

# No Deforestation Joint Steering Group (NDJSG)

Call 5 (11 March 2021)

## Meeting notes

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Name	Organisation
Audrey Lee	Olam
Charlotte Opal	Earthworm
Emily Kunen	Nestle
Gemma Tillack	RAN
Hendi Hidayat	GAR
Jenny Walther-Thoss	WWF
Lee Kuan-Chun	P&G
Marcus Colchester	FPP
Patrick Anderson (co-chair)	FPP
Petra Meekers	Unilever
Sander Van Der Ende	SIPEF
Surina Ismail (co-chair)	IOI
Darren Brown	HCSA Secretariat
Amir Afham	RSPO Secretariat
<b>Absent with apologies:</b>	
Anne Rosenbarger	WRI
David Burns	NWF
Grant Rosoman	Greenpeace
Ibrahim Gulagnar	SPKS
Laure D'Astorg	Alliance Forets
Laure Gregoire	Alliance Forets
Mike Senior	Proforest
Sabaruddin	SPKS

No	Item	Action/Decision points
1	<p><b><u>Review of previous call minutes</u></b> The minutes from the previous call was perused by the NDJSG.</p> <p>One point was raised on item 6 regarding the possible scenarios leading to the development of OP in the HFC procedure. The group requested to amend the scenarios following the wording of the proposed study (i.e. small and micro scale OP development) and add additional text highlighting the possibility of overlap/combination of the scenarios mentioned.</p> <p>The minutes were accepted and approved by the NDJSG with a note that the above revisions are to be made.</p>	<p><b>[Decision point]</b> NDJSG call 14 minutes accepted subject to the revision of item 6 as discussed on the call.</p> <p><b>[Action point]</b> Secretariat to revise the minutes as discussed and circulate to the NDJSG members to ensure accuracy of the changes.</p>
2	<p><b><u>SSC meeting brief</u></b> The secretariat updated the group regarding the discussions of the Standard Standing Committee to the NDJSG. Points mentioned were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SSC raised its concerns on the delayed progress of the group. It has briefed its concerns to the BoG as part of the SSC Co-chairs update in the last BoG meeting.</li> <li>• RSPO and HCSA are to discuss and agree how both organisations are to collaborate/engage moving forward.</li> <li>• SSC will review the steps moving forward once the above point has been agreed.</li> <li>• In the interim, the NDJSG will operate BAU and concentrate to complete its ongoing activities.</li> </ul>	
3	<p><b><u>Discussion of “legacy cases”</u></b> The secretariat presented the latest draft of the definition of legacy cases based on last call.</p> <p>Feedback/concerns from the NDJSG on the current draft:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To change ‘existing agreements’ mentioned throughout the document to the term used within the P&amp;C 2018 to ensure alignment. ‘Formalised agreements’ was proposed to replace ‘existing agreements’</li> <li>• To draft a footnote detailing the RaCP process within the company activity section and circulate to NDJSG members for review.</li> <li>• A concern was raised on the sentence “.... or when a company has declared commitments to no deforestation, whichever earlier” (point 4 under company activity section). It was proposed that this be brought up in the Standard SC for discussion as this is not an RSPO requirement.</li> </ul>	<p><b>[Action point]</b> Secretariat to draft a footnote on the RaCP process and circulate to the NDJSG for further discussion.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A proposal was given to add a requirement to verify resolution and/or ongoing resolution processes by an independent party. Concern was raised on the implementation of this (i.e. whom to conduct the verification, who would be responsible for the additional costs etc.)</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that the document would be revised based on feedback provided during the call. The NDJSG would further discuss any remaining issues and added the possibility of finalization through email in the event all issues were resolved prior to the next meeting.</p>	<p><b>[Action point]</b> Secretariat to revise the document based on discussions and circulate to NDJSG</p>
4	<p><b><u>Review and approval of Elevate questionnaire draft</u></b></p> <p>The NDJSG continued the review of the draft questionnaire provided by Elevate. Feedback and comments from the group were incorporated into the questionnaire.</p> <p>The NDJSG agreed to finalise the questionnaire pending the addition of the feedback and comments provided in the call.</p> <p>The group inquired on the next steps for the questionnaire. The secretariat responded that the following steps are to be taken:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide Elevate with comments from the NDJSG for their revision</li> <li>2. The contract with Elevate includes use of their platform for online deployment of the questionnaire. Online deployment shall be conducted by Elevate following the latest stakeholder list which shall be provided to them. It was added due to the unavoidable delays which have occurred, the RSPO would have to negotiate an extension of the contract with Elevate.</li> <li>3. Offline deployment of the questionnaire for communities and IPs was originally planned to be done with assistance of local NGO's recommended by the NDJSG members. With the current pandemic situation, this may be an issue. However, the group will have to discuss how this will be done in next meetings.</li> <li>4. Compilation, analysis and reporting is included as part of the contract with Elevate. Once the deployment phase is done, Elevate shall provide a report containing the findings, analysis and recommendations to the NDJSG.</li> </ol>	<p><b>[Decision point]</b> The NDJSG initial questionnaire has been finalised subject to the addition of the feedback provided in this call.</p> <p><b>[Action point]</b> Secretariat to incorporate all comments and feedback provided by the NDJSG and recirculate to all members.</p>
5	<p><b><u>Review of study proposal: Documenting the economics of micro and small-scale OP processing in West Africa</u></b></p> <p>A draft ToR was presented to the group together for their feedback and comments</p>	

	<p>The intent of the study was to identify existing micro and small-scale OP plantation models in West Africa which would provide information that would assist the NDJSG in developing the procedures as mentioned in indicator 7.12.3</p> <p>Few comments raised by the NDJSG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The study scope should include both Central and West Africa</li> <li>• A proposal to include interviews with local practitioners, academics and organisations involved in this topic. ETH Zurich was mentioned as one organisation leading a joint project called Oil Palm Adaptive Landscapes (OPAL). NDJSG members would assist to connect the successful researcher with the relevant people.</li> <li>• To include the consideration that these micro &amp; small scales should be suitable for certification as access to RSPO markets would be the pull factor for small scale growers to consider sustainability requirements. One member responded that the intent of the study was to inform the NDJSG what models currently existed for their them to consider, and to include that as a consideration would limit the models that can be included in the study. The secretariat proposed to add the consideration of intent for certification in the recommendation portion of the study, that way it would not exclude any existing models and provide the NDJSG with additional feedback from the researcher on suitability of these models.</li> </ul> <p>It was decided that PA and Secretariat to revise the ToR based on input from the NDJSG</p>	<p><b>[Action point]</b> PA &amp; Secretariat to revise the ToR based on feedback from the NDJSG</p>
5	<p><b><u>Discussion of sticky issues</u></b></p> <p>The secretariat reminded the group on where the discussion ended in the last call in November. Due to time limitations in the current meeting, the group agreed that this discussion would be more fruitful and should be resumed once the group had more information from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NDJSG Questionnaire</li> <li>• Study on existing micro and small-scale OP development in West Africa (refer item 4)</li> </ul>	<p><b>[Decision point]</b> NDJSG to continue the discussion regarding both sticking issues once more information is obtained from the NDJSG questionnaire and study proposed in item 4.</p>
6	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b> <b>Next meeting</b></p> <p>The group set the next meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021 (3-6pm MYT). Secretariat to send out calendar invite to all members following the agreed date and time.</p> <p><b>Brief: RSPO secretariat restructure</b></p> <p>NDJSG members were informed of the RSPO Secretariat restructuring and how the NDJSG will be affected.</p>	<p><b>[Action point]</b> Secretariat to send out calendar invite to all NDJSG members</p>

	<p>With expansion of the team, the standard development and operational portfolio previously managed by two RSPO staff (GHG/Peat/Deforestation) will be separated into two teams, being GHG/Peat and Forest portfolio. Operational tasks related to all three topics would be transferred to the Assurance division. This allows dedicated teams within the Standards division to concentrate on WG facilitation, standards and guidance development for their respective portfolios.</p>	
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