

RSPO Biodiversity Technical Committee (BTC)
Minutes of the 3rd MEETING (3-hour teleconference)
HELD ON 29 September 2009

A. ATTENDANCE (P: Present; P*: Present part of meeting; A: Absent; K: Kuala Lumpur; J: Jakarta; O: Observer; wa; with apologies)

Present

1. Henry Barlow	(HB)	K
2. Chew Jit Seng	(CJS)	K
3. Sarala Aikanathan	(SA)	K
4. Nobuo Nakanishi	(NN)	K
5. Vengeta Rao	(VR)	K
6. Jutta Poetz	(JP)	K
7. Tom Maddox	(TM)	J
8. Ken MacDicken	(KMD)	J
9. Stan Rodgers	(SR)	O/K

Absent

1. Olivier Tichit	(OT)	wa
2. Purwo Susanto	(PS)	wa
3. Machmud Thohari	(MT)	wa
4. Reza Azmi(RA)		
5. Latiff Mohamed	(LM)	
6. Julie Flood (K.Y. Lum)	(JF)	
7. Yong Hoi Sen	(YHS)	wa
8. Gan Lian Tiong	(GLT)	wa

B. Opening and welcome

The teleconference meeting commenced at 14.40 h with some three members presenting Jakarta and six members and an observer present in Kuala Lumpur. JP welcomed those present for the third meeting of the committees and laid out the agenda for today's discussion.

C. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were not confirmed.

D. Agenda items

1. Set-asides in estates.

- 1.1 JP invited members present to comment on the document on set-asides that was sent out prior to the meeting. TM commented that the originally agreed upon gap-identification was not fully explored in the document and that further work was needed. The contribution to the document by HB was noted.

KMD advised on the written comment by Catherine Cassagne suggesting a questionnaire around RT7 for stakeholders, on the various topics explored by BTC; feedback received will help BTC find better focus in its work. The suggestion of a questionnaire finds support from other members present, and

RT7 was agreed as the most appropriate platform for distribution of the questionnaire. Based on results from the questionnaire the topic of set-asides and other issues will be examined further.

Decision:

A draft questionnaire to be prepared by 14 October
Circulation of draft 15 October
Review of document by 21 October
Results of response finalised for RT7 by 31 October

Action:

TM (+ input from HB)
JP
BTC
TM/JP

D2. A compensation scheme for RSPO

D2.1 Kerry ten Kate of BBOP joined the discussion from London to advise the committee on basic issues regarding a biodiversity compensation scheme for RSPO. She advised on the problems involved in developing such a scheme, the necessity to keep guidelines as simple as possible, and the danger of ignoring potential pitfalls when developing a scheme. She also indicated that BBOP was prepared to assist the RSPO in developing a suitable compensation mechanism. After Kerry left the conference a discussion took place on how the RSPO should proceed to address this matter. It was finally agreed that a short position paper should be developed with the objective of briefly setting out possible options, such as offsets, biobanking, etc. as well as the structure that might be necessary within the RSPO to develop the necessary guidelines such as the formation of a WG, employment of a consultant, seeking a grant or other financing to support a project with BBOP and other users. The position paper would be presented to the EB for approval of the way forward.

Decision:

Prepare a position paper on an RSPO compensation scheme for

Action by:

JP & TM (+ K. ten Kate)

E Other matters

E1. JP informed the committee that a final draft of guidelines for RSPO accreditation of HCV assessors, developed by HCV-RN on the request of RSPO, was expected any time. Endorsement of this document by the BTC would be required before it goes for public consultation. All BTC members are expected to review the document for this purpose by the closing date which would be nominated in final draft.

Decision:

Dissemination of document to BTC members
Review of document
Final approval to be obtained from BTC

Action by:

JP
All
JP

E2. Some discussion took place on the focus of the Committee with some members expressing a view that the Committee should concentrate on higher level issues such as HCV assessments, etc. whereas other felt that showing that the Committee was active and achieving results by RT7 was more important and that the emphasis should be on capturing the "low hanging fruit". There was no consensus on this matter and as the number of attendees at meeting was low it was felt that work should continue on these more detailed issues until such a time as this matter could be discussed in a broader forum.

As there were no further matters to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 17.30h.