

**National Interpretation of the International RSPO  
Principles and Criteria of the Federal Republic of Nigeria**

**Process Report  
June, 2017**

## **1.0 Introduction**

This document outlines the process that was followed in the development of the National Interpretation of the Global RSPO Principles and Criteria of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, carried out from March 2014 to May 2016. The process was facilitated by Proforest with RSPO secretariat serving as the secretariat for the NNIWG.

In conducting the National Interpretation of the revised Global RSPO P&C (2013), the following documents were taken into consideration

- RSPO Principles and Criteria for the Production of Sustainable Palm Oil 2013
- RSPO Principles and Criteria for Sustainable, Palm Oil Production, Guidance on Scheme Smallholders (2009)
- List of national and international laws, conventions and treaties applicable to the sustainable production and use of palm oil in Nigeria

## **2.0 Process, Participation and Timeline**

### **2.1 Initiation of Process**

The process for the National Interpretation (NI) of the International RSPO Principles and Criteria for Nigeria was initiated by Presco Plc (a member of RSPO) and the Nigeria National Interpretation Working Group (NNIWG) meetings chaired by Presco Plc.

### **2.2 Formation of Nigeria National Interpretation Working Group (NNIWG)**

Following the RSPO requirement that all national interpretations (NI) should be developed by consensus within a multi-stakeholder group, the Nigeria National interpretation process started with various sensitization and mobilization efforts mobilizing stakeholders in support of RSPO in Nigeria. These activities include; Presentation of RSPO to the Media in October, 2010, Presentation of RSPO to the Federal Ministries of Trade & Investment and Federal Ministry of Agriculture in Abuja in 2011, Presentation of RSPO to the Manufacturers' Association of Nigeria (MAN) in December 2011, Fund raising dinner for RSPO Nigeria in 2012 and RSPO Roadshow in September, 2013. Fifty (50) Stakeholders including the Planters/Millers, Processors, Manufacturers, Government MDAs, NGOs, Banks, Environmentalists and Media have signed the Statement of Intent to participate in RSPO in Nigeria.

In April 2014, the Nigeria National Interpretation Working Group (NNIWG) was constituted with self-selected representatives from the Producers (including smallholders), Supply chain actors and investors, Environmental interests and Social interests categories. Each member also signed on to a Code of Conduct.

1. Commitment and Compliance Sub –Group; the task force worked on P&C 1, 2 and 3 consisting of Commitment to transparency, Compliance with applicable laws and regulations and Commitment to long-term economic and financial viability respectively.
2. Best Management Practices and New Planting Sub-Group; The task force worked on P&C 4, 7 and 8 consisting of Use of appropriate best practices by growers and millers of activities, Responsible development of new plantings and Commitment to continuous improvement in key areas respectively.

3. Environment and Natural Resources Sub Group; The task force worked on P&C 5 on environmental responsibility and conservation of natural resources and biodiversity.
4. Labour and Social Sub-Group; The task force worked on P&C 6 on responsible consideration of employees, and of individuals and communities affected by growers and mills.

The NNIWG comprises the following companies/institutions.

| <b>Representative Organization</b>                               | <b>Interest Category</b> |
|--|--------------------------|
| PZ-Wilmar Ltd  | Grower/Smallholder       |
| Presco plc/SNL (alternate)                                       | Grower/Smallholder       |
| Okumu opc Plc  | Grower/Smallholder       |
| National Palm Produce Association of Nigeria (NPPAN)             | Grower/Smallholder       |
| Oil Palm Growers Association Nigeria (OPGAN)                     | Grower/Smallholder       |
| IMC  | Grower/Smallholder       |
| JB Farm (alternate)  |                          |
| First Banks of Nigeria/FCMB (First City Monument Bank alternate) | Supply Chain & Investors |
| PZ Cussons   | Supply Chain & Investors |
| Sudit oil  | Supply Chain & Investors |
| Nigerian Conservation Foundation                                 | Environmental NGOs       |
| Concern Universal, Nigeria                                       | Environmental NGOs       |
| PIND/ SHERDA (alternate)   | Social NGOs              |
| Solidaridad West Africa  | Social NGOs              |
| DIN/NNF (alternate)  | Social NGOs              |
| The Proforest Initiative   | Technical Facilitator    |
| Foremost Development Services                                    | Facilitator              |

### **2.3 Process Management**

Having identified the member companies to form the NNIWG, official letters were sent to the companies to nominate representatives to participate in the review process.

### **2.4 Technical Committee Meetings**

The meetings were held within Edo state hosted by participating companies and were facilitated by Solidaridad West Africa. In addition to the NNIWG members, relevant stakeholders such as legal and Environmental Protection Experts were also consulted when necessary.

The election of NNIWG members was done in a participatory manner during the stakeholders' meeting including the selection of Presco Plc as the Chairman, PZ Cusson as Vice-chairman, Solidaridad West Africa as Secretary and Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) as the Assistant Secretary while RSPO secretariat serve as the Secretariat to ensure effectiveness of the NNIWG.

The first meeting was an inaugural session facilitated by Proforest. It was used to train RSPO stakeholders on RSPO NI process and the technical requirements for national interpretation. Stakeholders also discussed NNIWG goal, objective and roles of members using the RSPO National Interpretation Manual

prepared by the secretariat to guide the working group in discharging their tasks. Nomination and composition of Nigeria National Interpretation Working Group (NNIWG) members was then conducted in a participatory manner. Signing of the Code of Conduct (COC) provided by the RSPO Secretariat was also discussed.

The maiden meeting of the NNIWG which was chaired by Presco reviewed the RSPO P&C 2013 and the Ghana Chair for NI process was invited to share their experiences on this with the NNIWG members. The NNIWG then constituted the sub groups, agreed on their respective tasks and each sub-group then appointed their respective sub-group lead. Each sub group identified resource persons they required and also developed their work plan with targets.

The second physical meeting reviewed progress made by each sub group on the National Interpretation of the P&C while the third general NNIWG reviewed the first draft of the NI document and agreed on the plan towards the National Consultation. After about one and a half years of work, the different sub groups identified, discussed and validated the national RSPO indicators.

A national consultative meeting was held in January 2016 to harness inputs from within and outside the RSPO multi stakeholder platform on the draft national indicators. All relevant stakeholders along the palm oil supply chain consequently ratified the national indicators at this meeting.

The national indicators were subsequently field tested at Presco Plc and Okomu Plc in February 2016 and observations made were used to finalize the national indicators.

According to the guidelines and procedures of the RSPO, a public consultation for a minimum period of 60 days was carried out from April 1st 2016 to May 31st 2016 which enabled the national public, regional and international to bear judgments, observations and comments on these national indicators. Having received no comments from the public, the members of the RSPO in Nigeria subsequently produced the Draft Final National Interpretation P&C and submitted it to RSPO in June, 2016 for endorsement.

**Time Line of the process**

| S/N |  | 2014 |     |     | 2015 | 2016 |     |     |     |     |     |     | 2017 |
|-----|--|------|-----|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
|     |  | Mar  | Apr | Sep | Aug  | Jan  | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Oct | Jun  |
| 1   | Formation of NNIWG                           | ■    |     |     |      |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |
| 2   | Signing of COC by NNIWG members              |      | ■   |     |      |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |
| 3   | 1 <sup>st</sup> NIWG meeting                 |      | ■   |     |      |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |
| 4   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> NNIWG meeting                |      |     | ■   |      |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |
| 5   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> NNIWG meeting                |      |     |     | ■    |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |
| 6   | National Consultation                        |      |     |     |      | ■    |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |
| 7   | Field Testing of the National Indicators     |      |     |     |      |      | ■   |     |     |     |     |     |      |
| 8   | Review of National Indicators                |      |     |     |      |      |     | ■   |     |     |     |     |      |
| 9   | Public Consultation                          |      |     |     |      |      |     |     | ■   | ■   |     |     |      |
| 10  | Submission of Final document for Endorsement |      |     |     |      |      |     |     |     |     | ■   |     |      |
| 11  | Evaluation for Endorsement of NI             |      |     |     |      |      |     |     |     |     | ■   | ■   |      |
| 12  | Endorsement of NI                            |      |     |     |      |      |     |     |     |     |     |     | ■    |

### **3.0 Public Consultation Period**

#### **3.1 Announcement and opportunities to comment**

The public consultation on the RSPO National Interpretation for Nigeria was initiated on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2016 through to the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2016. The document was made available in English, sent to RSPO prior to public notification and published on the RSPO website from 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2016 through to the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2016. The document was made available in English on the RSPO Nigeria website; ([www.rsonigeria.org](http://www.rsonigeria.org)).

#### **4.0 Review of comments and finalization of draft**

Having received no comments from the public, the members of the RSPO in Nigeria subsequently produced the Draft Final of the national Interpretation for RSPO endorsement.

#### **5.0 Evaluation for Endorsement**

The Standard & Certification Standing Committee evaluated the draft NI and issued the Criteria for endorsement of Nigeria National Interpretations (NI) Of RSPO P&C for Sustainable Palm Oil for Nigeria National Interpretation twice in June 2016 and October 2016. All the issues raised were properly addressed on each occasion.

#### **6.0 Endorsement of NI**

The Nigeria National Interpretation of the RSPO Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Palm oil was endorsed by the Board of Governors 14 June 2017.

## Annex 1: Members of the Nigeria National Interpretation Working Group

| Representative Organization                                      | Interest Category        | Name of Representative                                 |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| PZ-Wilmar Ltd  | Grower/Smallholder       | Yomi Ifaturoti   |
| Presco plc/SNL (alternate)                                       | Grower/Smallholder       | Sophie Engelskirchen (Carlos Tello)<br>Paul `Y. Hameed |
| Okumu opc Plc  | Grower/Smallholder       | Billy Ghansah  |
| National Palm Produce Association of Nigeria (NPPAN)             | Grower/Smallholder       | Olatujoye Henry Gbenga                                 |
| Oil Palm Growers Association Nigeria (OPGAN)                     | Grower/Smallholder       | HRH Igwe Hilary Uche                                   |
| IMC  | Grower/Smallholder       | Brian Hammond /Olomu Sebastian                         |
| JB Farm (alternate)  |                          | Seyi Atinaro   |
| First Banks of Nigeria/FCMB (First City Monument Bank alternate) | Supply Chain & Investors | Aliu Mohammed  |
| PZ Cussons   | Supply Chain & Investors | Mohammed Tahir   |
| Sudit oil  | Supply Chain & Investors | Sir Partick Nwaokolo                                   |
| Nigerian Conservation Foundation                                 | Environmental NGOs       | Uzamere Eseosa   |
| Concern Universal, Nigeria                                       | Environmental NGOs       | Tim Kellow   |
| PIND/ SHERDA (alternate)   | Social NGOs              | James Elekwachi  |
| Solidaridad West Africa  | Social NGOs              | Babajide Stephen                                       |
| DIN/NNF (alternate)  | Social NGOs              | Odey James   |
| The Proforest Initiative   | Technical Facilitator    | Isaac Abban-Mensah                                     |
| Foremost Development Services                                    | Facilitator              | Fatai Afolabi  |