

RESOLUTION 6k

Proposed Resolution to be adopted
At the 8th General Assembly of the
Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)
8th March 2012

TITLE:

NO RSPO SUPPORT FOR OFFSET-MECHANISMS

SUBMITTED BY:

The Malaysian Palm Oil Association (MPOA)

Reason for This Resolution

1. The RSPO's Vision is to "transform markets and make sustainable palm oil the norm", and its Mission includes: (a) protection of the Environment; (b) encouraging the production of certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO); and (c) incentivising palm oil producers who are not RSPO members to join RSPO and become responsible producers.
2. There is currently enough CSPO being produced to fully-satisfy the needs of those markets where consumers demand responsibly-produced products. However, instead of these consumers getting the sustainable palm oil they demand, they are more likely consuming unsustainable palm oil that is offset against certificates that 'support' the creation of actual CSPO.
3. Because there is enough physical CSPO available, RSPO should not continue to support certificate trading because it is against the Vision and Mission of RSPO for two key reasons:
 - a. Certificate trading means uncertified palm oil is being legitimately traded with RSPO endorsement.
 - b. Using certificates takes advantage of lay-consumer misunderstanding by allowing RSPO-endorsed claims to be made on products that may not contain any certified sustainable palm oil whatsoever.
4. This poses an unnecessary risk to the reputation and integrity of RSPO – especially as there is enough actual CSPO available to meet the wants of those consumer markets that only want palm oil that has not contributed to environmental or social damage.

MPOA proposes that the General Assembly of the RSPO, on 8th March 2012, resolves:

- That RSPO affirm its commitment to its own Vision and Mission by no longer supporting any channel of offset, certificate or other trading that allows claims of sustainability to be made by, or ascribed to, anything other than actual, physical certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO) and any derivatives thereof.
- That organisations currently acting with either the explicit or tacit support of RSPO, or contracted to or under RSPO, that operate or propagate such offset, certificate or non-physical CSPO trading mechanisms be given notice immediately that RSPO will not continue to endorse such channels beyond six months from today.

- end -

Note to members on resolutions entered into 8th RSPO General Assembly, March 8, 2012

It is the responsibility of the RSPO EB to ensure RSPO members are duly informed of the impact of the decisions that might be taken during any General Assembly. Therefore, draft resolutions were screened for this purpose. The notes below are for information of members only, and do not reflect any preference on the part of the Executive Board.

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The General Assembly at GA7, on the 11th November 2010, voted and resolved to adopt the following as policy i.e. *“that RSPO will only adopt any decision which impacts the content of the Principles and Criteria (or similar instruments) of the RSPO and/or the certification system guidelines for Certification Bodies (CB) following a formally agreed process which must include the acceptable methodologies.”* More details of this resolution can be found in the Draft Minutes of the 7th General Assembly, labeled as resolution 6d.

The offset mechanism, mentioned in this current proposed resolution is currently allowed for and documented in the RSPO’s Certification Systems and other key documents.

This proposed resolution has not followed *“a formally agreed process which must include the acceptable methodologies”* and would, if passed, lead to a change in the certification systems guidelines.