

Code of Conduct for Members of THE ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL

It is fundamental to the integrity, credibility and continued progress of the RSPO that every member supports, promotes and works towards the production, procurement and use of Sustainable Palm Oil.

All Ordinary and Affiliate Members must act in good faith towards this objective and commit to adhering to the principles set out in this Code.

RSPO Code of Conduct for Members 2017

Endorsed by the RSPO General Assembly GA14, on 30th November 2017
in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

1. Promotion and Commitment

- 1.1 Member organisations will acknowledge their membership of the RSPO, its objectives, Statutes of the RSPO (“the Statutes”) and, the Principles and Criteria (P&C) and its respective national interpretations and implementation process through informed and explicit endorsement.
- 1.2 Members will promote and communicate this commitment throughout its own organisation and to its customers, suppliers, sub-contractors and wider value chains where necessary.
- 1.3 Membership of the RSPO must be endorsed by a senior representative of the member organisation.
- 1.4 Members must not make claims which imply that the removal of palm oil from a product is a preferable social or environmental sustainability outcome to the use of RSPO certified sustainable palm oil. Moreover, members shall seek to promote, and not to denigrate the aims and goals of RSPO, namely the production and use of RSPO certified sustainable palm oil.

2. Transparency, reporting and claims

- 2.1 Members will not make any misleading or unsubstantiated claims about the production, procurement or use of sustainable palm oil.
- 2.2 Members are required to report annually on progress against this Code.
- 2.3 Members will commit to open and transparent engagement with interested parties, and actively seek resolution of conflict.

3. Implementation

- 3.1 Members to whom the P&C apply will work towards implementation and certification of the P&C.
- 3.2 Members to whom the P&C do not apply directly will implement parallel standards relevant to their own organisation, which cannot be lower than those set out in the P&C.
- 3.3 Members are responsible for ensuring that their commitment to the objectives of the RSPO is underpinned by adequate resources within its organisation.
- 3.4 Relevant personnel within member organisations will be provided appropriate information that will enable them to work towards the objectives of the RSPO in their work.

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- 3.5 Members to whom the P&C do not directly apply will actively seek to promote sustainable palm oil and will give support to those members engaged in implementing the RSPO P&C.
- 3.6 In the required annual communication on progress (see 2.2), existing RSPO members are required to specify steps taken last year, specific steps intended for the coming year and for the long term in the form of a time-bound plan of working towards producing or buying certified sustainable palm oil, applying any or a combination of the RSPO approved supply chain mechanism and relevant to the scope of the member's operations (e.g. specifying volume or percentage targets, or a commitment to above-average proportions of trade or investment volumes in comparison to production or demand trends).
- 3.7 New members are required at the latest in their first annual progress report to specify a time-bound plan of working towards producing or buying certified sustainable palm oil, relevant to the scope of the member's operations.
- 3.8 Subsequently, members need to report progress against the time-bound plan annually as part of the mandatory progress report.
- 3.9 Names of members who meet these requirements will be contained in the annual RSPO publication collating or summarizing progress reports. Members who fail to meet these requirements will be listed as such in the same publication.

4. Pricing and incentives

- 4.1 Members procuring palm oil will integrate implementation and independent verification of the P&C as a positive performance measure when assessing supplier performance.
- 4.2 Members will adhere strictly to the RSPO anti-trust guidelines, and refrain from any behaviour which can be construed as anti-competitive practice.

5. Breaches of this Code

- 5.1 Members will seek to resolve grievances directly with other member organisations or individuals in a timely fashion, and will not make unsubstantiated allegations of breaches against other members.
- 5.2 Breaches of this Code or Statutes by RSPO Members may lead to suspension or termination from the organisation.
- 5.3 Prior to taking public action in cases of unresolved allegations of breaches of this Code or the Statutes, members shall report the alleged breaches to the RSPO Secretariat, which will deal with the alleged breaches in accordance with the RSPO Complaints System.

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- 5.4 The RSPO Complaints and Appeals Panels, through the Complaints System, may conduct an investigation against any member whom, in its view may have breached this Code, the Statutes or other key documents relating to RSPO systems and procedures as endorsed by the Board of Governors. RSPO Members who are found to have been in breach after due investigation in accordance to the Complaints System, may be suspended or terminated at the sole discretion of the Complaints and Appeals Panels without further reference to the RSPO Member or Board of Governors.
- 5.5 Subject to Clause 5.4 above, the Chief Executive Officer may terminate or suspend the membership of an RSPO Member for breaches which applies to an RSPO Member under this Statutes or the Code of Conduct including for the non-payment of the requisite membership fee, provided always that any such termination or suspension shall be in accordance with procedures to be determined and approved by the Board of Governors from time to time. Members who are found, after due inquiry, to have breached this Code or the Statutes by the Chief Executive Officer, will be terminated or suspended at the sole discretion of the Chief Executive Officer, without further reference to the RSPO Member or the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors will be informed after a termination of suspension of membership has been carried out by the Chief Executive Officer.