

RSPO – SI National Interpretation Working Group

1. The meeting, held at the BSP Conference room, opened at 9.10 am and was attended by the following:

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
29 September 2009		30 September 2009	
Tristan Armstrong	WWF	Tristan Armstrong	WWF
Harry Brock	GPPOL	Harry Brock	GPPOL
Roger Benzie	GPPOL	Roger Benzie	GPPOL
Jimi Saelea	Min. of Agriculture	Jimi Saelea	Min. of Agriculture
Phil Tagini	Islands Knowledge Inst	Danny Fa'alimae	TA/MAL
James Votaia	Landowners Association	Phil Tagini	Islands Knowledge Inst
William Atu	The Nature Conservancy	James Votaia	Landowners Association
Greenta Tome	Outgrowers Association	William Atu	The Nature Conservancy
Mark Corcoran	BSP	Greenta Tome	Outgrowers Association
George Boe	Min. of Agriculture	George Boe	Min. of Agriculture

2. Introduction to all by the Chairman followed by individual introductions from all attendees.

3. Apologies: Joe Weber – Oxfam International

4. Procedural matters:

Confirmation of the following: Tristan Armstrong - Chairperson,

Harry Brock - Facilitator,

Roger Benzie - Secretary.

5. Overview of RSPO process and presentation by Harry Brock. Outlined the Oil Palm industry, development of RSPO and the process to be followed in developing the National Interpretation.

Followed by some questions and comments of a general nature about the palm oil industry in the Solomon Islands from the meeting.

6. The Working Group then went through the DRAFT National Interpretation of RSPO Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Palm Oil Production for the Independent State of Solomon Islands principle by principle, page by page, using the following process.

Firstly the principle, criterion, indicators and guidance notes were read out to allow for any questions on the meaning or purpose, etc.

Then each Criterion, Indicator and Specific Guidance was discussed, if necessary, and relevant changes recorded for the first Draft.

Discussion ensued on numerous points and Group consensus was accepted as the indicator of a change being suggested.

7. On the first day Principles 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 were completed. The remaining Principles 6, 7 and 8 were completed on the second day.

Principle 1. Commitment to Transparency.

Minutes on SI NIWG Meeting held at the BSP Boardroom, Honiara, on 29-30/09/09.

RSPO – SI National Interpretation Working Group

Criterion 1.1 – OK. Must use the appropriate language for the audience – English or Solomons Pijin and translation/clarification made available when necessary.

Criterion 1.2 – OK

1.2.10 Efforts made to communicate OH&S policy to Outgrower organisation

Principle 2. Compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Criterion 2.1 - OK

Criterion 2.2 – OK

Criterion 2.3 – OK

Principle 3. Commitment to long term economic & financial viability.

Criterion 3.1 – Change time frame from 3 years to 5 years for business and management plans.

Principle 4. Use of appropriate best practices by growers and millers.

Criterion 4.1 - OK

Criterion 4.2 – OK. (the possibility of – Monitoring nutrient levels in relation to nutrient run-off affecting nearby marine, estuarine or other water bodies.)

Criterion 4.3 – Peat ???? 4.3.2 Consider seasonal factors when moving/shifting earth. 4.3.6

Criterion 4.4 – OK. 4.4.1 For buffer size follow SI Logging Code of Practice. 4.4.2 No compliance for water usage in SI.

Criterion 4.5 – OK. 4.5.1 should be indicator for 4.6.

Criterion 4.6 – OK. 4.6.3 Do not supply outgrowers or landowners with any pesticides. 4.6.7 No registration of chemicals at present in Solomon Islands. 4.6.11 Solomon Islands not ratified for Rotterdam Convention. 4.6.13 Delete ...A recertification course....etc.

Criterion 4.7 – OK. In Guidance refer to Safety at Work Act 1982

Criterion 4.8 – OK. 4.8.2 Training will be offered to outgrowers from time to time in Plantation Crop Management.

Principle 5. Environmental responsibility and conservation of natural resources and biodiversity.

5.1 The environmental impacts of plantation and mill activities are identified. Plans to mitigate negative impacts are made, implemented and monitored.

Criterion 5.1 – OK. 5.1.2 An environmental improvement plan to mitigate the environmental impacts identified is developed, implemented and monitored.

Criterion 5.2 – OK. 5.2.3 Note – Independent assessor must be used. HCVF areas must be identified prior to leases being signed and awareness made to all involved as to why it is thus identified. 5.2.4, ..5, ..6 all become bullet points.

Criterion 5.3 – OK. Code of Practice for Landfill in SI??

Criterion 5.4 – OK

Criterion 5.5 – OK

Criterion 5.6 – OK

Principle 6. Responsible consideration of employees and of individuals and communities affected by growers and mills.

Criterion 6.1 – OK minor changes to the wording of 6.1.1 and 6.1.2

RSPO – SI National Interpretation Working Group

Criterion 6.2 – OK 6.2.1 - reword

Criterion 6.3 – OK – remove “and accepted” 6.3.1 – add to resolve disputes 6.3.2 – add are on record.

Criterion 6.4 – OK reworded. Company records should be maintained – deleted, as this is complicit in “..a documented system...”

Criterion 6.5 – OK reworded

Criterion 6.6 – OK reworded

Criterion 6.7- OK 6.7.1 add “.....age requirement is met for company employees”

Criterion 6.8 - OK

Criterion 6.9 – OK add ”and men” to the Criterion. 6.9.1 add ... gender and domestic... before violence

Criterion 6.10 - OK

Criterion 6.11 - OK

Principle 7. Responsible Development of new plantings

Criterion 7.1 – OK. addition of (terrestrial and marine) to Criterion 7. 7.1.2 add....are in place.

Criterion 7.2 – OK changes to SI Guidance Notes

Criterion 7.3 – OK. Add “or will not” replace primary forest. 7.3.1 – insert “independent” after suitably and before qualified

Criterion 7.4 - 7.4.1 – remove “limited”,

Criterion 7.5 – OK In Criterion and 7.5.2 add “men and women” to be more specific.

Criterion 7.6 - OK - “compensation” replaced with “fair reward” in all points

Criterion 7.7 – OK – add “situations” after specific.

Principle 8. Commitment to continuous improvement in key areas of activity

Criterion 8.1 – The action plan in total now becomes a major compliance issue.

8. The meeting closed at 1.15 pm, the date of the next meeting will be set after the issuance of the media statement and at a time convenient to all parties. This should be around one months time.

Roger Benzie
Estate Manager
GPPOL
30 September 2009