

17th Meeting of RSPO Biodiversity and HCV Working Group (BHCV WG)			
Date	June 14, 2012 (Thursday)		
Venue	Hotel Melia, Kuala Lumpur		
Attendance	Irwan Gunawan (IR)	WWF-ID	Co-Chair
	Henry Barlow (HB)	Sime Daby	Co-chair <i>via teleconference</i>
	Anders Lindhe (AL)	WWF International	Member
	Laura Darcy (LD)	ZSL	Member (alternate)
	Calley Beamish (CB)	MPOA	Member (alternate) <i>via teleconference</i>
	Oliver Tichit (OT)	Sipef Group	Member
	Gan Lian Tong (GLT)	Musim Mas	Member
	Dwi R. Muhtaman (DM)	ReMark Asia (ID HCV RN)	Member
	Reza Azmi (RA)	Wild Asia	Member
	Matthew Wenban-Smith (MWS)	HCV RN	Invited <i>via teleconference</i>
	Alexandra Booth	OLAM	Invited
	Junaidi Payne (JP)	BORA	Invited
	Glen Reynolds (GR)	Royal Society SEARRP	Invited
	Sujatnika (S)	Aksenta	Invited
	Resit Sozer (RS)	Aksenta	Invited
	Richard Kan (RK)	GAR	Invited
	Tang Men Kon (TMK)	Sime Darby	Invited
	Lee Swee Yin (LSY)	Sime Darby	Invited
	Norazam Abdul Hameed (NH)	Sime Darby	Invited
	Mohamed Pirabaharan (MP)	PT. Minamas, Sime Darby	Invited
	Stan Rodgers (SR)	BACP	Observer
	Salahudin Yaacob (SY)	RSPO	Secretariat
	Norashikin Rasikon (NR)	RSPO	Secretariat
Asril Darussamin (AD)	RSPO	Secretariat	
Audrey Lee Mei Fong (ALMF)	RSPO	Secretariat	
Absence with Apology	Adam Harrison (AH)	WWF	Executive Board (EB)
	Tim Killeen	Conservation International	Member
	Devan Subramaniam	WWF-MY	Member
	Purwo Susanto	ISPO Consulting	Member
	Catherine Cassagne	IFC	Member
	Marcus Colchester	FPP	Member

Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Welcoming remarks from co-chair2. Review previous minutes3. Update on Sime Darby Plantation (SDP) stage 3 remediation actions4. BHCV WG specific recommendations to P&C Review TF<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Under 5.2: tighter and more positive wording of the criterion;- Under 7.3: better guidance and clearer wording- General: consistency in HCV identification, management and monitoring5. Update from ZSL on Resource Centre (Website)6. Quality of HCV assessment and consistency of HCV interpretation<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Assessors Accreditation by HCV RN- Content of HCV assessment report by HCV RN7. Update from ID HCV RN (Development HCV management & monitoring plan for OP)8. Update from ID HCV Ad Hoc Task Force9. RSPO HCV Assessment Report Template and Qualification of HCV Assessors10. AOB <p>End of meeting</p>
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	Action	PIC
<p>1. Welcoming remarks from co-chair IG welcomed all participants and explained briefly the meeting agenda.</p>		
<p>2. Review on previous minutes Minutes accepted with amendments.</p>	Minutes of the previous meetings of this WG to be posted on the RSPO website.	ALMF
<p>3. Update on Sime Darby Plantation (SDP) stage 3 remediation actions AL and JP's comments of the SDP stage 3 report is attached as Annex 2. Among their key comments are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repetitive details and miscalculation of the total number of silt pits. • Information gaps in important areas. E.g. Key biodiversity issues, soil type, topography etc... <p>RS explained that the silt pits are not constructed according to the calculation due to steep slope on the ground. Field verification is required prior to installation of the silt pits.</p> <p>RA enquired about the total cost spent on this remediation project. TMK estimated the cost at RM500,000 inclusive of consultancy fee. GR questioned the cost and benefits of this remediation project, Instead of spending enormous resources on 150ha of lost HCV area, he said it could be spent in another strategic conservation area</p> <p>SY indicated that RSPO EB has made a decision to develop a compensation guideline using the SDP project. Although this project involves only 150ha, it will guide the development of remediation process for many other areas. Due to the importance and future ramification, the project should continue.</p> <p>Aksenta presented their findings on Sg. Kawan Batu forest area and proposed remediation actions. The WG discussed</p>	<p>LD will provide names of scientific editors.</p> <p>ALMF to provide format for stage 3 report.</p> <p>SDP Stage 3 Version 2 report to be revised and resubmitted for approval by RSPO secretariat before 15 Aug 2012.</p> <p>RSPO secretariat will coordinate a joint meeting with KLK, GAR and Wilmar to facilitate discussion on conservation of Sg. Kawan Batu area.</p>	<p>LD</p> <p>ALMF</p> <p>(individual)</p>

<p>the stage 3 version 2 report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WG recommended conditional approval and asked Aksenta to review the stage 3 version 2 report based on the following suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emphasis on conservation of Sg. Kawan Batu area: Include landscape information. Forest quality and progress update of remediation actions for this area should be included. ○ The stage 3 report should also highlight means to safeguard Sg. Kawan Batu area. Conservation targets, monitoring methodologies with measurable indicators. <p>SDP will engage with professional scientific editors to provide a more structured format, and ensure consistency of information in this report. TMK requested to sit in and listen to the discussion of WG on approval of SDP’s remediation report. This will allow the SDP team to learn from the WG’s discussion. SR and OT expressed concerns that the presence of SDP during the deliberation might refrain some members from speaking freely. Ensuring the independence of the decision making process is also favorable for SDP. SDP was requested to step out from this discussion.</p> <p>The WG decided to proceed to SDP’s remediation stage 4 i.e. evaluation of test phase results. A field visit will be organised and interested members from the BHCV WG will be invited.</p>		
<p>4. ILO Convention</p> <p>HB quoted ILO definition of slavery which includes retention of travel document (passport) and he mentioned it is a common practice by Malaysian growers to retain passport of their workers. BHCV WG requested SDP to report back on ILO compliance. OT highlighted on ILO compliance by tea industry.</p> <p>SY updated the WG on the establishment of the RSPO human rights committee. He proposed to pass this issue to the human rights committee but it is unclear when it will be</p>	<p>The RSPO to engage with Malaysia’s tea industry and get information on Ethical Partnership that outlines ILO compliance.</p> <p>HS will prepare a short briefing note to the RSPO</p>	<p>Secretariat</p> <p>HS</p>

<p>formed.</p> <p>DM mentioned other workers' issues affecting female migrant workers, such as being not allowed to work, deportation if they are pregnant and not allowed to bring their children along.</p> <p>OT stressed that the BHCV WG has an enormous amount of work as it is and this is not part of the WG mandate. GLT suggested posting this comment to the P&C review task force.</p>	<p>secretariat to move this forward.</p>	
<p>5. BHCV WG specific recommendations to P&C Review TF</p> <p>GLT and OT brought up a point of order on the process of the P&C review. The first phase of public consultation has completed and the P&C review TF is now reviewing all the comments received.</p>	<p>ALMF will circulate recommendations from AL and table discussion in the next meeting. Any recommendations can be incorporated into stage 2 public consultation.</p>	<p>ALMF</p>
<p>6. Update from ZSL on Resource Centre (Website)</p> <p>LD presented the structure of ZSL's new resource centre website. IG raised a question on the comparison between different certification schemes. LD explained that the website will present a set of criteria e.g. international recognition, social safeguards etc... ZSL only provides information and does not put up any recommendations. GLT asked about the level of information that is requested on case studies. LD mentioned that ZSL will generate a template and questionnaires will be sent to identify the information related to the case studies. DM suggested including views of experts in the supply chain case studies.</p>		
<p>7. Quality of HCV assessment and consistency of HCV interpretation</p> <p>MWS presented two options to monitor quality of HCV assessments. Presentation is attached as annex 3.</p> <p>1. Proactive review and approval of reports</p>		

<p>2. Public scrutiny and assessor accountability.</p> <p>Public scrutiny will provide transparency but it is less systematic. HCV reports from certain regions might gain more public attention than others. There was also additional cost and time that will be taken during the peer review process for the second option.</p> <p>SR clarified that the HCV assessors should pay for the peer review process to maintain their credibility. AL added that the cost of peer review borne by HCV assessors might be passed on to their clients.</p> <p>Not all HCV assessments are required to be peer reviewed. HCV RN should provide guideline on which assessments need to be peer reviewed.</p> <p>DM suggested the quality control should be mandated to HCV RN and the RSPO should focus on its core business i.e. certification.</p> <p>OT quoted Matthew Wenban Smith’s suggestion on scheme specific HCV guidance. HCV RN can then include peer review process as part of the requirement.</p> <p>IG highlighted the issue of language barrier where some report findings might be presented wrongly. He highlighted the importance to disclose qualification of peer reviewers and lead auditors.</p>		
<p>8. Update from ID HCV RN (Development HCV management & monitoring plan for OP)</p> <p>INA HCV RN is developing a management and monitoring guideline for the OP, mining, forestry and smallholders (SH). A panel of experts reviewed the draft in May and the next panel review will be in mid July. A wider consultation will be conducted in Aceh and Papua in September followed by field testing of the guideline. A draft guideline is expected to be available by the end of 2012.</p>		

<p>AL suggested the management and monitoring guideline can be incorporated into the common identification guideline that will be developed by HCV RN. ZSL is developing the management and monitoring protocol and the monitoring software. It is good to collaborate under this initiative.</p>		
<p>9. Update from ID HCV Ad Hoc Task Force</p> <p>RK updated the group that Peter Heng and Norman Jiwan were selected as the new co-chair. The role of the TF is to identify suitable legal options, clarify land tenure, and build consensus on ID government engagement.</p> <p>OT shared his experience that BPN (land affair agency at the province) required his company to incorporate HCV findings into AMDAL (Environmental impact assessment). DM explained that the structure of the AMDAL report is very strict but methodologies can be complimentary. GLT mentioned Indonesia government does not recognise HCV concept. He suggested the group to review any laws and presidential decrees that are conflicting with HCV concept.</p> <p>WWF-ID is working with Kementerian Lingkungan Hidup to include HCV into AMDAL.</p>		
<p>10. RSPO HCV Assessment Report Template and Qualification of HCV Assessors</p> <p>Both documents are prepared by HCV RN for the RSPO. It should be endorsed by BHCV WG and posted on the website.</p>	<p>ALMF will circulate the documents and WG will submit comments before 15 Aug.</p> <p>RSPO secretariat will produce a final draft for WG endorsement.</p>	<p>ALMF</p>
<p>11. AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LD updated the group on the dialogue set up by UNDP and Ministry of Forestry. The focus of the meeting is on SH. Reza suggested that the RSPO secretariat to update on 		



Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

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the minutes and membership info. End of Meeting		
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Annex 1

17th Meeting of BHCV WG
 14th June 2012
 Hotel Melia, Kuala Lumpur

No.	Name	Organization	Signature
1.	NORASHIRIN ROSIKON	RSPO	
2.	NORAZM ABDEL HAMEED	Sime Darby	
3.	Lee Swee Yin	Sime Darby Plantation	
4.	TANG MEN KON	"	
5.	MUHAMMAD PIRABAHARAN	MINKMAS	 14/6/12
6.	ANDERS LINDHE	WWF INT.	
7.	Jillie (Suzanne) Payne		
8.	CILEN RONOLDS	POME SOCIETY SARAWAK	
9.	MAURA DARCY	ZSL	
10.	REZA AZMI	WILD ABIA	
11.	Sujatnika	AKSENTA	
12.	IRWAN GUNAWAN	WWF-ID	
13.	Kesit Sizer	AKSENTA	
14.	Richard Kan	GMZ	



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15.	ALEXANDRA BOOTH	OLAM	
16.	OLIVIER TICHET	SSEF	
17.	Azril Darussamin	RIL	
18.	Dwi R. Mubtaman	Re Mark Asia	
19.	Stan Roswell	BACP	
20.	Salahuddin Saad	RSPO	
21.	GAN LIAN TIONG	PT Musim Mar.	
22.	Henry Barton	Game Darty	via teleconference
23.			
24.			
25.			
26.			
27.			
28.			
29.			
30.			

Annex 2

Comments on SDP's Remediation Plan Stage 3_v2

By Anders Lindhe, WWF

Submitted on 30 May 2012

Generally, out of the four categories of remediation measures recommended on p. 9, there is, in my mind, too much focus, detail (and quite some redundancy) regarding tree planting and erosion control. There seems to have been little activity related to the recommended 37 hectares on site conservation area, and - with all due respect for the complexity and difficulties involved in protecting the proposed 450-500 off site wildlife corridor (these challenges are well described on pp. 41-45) – the relative lack of progress on this issue is still disappointing.

Other observations include:

- Figures 1, 2, 3, 12 and 22 are blurry to the point of being unintelligible (in my downloaded version).

- The very precise figures for aspects that are by necessity rough calculations (many places in the report, e.g. p. 24) appear unprofessional.

- It is reported that 11,130 seedlings were planted with a spacing of 4 x 4 metres (p. 36). This corresponds to 17.8 hectares, roughly 30 % of the recommended total of 56.9 hectares. What are plans for the remaining parts? I also miss a discussion on the future fate of the planted seedlings (I guess the high survival rate so far is partly attributable to the daily watering during dry periods), as well as a discussion of how to establish shade-tolerant species (by natural regeneration?) once there is a canopy of pioneer species.

- All 12 recommended gully plugs and the retention dam are reported to be in place. However, there is no comment on that, while 35-40 silt pits are recommended / hectare (p. 26), it appears from p. 38 that the final result here is 630 pits on a total area of 61 hectares, giving an average of approx. 10 pits / hectare.

By Junaidi Payne, BORA

Submitted on 30 May 2012

1. My main comment is that, based on the document named "HCV_Remediation_Stage3_V2_30042012(1)" and the process, as far as I am aware of it to date, indicate the need for a different process. To have such a messy and unfocused process again will render remediation a farce. The main lesson is: do not follow this process and, if necessary, start afresh all over again.
2. The starting point of a remediation plan document should be a clear statement, of a few points, which describe the issue in terms that everyone can understand. I have never been to the area of the report but can make a guess at its key biodiversity issues (see below).
3. The start of the remediation document (even if repeated in every one of all the main relevant documents, drafts up to final) MUST set the scene : location map with all main rivers, names of rivers and villages, topographical, soils, with a complete key to the map; a description of the original vegetation. The map should show the location within Central Kalimantan. Without that, for everyone who is not intimately familiar with the area, the whole text is just an academic exercise.
4. I have somewhere seen excellent soil and vegetation maps of this area at Bakosurtanal, done some time in the 1980s. These would be the basis of the report and the recommended actions.
5. As it stands, the report is sloppy with inadequate editing. There are dozens of significant issues to address in content, gaps in information, and editing. For example, there is not even a clear location map. We assume that Mentaya river is somewhere nearby but this is not shown on any map.
6. The absolutely basic need is that at least one member of the consultant team should have a good grasp of the main soil types and forest types of Borneo. Something I repeat again and again : the basic stuff of biodiversity in forests in Indonesia and Malaysia is trees, trees and trees. The key element of a biodiversity survey is the trees (not what is there after logging and fire, and not vertebrate animals, but what vegetation was there before logging and fire; there is plenty of literature on this even before going to the ground). I would not accept any biodiversity assessment unless there is an experienced botanist on the team. For Central Kalimantan that could include a superstar such as Kuswata Kartawinata, Kade Sidyasa and his team, Ferry Slik, Paul Kessler or Yves Laumonier, but there are others, including some Malaysians.
7. Here is my guess at a rough content of the main scene-setting description.

"The original terrestrial biodiversity of the area was entirely within natural evergreen rainforest. The fact that over half the area in 2005 was under grassland and shrubs is a reflection of the ravages of repeated logging (about 1975-present) and seasonal fires (mainly 1982-83 and 1997-98) in those natural forests. Biodiversity in the survey area is very closely linked to soil. There are four major soil types : white quartz sand podzols (extremely infertile, unsuitable for any known plantation crop, with no dipterocarp species, and almost impossible to revegetate once the organic matter is lost), pale yellow podzolic soils (locally variable and generally rather infertile, but can support productive oil palm with adequate fertilization, and possible to revegetate with a limited array of hardy tree species; the original forest has few dipterocarp species, a factor linked to low soil fertility; *Dipterocarpus lowii* would have been a good indicator tree for the least fertile of these soils), peat swamp (mostly less than 2 metres depth in the study area; no cases of successful revegetation of this soil type have been reported for Kalimantan; amongst dipterocarps, only *Shorea balangeran* would be found) and riverside alluvium (the only soil type formerly, and sparsely, settled by Dayaks, being the only soil type in the region that can sustain rain-fed rice). Each soil type has its own array of tree and herb species. In each, plant species diversity is moderate (less than in most dry land forests on more fertile soils in

Central Kalimantan), with little or no endemism amongst plants. However, a few endemic plant species have been recorded elsewhere in the main river catchment of the study area; see list in Table **). Vertebrate fauna is a sub-set of the fauna typical of lowland dipterocarp forest on more fertile soils of southern Borneo. There will be local variation in the exact array of vertebrate species present, a reflection of two main factors (a) more species present where the four forest types are in close proximity (e.g. frugivorous birds and mammals would have occurred in such places, as timing of the local fruiting peak would differ between each soil type) and (b) stochasticity (e.g. orang-utans would have totally disappeared from some areas due to starvation during the 1877-78, or 1915-16, or 1982-83 or 1997-98 El Nino droughts when no fruit was available for periods in excess of 9 months)."

8. Here is my guess at the rough content of the background argumentation to the content of an appropriate remediation plan :

"there are no known endemic flora or fauna species that need special attention

there is no reliable experience of plant species that can be used to successfully restore closed canopy forest in the study area, nor of the likely costs of doing so

trees are unlikely to re-grow on the deforested, burned quartz sand soils, so there is no point to waste effort on attempts to rehabilitate these soils

the major problem associated with not only restoration but also retention of forest in the study area is that governmental policy and legislation do not support retention of forest on land not agreed in the local and national spatial plan as allocated as permanent forest

four RSPO producer members (Sime Darby, SMART, KLK and Wilmar) have rights over land adjacent to the study area; this represents an ideal opportunity for the four companies to combine their forces to support the retention and restoration of a new natural forest conservation area in Central Kalimantan province

thus the remediation plan will be based on identification of a specific area where forest retention and restoration will be done, that will sustain an example of the original forest types in the study area, and will take advantage of the fact that four RSPO members are major land managers in the area; all and each can put resources into and potentially benefit from the remediation plan

since there are no specific endangered ecosystem or habitat types or endemic flora or fauna species in the study area, and since it is necessary both on RSPO and ethical grounds to engage with indigenous local communities, a forest conservation area should be viewed and formulated as a community forest rather than as a strict nature conservation or "wildlife corridor" forest."

9. Here is my guess at the rough basis for an appropriate remediation plan :

" the framework of a process initiated by Sime Darby as an RSPO member, together with SMART, KLK and Wilmar as sister members, and as a process fully involving local indigenous communities and local government, decide upon the uses, location, rights and privileges to be granted over a new Simpang – Kawan Batu - Mentaya community forest

The provisional purposes of the community forest will be (a) to ensure the survival of all native wild plant and animal species in the middle Mentaya river region, (b) to allow access of indigenous local human communities to harvest traditional forest products on a sustainable basis for subsistence use, (c) to attempt and document a new process whereby the palm oil industry and indigenous communities collaborate with local government to achieve mutually beneficial goals that encompass economic, social and environmental benefits."

10. If the above is seriously and genuinely tried, and fails, it does not matter. The important things are the intent and the actions.



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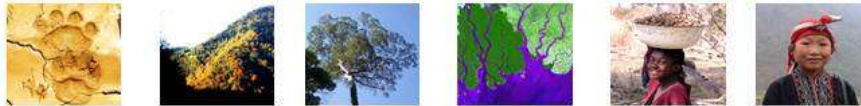
11. Finally, the concept that I have outlined above is in my opinion absolutely and definitely and precisely the sort of plan that RSPO can and should attempt, and which government, or local communities, or NGOs acting alone cannot possibly achieve. This is exactly what RSPO is supposed to be doing. Things that previously would have been unthinkable and doomed to failure. We must stave off the urge to have further meetings that bureaucratise RSPO thinking into narrow and conventional processes.

Annex 3

HCV HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE
resource network



HCV Consistency and Quality Control



www.hcvnetwork.org



Need

High Quality Assessment and Management of HCVs

Requirements:

Consistent, High Quality:

- Understanding of the HCV concept
- HCV Assessment
- HCV Management and Monitoring

- Global
- Vegetation-specific
- Scheme-specific



Framework for solutions

- Guidance documents
- Training
- Quality Control



- Guidance documents:
 - HCV Concept, Assessment Methodology, Reporting Templates, Application for smallholders, etc
- Training:
 - Trainers, assessors, managers, peer reviewers, auditors, NGOs...
 - Building on ongoing programme
- Quality Control:
 - Assessor Testing and Registration
 - Monitoring of Assessor Performance
 - Assessor Registry



Quality Control

- Assessor Testing and Registration
 - Complete training
 - Pass test
 - Listed on register 'on probation'
- Monitoring of Assessor Performance:
 - Peer Review: correct use of
 - HCV methodology
 - HCV report template
 - Other guidance
 - Public comment/ complaints
- Assessor Registry
 - Experience, References, System record
 - Continuing training, testing
 - Deregistration



Possible approaches to quality control (for discussion with RSPO)

Proactive review and approval of reports:

- Peer Review
- RSPO/ HCVRN desktop review, corrective action, response, finalization, appeal
- Approval by RSPO/ HCVRN

- Complex and time consuming
- Could be confidential
- RSPO/ HCVRN accountable

Public scrutiny and assessor accountability:

- Peer Review
- Finalization by assessors
- Publication of report and peer reviews
- Complaints system

- Simpler, quicker
- Based on transparency
- Assessors accountable



Some RSPO System Options

- use of standardized HCV assessment methodology
- use of standardized HCV report templates
- use of registered HCV assessors
- use of 'HCV-registered' auditors
- RSPO approval of final HCV assessment reports
- publication of final HCV assessment reports
- publication of peer review reports
- public comments/ complaints system



Possibilities for RSPO/ HCV RN Collaboration

- **RSPO:**
 - RSPO system guidance developed in partnership with HCV RN
 - RSPO system training materials developed in partnership with HCV RN
 - Partner in training for trainers
 - Assessor/ Auditor training
 - Formal comments on assessor register

- **HCV RN:**
 - Generic guidance, consistent with international norms
 - Generic training materials
 - Guidance and training materials for RSPO system developed in partnership with RSPO
 - Training for trainers
 - Assessor testing
 - On-line assessor register
 - Complaints/ comments system, deregistration