

23-06-2015

Dear Stakeholders,

Public Notification on upcoming RSPO Initial Certification Assessment of Norpalm Ghana Limited (NGL), Takoradi, Ghana (RSPO Membership no. 1-0162-14-000-00)

Norpalm Ghana Limited (NGL) has commissioned TUV Rheinland Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. (RSPO auditing office of RSPO accredited office, PT TUV Rheinland Indonesia) for the initial assessment and certification of their holdings at Takoradi, Ghana against the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil Generic Principles and Criteria 2013 and RSPO Supply Chain Certification Standard 2014 (Note: At time of this announcement, the Ghana National Interpretation (NI) is under review. In case the new Ghana-NI is confirmed prior to the audit date, the audit will be conducted against the new Ghana-NI instead of the Generic P&C 2013). The assessment shall be carried out by a qualified team of auditors to assess the legal, environmental, economic, health & safety and social aspects as covered by the RSPO P&C.

NGL was established in Accra, Ghana on 29 October 1998 with the aim of to acquiring and privatizing the assets of the former state owned enterprise National Oil Palms Ltd. NGL successfully acquired the enterprise and took over all operational responsibilities from September 2000. NGL's current ownership is a Joint Venture between Norpalm AS (68.6%) and PZ Cussons Ghana Ltd. (31.4%).

NGL's mission statement has as one of its objectives to become a leading palm oil producer in Ghana. Today, NGL is among the four leading industrial palm oil milling companies in the country, with nucleus estates covering of 4,293 Ha and processing more than 80,000 mt. of FFB per year. Norpalm Ghana Limited has been a member of RSPO since 6 October 2014 and has publicly declared their dedication to conducting its business in a sustainable manner. This includes engagement through a collaborative process, listening carefully to key stakeholders and addressing their concerns in its business strategies and actions.

NGL announces for the information of the public that their holdings will be assessed against the global RSPO standards framework. The scope of the audit consists of one mill with a capacity of 30mt/hour, one nucleus estate as the main supply base of the mill covering 4,652.59 ha, and a smallholder scheme which comprises 38 farmers.

NGL does not require a timebound plan as the company has no other plantation subsidiaries.

Scope of assessment:

The RSPO certification assessment of NGL is scheduled to commence from the week of 10-13 August 2015. The assessment shall be carried out for 1 (one) Palm Oil Mills, 1 (one) company-owned estate and 1 (one) smallholder schemes. The details of the palm oil mill, estate and smallholder schemes to be assessed are as follows:

Palm Oil Mill to be included in the main assessment*						
Name of Mill	Location	GPS location		Average Annual Output*		Mill Capacity (Ton/hour)
		Latitude	Longitude	CPO (Tonnes)	PK (Tonnes)	
Norpalm Mill	Pretsea, Takoradi, Ghana	N 4.91761	W 1.97875	12,000	1,800	30

* **Note:** Average annual output includes FFB input from other uncertified sources, including 45% private farmers which are not included in the certification scheme.

Company Estate to be included in the main assessment*						
Name of estate	Location of estate	GPS locations		Area Summary (ha)		Average Annual FFB Production (tonnes/year)
		Latitude	Longitude	Total	Planted	
Norpalm Ghana Ltd.	Pretsea, Takoradi, Ghana	N 4.91761	W 1.97875	4,652.59	4,293	35,000

Smallholder Schemes to be included in the main assessment*							
Name of scheme	Location of Scheme	GPS locations		Area Summary (ha)		Number of farmers	Estimated FFB supplied from this source (tonnes)
		Latitude	Longitude	Total	Mature		
Norpalm Smallholder Scheme	Pretsea, Takoradi, Ghana	N 4.91761	W 1.97875	91ha	91ha	38	670

* All data is provided by the organization undergoing assessment and will be verified during the on-site assessment.

Assessment Team

TUV Rheinland Malaysia and PT TUV Rheinland Indonesia are members of the TÜV Rheinland Group, a global leader in independent testing and assessment services. Established in 1872, TÜV Rheinland Group has over 130 years of experience in providing various types of certifications as well as technical services for over 500 locations in 65 countries worldwide.

The assessment team assigned for the certification assessment of Norpalm Ghana Ltd. is as follows:

Lead auditor: Carol Ng Siew Theng (Good Agricultural Practices, Environment, OSH, Legal, and overall requirements)
Auditors: Aswan Hasibuan (OSH, Chemicals, SOPs and Legal & Communications)
Hendra Fachrurozy (Environment, HCVs, Greenhouse Gas management, Supply Chain)
Dr. Savinder Kaur (Social, Transparency, External Stakeholders, Workers, Local Communities)
Local expert: Yaw Osei-Owusu (Conservation Alliance)

Invitation to all stakeholders:

As a part of the certification assessment procedure we invite stakeholders to offer comments and feedback (if any) on Norpalm Ghana Ltd. in relation to the relevant RSPO Principles and Criteria as per the RSPO Principles & Criteria 2013 on any of the following issues:

- Environmental protection
- Biodiversity conservation
- Opportunities for employment, earning fair wages, overtime and piece-rated work
- Company approach to community development
- Provision of housing, sanitation, amenities and educational support
- Community development
- Land acquisition process
- Free, prior and informed consent
- Other matters pertaining to RSPO

Your comments or observations can be communicated to us through either a meeting with assessment team member during the fieldwork or submitting written comments by email, fax or regular mail to contact details below. Comments submitted within 30 days from the date of this notification shall be considered during the certification assessment. However, your input will be welcome at any stage of the assessment process. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and made available to only TUV Rheinland Malaysia, PT TUV Rheinland Indonesia and the RSPO Board.

Contact details:

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We thank you for your comments and feedback.

Yours sincerely,



Dian S Soeminta

General Manager of Sustainability Assurance
PT TUV Rheinland Indonesia