

MINUTES
of the
2nd Biodiversity Technical Committee (BTC) MEETING
13th June, 2009, Jakarta

Venue:	Jed Room, Hotel Istana, Kuala Lumpur	
Date & Time:	15 th April, 2009 (9.00 – 16.40)	
Attendees:	Henry Barlow	HB
	Reza Azmi (Wild Asia)	RA
	Tom Maddox (ZSL)	TM
	Sarala Aikanathan (Wetlands International)	SA
	Nobuo Nakanishi (Saraya Co. Ltd., Japan)	NN
	Purwo Susanto (Representative of Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil (ISPO) Foundation or HCV_INARWG (HCV_Indonesia RSPO Working Group)	PS
	Olivier Tichit (Tolan Tiga Group, Indonesia)	OT
	Perpetua George (ProForest)	PG
	Yong Hoi Sen	YHS
	Vengeta Rao (RSPO SG)	VR
	Jutta Poetz (RSPO BC)	JP
Apologies:	Chew Jit Seng (Asiatic Development, MPOA)	
	Julie Flood (CABI)	
	Gan Lian Tiong (MusimMas, Indonesia)	
	Catherine Cassagne (IFC)	
Absent:	Prof. Latiff Mohamad	
	Prof. Machmud Thohari	

List of acronyms used in the text below appended as last item (pg.8) in this paper, before listed appendices.

1. Welcome and opening remarks

2. Committee membership (JP)

Prof. Yong Hoi Sen (UM) and Perpetua George (ProForest) were introduced as new members (PG on an 'occasional' basis, as consultant on HCV related matters where relevant). The secretariat also welcomed Catherine Cassagne (alternate Ken MacDicken) from IFC as additional members. IFC was not able to keep this date but will be present at future meetings.

Committee was informed of the possibility of Prof. Latif and Prof. Machmud Thohari being asked to step down if response to further initiative to engage their active participation remains negative. Both have not attended any of the meetings or otherwise shown any interest in participation beyond initial acceptance of invitation for membership. JP, Ibu Desi (RILO), PS and YHS to follow up before final decision.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

TM pointed out "declined" not correct, JP to amend. No other matters raised.

Confirmed by : SA

Seconded by: HB

4. Role & Function of BTC (JP)

Explanation of "raison d'être" for BTC: working group to address pertinent issues identified (either through intra-BTC analysis & discussion or through external request recommendation), reference point for biodiversity-related matters in/around the RSPO context, advisory panel to other working groups, reviewer panel for final vetting of biodiversity recommendations etc. to EB.

VR – informs that BTC ToR have been approved by RSPO EB. JP to email to new members that have not yet received the ToR (YHS, PG, Catherine Cassagne).

5. Briefing on developments at secretariat since last meeting (JP)

a. HCV-related

JP informed that after meetings of the NP-WG decision was made that secretariat should be responsible for providing a list of accredited HCV assessors from which members can choose when faced with “2005-2007” and “post 2007” land conversion issues. Secretariat has initiated contact (tele-conference, 04/06/09) with HCV-RN and received favourable reply with the network committing to provide a draft of guidelines for accreditation of HCV assessors.

Secretariat has also approached WWF Indonesia and ProForest as potential additional parties to assist in reviewing and finalizing the draft for submission to the EB. Committee members suggested including NI-WGs, WI, and FFI, in this process, and taking into consideration NI toolkits when drafting guidelines.

Timeline for EB endorsement of guidelines is targeted towards RT7 to coincide with tabling of NP-WG recommendations to (& approval by) RSPO EB. Chronology of process is: draft guidelines → review by independent HCV expert parties → final draft → BTC review → submission to EB → approval.

HCV-RN has also responded favourably to requests for cooperation in a HCV capacity-building workshop, planned for post-RT7, potentially in Indonesia. The network also requested a more close cooperation and inter-agency communication with RSPO in the future.

Please refer to full letter on HCV-RN/RSPO communication in Appendix 1 (pg. 9)

b. Current working groups under RSPO that address biodiversity-related issues

HCV-RIWG

Committee requested more detailed up-date on HCV-RIWG activities in future. PP to assist with information channeling to JP.

NP-WG & GHG-WG

JP and VR in observer’s role for secretariat at recent meeting (NP-WG 07-08/05/09; GHG-WG 14–15/05/09). First output from the groups was made available to BTC members and feed back/comments to JP requested (deadline 25/06/09) that can then be communicated to the respective WG- facilitators before their next meetings. Request by the NP-WG for secretariat’s role in providing list of accredited HCV assessors discussed under 5.a)

SA - mentions importance of addressing peat soil conservation. Peat swamps are an important habitat for freshwater ornamental fish. Diminishing peat forest and commercial over-collection pose a serious and immediate threat to fish biodiversity. Offers to m peat forests *et al.* by WI to BTC, which is welcomed by members (attached in this mail).

TM – suggests comments to be fed directly to JP by email for communication to facilitator to reach the right platform.

c. Current research projects fully funded by RSPo or endorsed by RSPo and co-funded by BACP (Biodiversity and Agricultural Commodities Program).

All four BACP co-funded projects awarded to FFI, PanEco, ZSL and RSPo secretariat have not yet received their first disbursement of funds. TM and JP to liaise on further developments on this.

A brief progress update on the IWM project (CABI, funded by RSPo) was provided by JF via email (Appendix 2, pg. 11). No reports from FFI, PanEco and ZSL as projects have not yet started due to delays in funding disbursement.

d. Biobanking/offset certification schemes

JP informed that the secretariat considers a compensation scheme anchored in the RSPo P&C as needing urgent attention. Several WGS (HCV-RIWG, NP-WG & GHG-WG) have discussed the need for compensation options to address problems arising from biodiversity-related P&C. JP to attend a BBOP sponsored workshop in Paris on 29/06 & 30/06 for information gathering on options in biobanking/offset schemes. JP to inform BTC via “options & avenues” paper by end-July 2009 for electronic feedback and discussion before the next BTC meeting (29 September).

General consensus among the committee that more information is needed before committee can ably decide on basic questions regarding compensation schemes (e.g. *intra* or *extra* RSPo).

PP - points to (potential) problems on the ground, esp. difficulties in determining the amount of offset payment to be made, based on what criteria? etc.

JP – will provide literature review on options and avenues after returning from France workshop.

SA – offers to assist with additional relevant reference material in preparation of literature review.

PG – HCV-RN can assist on HCV matters related to offset schemes. Suggests referring to website for pertinent country-specific references on HCV issues.

PP – points out that any compensation scheme for RSPO has to allow for monies generated from payments to remain within national borders of the country from which the payment is generated.

PG – points out the need for improved HCV assessment capacity in the context of an efficient compensation scheme.

PG – also suggests that generally BTC communication with parties external to the RSPO has to be stepped up and improved to keep all stakeholders connected with developments within the BTC.

e. **Corridors, rehabilitation, restoration and enrichment planting**

JP suggests priority attention for this issue. BTC members are provided with paper on suggestions regarding these “low-hanging-fruits” (HB) and proposal made to use these papers as a starting point.

General consensus by the committee on the need to provide for reliable, accessible sources for planting material. In PM sources are available, but problems will exist in East Malaysia, and most areas in Indonesia. For set-aside recommendations to be effective, BTC needs to address this situation.

Main points in the P&C that need addressing: C 4.4. and C 5.2.

RA – points out the need for a properly planned framework before actual work on these issues is started. Also stresses the need for a wider understanding of biodiversity concepts among planters in order to “convert” them to committed implementation of set-aside management, and the need for capacity building seminars etc.

TM - suggests a review of existing papers/plans for riparian zones etc. management.

HB – considers immediate action *sans* the need for “review/framework” approach feasible as set-asides *et al.* already exist, and only methodologies/recipes/instruction on how to manage them are needed.

TM - stresses the need to focus firstly on identification areas that need (formal) protection.

VR – presently available approaches for set-asides *et al.* within RSPO context not efficient as they do not contain detailed instructions for plantation operators.

RA – suggests the creation of a WG or holding of workshop to address issues at hand, and the need to have a structured plan (flowchart) on how to deal with set-aside issue within the BTC.

VR - existing P&C should be used as starting point to address set-aside issues.

Discussion ends with consensus on need for a structured approach, and associated timeline. SA, JP and TM volunteer as a *quasi* WG to address the issue with an initial review paper. Flowchart for activities and timeline to be addressed at end of meeting after all matters for the day have been tabled and discussed.

6. Other matters

a. next meeting(s)

JP suggested two further meetings for the BTC during 2009, one before and one around/after RT7.

The committee decided on the following dates:

3rd Meeting : September 29, 2009 (video-conference)

4th Meeting : November 5, 2009 (physical meeting, Kuala Lumpur)

b. miscellaneous

VR – (on suggestion by PG on increased capacity and awareness on RSPO beyond SEA) RSPO secretariat is looking into this matter, first activity in Europe with contact building in Germany and Netherlands end-June 2009, extension of contacts to China, US, and intensification of European contacts scheduled for later this year, South America to be included, but in short term perspective KIV'ed. The secretariat is finalising the recruitment of a communications officer by end June/early July to address international capacity building.

VR – mentions that RSPO member ToR under revision to tighten guidelines and ensure compliance with requirements for yearly reports etc.

HB – pointed out the need to address present discrepancies in CSPO supply (growers) and demand/uptake (manufacturers).

VR – informs of steps taken by WWF to address the problem of CSPO uptake in

Europe by “name & shame” survey on percentage of CSPO in yearly uptake of major end-user parties.

NN – enquired on possibility of greater presence for RSPO in Japan as information dissemination on sustainability in PO sector questionable and contradicting. Informed of recent speech given by Tan Sri Basiron (MPOC), (attached to the mail accompanying this communication), and enquiries on possibility of future BTC Meeting in Japan.

JP – agreed to send out relevant material/papers tabled and discussed in this meeting to BTC members before July.

SA, NN, PG, with consensus from other members – general call for increased visibility of RSPO, and need to set up website (within RSPO website).

When no other matters were raised, the committee discussed approaches and timelines for

- compensation scheme review paper
- HCV-accreditation within the RSPO
- Set-asides management within RSPO context

Relevant flowcharts for the three topics above are in Appendix 4, pg. 12. Also attached in Appendix 3, pg. 11 are comments by SA on a previous communication to BTC members. Similar comments by GLT are attached as pdf. file to the mail accompanying this communication.

The meeting adjourned at ~15.30 h.

Acronym List:

BACP	Biodiversity and Agricultural Commodities Program
BBOP	Business and Biodiversity Offsets Program
BMP	Best Management Practice
CABI	Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (UK)
CSPO	Certified Sustainable Palmoil
EB	RSPO Executive Board
FFI	Flora & Fauna International (NGO)
GHG-WG	Greenhouse Gases Working Group
HCV-RIWG	HCV- Regional Indonesian Working Group
HCV-RN	HCV Resource Network
IFC	International Funding Corporation
INA	Indonesia
IWM	Integrated Weed Management
MPOC	Malaysian Palmoil Council
NI-WG	National Interpretation Working Group
NP-WG	New Plantings Working Group
PanEco	PanEco Foundation (NGO)
RILO	RSPO Indonesian Liaison Office
ToR	Terms of Reference
WI	Wetlands International (NGO)
ZSL	Zoological Society of London (NGO)

Appendix 1:
HCV RN – RSPO communication on HCV accreditation *et al.*

Dear Dr. Rao and Jutta, cc. co-Chairs of the HCV Network,
It was good to speak with you on Friday morning, thank you for a very positive and productive discussion. I have noted the key points of the discussion as summarised by our co-Chairs: please let me know if I have accurately recorded your comments and agreed actions.

Notes of telephone discussion between RSPO and the HCV Resource Network:
Dr Vengeta Rao, RSPO Secretary General
Jutta Poetz, Biodiversity Coordinator
Dr Marcus Colchester, Network co-Chair and Director, Forest Peoples Programme
Peter Gardiner, Network co-Chair and Natural Resources Manager, Mondi plc.
Dr Christopher Stewart; HCV Network secretariat, Network manager
Nilofer Ghaffar, HCV Network secretariat, Network coordinator

- 1) The HCV Resource Network and RSPO representatives warmly welcomed this opportunity for mutual contact, recognised that this is the beginning of a positive dialogue, and hope to sustain and enhance our mutual understanding.
- 2) The HCV Resource Network and RSPO will seek to establish connections through activities of common interest, and in the longer term, the Network will look towards representation of RSPO within the Network, as our working relationship develops.
- 3) RSPO recognised the relevance of the HCV Network's expertise to its own activities and will seek opportunities to involve representatives of the Network e.g. in its own Biodiversity Technical Committee (BTC), for example participation in relevant BTC meetings on an advisory basis.
- 4) The RSPO Secretariat will forward details of the BTC's composition and terms of reference to the HCV Resource Network secretariat, as these are finalised. The HCV Resource Network leaves open the offer of a local/regional HCV Resource Network representative with appropriate biodiversity expertise, as a member of the BTC.
- 5) The HCV Resource Network understands the urgency for RSPO of a process to identify and accredit credible HCV assessors or experts, as advised by RSPO's New Plantings and GHG working Groups.
 - The Network will be pleased to provide expertise on an appropriate framework for HCV assessment, and will provide to RSPO some guidance and criteria for accrediting credible HCV assessors.
 - The Network is not necessarily the appropriate organisation to assess potential applicants against such criteria. However, we do recommend that HCV assessors abide by the Network's Guiding Principles and sign up to the HCV Resource Network Charter, as a baseline indicator of good practice and for the purposes of accreditation by RSPO. The Network Charter is fully in line with RSPO Principles

and Criteria.

6) The HCV Resource Network recognises the need for HCV assessments to be carried out by suitably qualified and experienced assessment teams. Our Charter also states that assessments should be conducted consultatively, leading to appropriate management and monitoring, and transparently, with peer reviews of findings and public reporting of outcomes.

- The HCV Resource Network offers an expert Peer Review service using members of its own Technical Panel, and recommends that HCV assessments for RSPO certification or New Plantings pre-assessment should be peer reviewed using these Network guidelines and standardised reporting framework, either through the Network's Technical Panel or by a credible third party review process, and that outcomes of review should be made public.

- RSPO welcomed the idea of such a standardised Peer Review service

7) The HCV Resource Network and RSPO share a common awareness and a common concern for the lack of HCV assessors in the region and the urgent need for training local experts and building up local institutional capacity:

- RSPO invited the HCV Resource Network to participate and assist with a regional workshop on HCV after the General Assembly in mid-November.

- RSPO and the HCV Resource Network will explore other ideas and opportunities for cooperation in training and capacity building

- The HCV Resource Network will correspond more closely with RSPO to ensure that common goals are met in a possible HCV Network bid to the second BACP call for projects

8) The HCV Resource Network and RSPO will take concrete steps to update each other on relevant issues:

- The HCV Resource Network will plan to attend the next Round Table in November, and establish a stall for information and guidance.

- RSPO and the HCV Resource Network will plan to hold quarterly telephone calls between their respective senior representatives, to keep updated on major issues.

Many thanks for your time, and looking forward to your comments on this note and to developing a productive and mutually supportive relationship

Dr Christopher Stewart

Appendix 2:

Update on CABI project by Julie Flood

Progress on the Integrated Weed Management Strategies for Oil Palm.

A draft version of the survey questionnaire for the project (Activity 1a) was distributed to growers in late April-early May in order to "road test" the questionnaire and to obtain feedback. We have now received feedback from growers in Malaysia, Indonesia and PNG. Based on this feedback, parts of the questionnaire have been redrafted to make it more concise and easier to complete, prior to translation into Spanish and Bahasa Indonesia (for Colombia and Indonesia). Based on lists being compiled of growers in the four participating countries, including RSPO members, the final versions will be distributed for completion over the coming weeks to allow time for completion, return and analysis of data.

The literature reviews (Activity 1b and 1c) are ongoing. We have sourced a considerable amount of information and synthesis of this information into the actual reviews has now started.

Appendix 3:

Comments by SA and GLT on earlier communications (not tabled at meeting).
GLT comments attached as pdf. file to this mail.

Comments by Sarala Aikanathan on earlier communication sent out to members:

Going through the documents you sent out from the last meeting, my comments are:

Appendix: RSPO Compliance on Biodiversity (by HB)

Para 3; (e) Unplantable swamps

(My comments: we need to further explain what this means. Otherwise, it will be open to too much uncertainty and contradiction).

Notes from Henry Barlow:

It is quite difficult to believe the locals eat owl!

Minutes of the 1st Meeting

SA-BTC needs to consider.....

(My comments: surrounding environment, especially if the sites are of special value, nature park, reserves, we need to look at guidance in dealing with these sites, giving special attention why the sites have been kept aside as reserve in the first place.)

Table: Priority areas

(My comments: BTC role & timeframe , can they be addressed at the next meeting?)

That's all for now.

Appendix 4: Flowcharts for Set-asides, compensation schemes and HCV accreditation:

Month	Activity		
	Set-asides	Compensation schemes	HCV accreditation
07/2009		End 07/09 "Options and approaches" paper (JP) to BTC members for discussion (electronic)	Draft of Accreditation Guidelines provided by HCV-RN Review by independent experts (see 5.a)
08/2009		Electronic discussion	Amended draft, approved by BTC
09/2009	Literature review on existing materials in P&C (4.4 & 5.2) and general research findings, gap identification (SA, TM & JP to collaborate) Discussion at BTC Meeting 3	Discussion of compensation schemes and decision on how to move forward at BTC Meeting 3	Public Consultation
10/2009	Workshop on existing BMP for stakeholders, drafting of syllabus on amendments/recommendations to P&C <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public consultation - CB trials - Field trials - Consultants 		Final draft, final review and approval by BTC
11/2009	Tabling of (amended) draft at RT 7, submission of draft to RSPO EB?		Submission to RSPO EB for approval
12/2009			HCV Training workshop in INA