



## RSPO Outreach Working Group (OWG): Minutes Zoom call on January 21, 2021, Meeting 5

### Agenda

- Anti-trust statement
- Approval of minutes of the last meeting
- Brief updates from the last MDSC meeting on 19th Jan
- Discussion on the Market Communications and Claims Documents
- Highlights from the secretariat from India, China and Indonesia
- Discussion on the next possible workstream (Demand in Big4 - India, China, Indonesia, Malaysia)
- Brief updates about U.S. Customs and Border Protection withholding issues
- AOB and Next Steps

### Participants

Constituency	Name, company (Substantive/alternate)	Attended
Grower/Processor	Lesley Marson, Olam	Yes
Grower ROW	Cristian Carrillo, Palmaceite S.A.	No
Grower - MY	Mark Wong, Sime Darby Plantations	Yes
Grower -Indo	Anita Neville, GAR	Yes
P&T	Caroline Westerik, AAK	No
P&T	Aurora Giribuola, Dupont	Yes
eNGO	Tracey Gazibara, CMZ	No
eNGO	Michelle Desilets	No
CGM	Jonathan Escolar, Natura	No
eNGO	Anjana Shanmugavel, WWF - India (Substantive)	Yes
SCA	Manjo Jha, Sai Tripti Chemtrade Pvt Ltd	No

### Secretariat participants:

Region	Name	Attended
South Asia	Kamal Prakash Seth	Yes
North America	Cameron Plese	Yes
Global	Dan Strechay	Yes
Global	Inke Van Der Sluijs	Yes
Malaysia	Panglima Emir Bustami	Yes
Malaysia	Nefissa Sahnoum	Yes



### **1. Brief Updates from the last MDSC meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021**

- No consensus yet within MDSC for the updated language for Rule 1.4 of RSPO Code of Conduct. More updates will be shared for this as and when there is progress.
- The secretariat has submitted a proposal to MDSC for COP26 campaign and Task Force. The proposal has been accepted and Anita Neville (GAR) has been confirmed as the Chair for this Task Force. Any organisation interested in joining, supporting or finding out more about this initiative can reach out to the secretariat.
- WWF recommended that it will be good to include diverse voices for the COP26 campaign, specifically in Asia and work with stakeholders like the 'Tropical Forest Alliance' to align with their initiatives, roundtables etc.

### **2. Comments from OWG for market communications and claims document (now to be split between claims and trademark documents)**

- Section 1.4 should be referenced within these documents at appropriate places. As of now there is no reference.
- Secretariat has requested OWG members to inform their communications and marketing teams about this topic and secretariat staff will be happy to launch a communications campaign related to this and also take them through this initiative and explain how to get involved, publish supporting articles etc.

**Action Item:** Secretariat will propose to OWG about the language to be inserted in the document for mention of sustainable palm oil products in the ingredients section of products.

### **3. Highlights from the secretariat from India, China and Indonesia**

- Secretariat shared key updates from these countries as highlighted in the presentation used during the meeting (attached).

### **4. Discussion on the next possible workstream (Demand in Big4 - India, China, Indonesia, Malaysia)**

- Secretariat facilitated a discussion for the new possible workstream for OWG as highlighted in 2020 and confirmed that this topic is closely aligned with our internal strategic review process and shared responsibility rules.
- Some OWG members think that initiatives related to increasing the demand for CSPO in India, China, Indonesia and Malaysia, downstream engagement, educating stakeholders about the supply chain options specifically mass



balance and book and claim. Some markets might also need efforts to nudge RSPO members to meet their time bound plan commitments, including education around the segregated supply chain.

- Secretariat updated that some MDSC members think that initiatives related to independent smallholders credits, market access etc. can also be considered as a focus area.
- Some OWG members think that our government relations initiatives need to be aligned with the market transformation efforts in these markets. Secretariat asked OWG to create awareness about the new 'Head of Government Relations' role.
- Some OWG members think that we need to consider recruiting NGOs in these market to support our market transformation efforts

**Action Item:** Secretariat will submit a proposal/outline for the new possible workstream before the next meeting.

#### **5. Brief updates about U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) withholding issues**

- Secretariat has been following up with CBP regarding this issue and it is hoped that the new US Government will be open to discussions and resolving the issues.
- Secretariat is looking to staff up the 'Government Relations' team to become more active with engaging the relevant stakeholders.
- Sime Darby shared updates related to this issue and mentioned that it seems CBP is not fully aware of RSPO's standards and systems and more efforts could be made us in this direction.

#### **6. AOB and Next Steps**

- FGV has reached out to the secretariat to support their India entity with ISH 2019 certification.
- Secretariat asked OWG to create awareness about the RT Series in Jan-March 2021.

**Next OWG meeting will be organised in March 2021.**

**Action Item: Secretariat will send a Doodle for the next meeting.**