

## **Solomon Islands seeking to produce certified sustainable palm oil**

The Solomon Islands is actively pursuing certification that will allow its palm oil to be produced sustainably.

A working group met on 29<sup>th</sup> September, chaired by Dr Tristan Armstrong of World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The working group aims to establish a National Interpretation for the Solomon Islands that will detail how to produce palm oil sustainably. Final certification will follow the Principles and Criteria of the Round Table for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), website address [www.rspo.org](http://www.rspo.org).

In response to the urgent and pressing global call for sustainably produced palm oil, the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil was formed in 2004 with the objective of promoting the growth and use of sustainable oil palm products through credible global standards and engagement of stakeholders.

A set of principles and criteria was established, which define sustainable palm oil production in terms of legal compliance, economical viability, environmentally appropriateness and socially beneficial management and operations. These principles are generic and applicable to all producers of palm oil that wish to be certified as sustainable units. However each producer country has clear differences in terms of laws, regulations and environmental circumstances and each operate within a distinct social and economical context. The working group for the Solomon Islands has met for the first time last month to establish a National Interpretation for the Solomon Islands. For each criterion there are specific pieces of objective evidence that must be in place to demonstrate or verify that the production process is being done in a sustainable manner. The working group's objective is to establish such indicators to suit the Solomon Islands.

From this two day meeting a draft version of the Solomon Islands National Interpretation has been written and is now available for public viewing at the following locations for a 30 day period,

WWF country office, SIDT building, Chinatown,

Islands Knowledge Institute, Room 17, NPF Plaza,

GPRDA office, Tetere Plantation,

Loko Mamata Outgrowers HQ, Tetere.

Any interested parties are most welcome to view this document at the above locations.

It is also available on [www.rspo.org](http://www.rspo.org). Suggestions and comments can be made at the various locations and will be taken up in the next meeting which is yet to be scheduled.