may be involved in a projected activity or undertaking. It enables a weighing up of whether enough precautions are in place or whether more should be done to prevent harm to those at risk, including workers and members of the public.	Adapted from ILO, A 5 step guide for employers, workers and their representatives on conducting workplace risk assessments, 2014
Smallholder	Farmer growing palm oil, sometimes along with subsistence production of other crops, the farm provides the principal source of income and where the planted area of palm oil palm is usually below 50 ha in size Scheme Smallholder:	RSPO P&C 2023
	Farmers, landowners or their delegates that do not have the: • Enforceable decision-making power on the operation of the land and production practices; and/or • Freedom to choose how they utilise their lands, type of crops to plant, and how they manage them (whether and how they organise, manage and finance the land). Independent Smallholder:	RSPO ISH Standard 2019
	All smallholder farmers that are not considered to be Scheme Smallholders [see definition for Scheme Smallholders] are considered Independent Smallholder farmers.	RSPO ISH Standard 2019
Smallholder farm	Individuals or (extended) families producing oil palm on individual or multiple smallholder plots, under the thresholds currently defined by RSPO for smallholders.	RSPO ISH Standard 2019
Smallholder plot	Land owned by a smallholder that is planted with oil palm or allocated for new planting with oil palm or replanting.	RSPO ISH Standard 2019
Stakeholders	An individual or group with a legitimate and/or demonstrable interest in, or who may or may not be directly affected by, the activities of an organisation and the consequences of those activities. Stakeholders include suppliers, internal staff, members, Workers, Smallholder, customers (including shareholders, investors, and consumers), regulators, Communities, purchasers, clients, owners, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).	RSPO P&C 2018
Steep terrain	Areas that greater than 25 degrees or based on a National Interpretation (NI) process.	P&C 2013 Annex 2 Guidance NI
Traders	Persons or business that buys and sells Fresh Fruit Bunch (FFB)	RSPO P&C 2023
Tribal peoples	Persons and groups of persons that can be identified or characterised as follows: • People who self-identify as Tribal People and are accepted as such by their community • Social, cultural and economic conditions distinguish them from other sections of the national community • Status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions or by special laws or regulations	RSPO P&C 2023

Term	Definition	Source
Unit of Certification	The entity that signs the certification	RSPO ISH Standard 2019
	agreement and holds the RSPO certificate.	
	This entity takes responsibility for the	
	development and implementation of the	
	group's internal management system and all	
	member farms' management systems. The	
	group management assures member farms'	
	compliance with the Standard.	
Vulnerable groups	Any group or sector of society that is at higher risk or being subjected to social exclusion, discriminatory practices, violence, natural or environmental disaster, or economic hardship than other groups, such as indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, migrants, disabled people, the homeless, isolated elderly people, women and children.	P&C Review 2018
Watercourse	water course is a natural or artificial channel through which water flows; and/or a stream of water (such as a river, brook, or underground stream)	P&C 2023
Worker	Individual that performs work for the organisation. This includes: employees, permanent workers, seasonal workers, temporary workers, day workers, casual workers, and contract workers, regardless of their nationality, type of migrant (internal migrant or international migrant), ethnicity, religion, union membership and gender.	RSPO P&C 2023
	Permanent full-time worker - Worker with a contract for an indeterminate period (ie. indefinite contract), whose working hours per week, month, or year are defined according to national law or practice regarding working time.	
	Day worker - A worker who is hired and paid daily wages, with no guarantee that more work is available in the future	
	Temporary worker/ Seasonal worker - Workers engaged only for a specific period of time. This includes fixed-term, project- or task-based contract workers, as well as seasonal or casual workers, including day workers	
	Casual worker- Worker engaged on a very short term or on an occasional and intermittent basis, often for a specific number of hours, days or weeks, in return for a wage set by the terms of the daily or periodic work agreement.	
	workers engaged under a contract of employment for a specified period of time or a specified task; workers engaged on a casual basis for a short period	
	See also Young Workers as defined below.	
Young workers	Young workers are those who are above the country's minimum age of employment but under the age of 18	ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), 2009).

Annex 2. Smallholder Declaration

By signing this Smallholder Declaration, I assert that:

- A. I recognise the importance of sustainable production.
- B. I will join a farmer group to pursue group certification of the RSPO ISH Standard and comply with the principles and their relevant criteria and indicators.
- C. I will provide the following information to my group manager:
 - 1. Detail information of all land holdings
 - 2. Location (coordinates) of all plots currently planted with oil palm
 - 3. Information on all plots converted and planted with oil palm after 2005 (through use of the simplified combined HCV-HCS approach for Smallholders)
 - 4. Any plots located on steep slopes
 - 5. Any plots located on peat
 - 6. Any plots located on riparian
 - 7. Details on plans for replanting and expansion of oil palm
 - 8. Any existing land disputes
 - 9. Ownership and land use status
 - 10. Source of farm labour
- D. I commit to the following:
 - 1. Continue to progress along the standard and meet the required milestones for progress
 - 2. Participate in trainings as required and actively participate in the group
 - 3. Ensure no forced labour on farm operations and end any existing forced labour.
 - 4. Pay national level minimum wage
 - 5. Respect the rights of workers to file a complaint
 - 6. Provide safe working conditions and facilities
 - 7. No discrimination, harassment or abuse on the farm
 - 8. Ensure no child labour on farm operations and end any existing child labour
 - 9. Not clearing or acquiring land from indigenous peoples, local communities, or other users without their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), based on a simplified FPIC approach
 - 10. Resolve any existing disputes
 - 11. No new planting or no expansion of existing farms in primary forests, HCV areas, HCS forests, in riparian areas, or on steep slopes (more than 25 degrees or as in National Interpretation)
 - 12. Protect HCVs and HCS forests through the precautionary practices approach
 - 13. No new planting on peat and replanting on peat only in areas with low risk of flooding and saline intrusion
 - 14. Use of best management practices for oil palm on peat
 - 15. No burning for preparing land or pest control
 - 16. Minimise and control erosion.

Smallholder Benefits

By adopting sustainable farming practices and complying to the RSPO ISH Standard, I understand I will have:

- (i) Knowledge on how to optimise productivity and yields by implementing the good and sustainable agricultural practices that I have been trained on;
- (ii) Knowledge on how to trade and participate in the market for sustainable palm oil and manage my farm professionally and become financially sustainable;
- (iii) Structure as well as agency to be able to take the necessary steps towards a sustainable livelihood for my family and my community.

I recognise I will have access to technical support and financial support as well as access to trade in the market for sustainable palm oil offered by the RSPO and its members, to enable me to realise the benefits of sustainable farming practices.