

RSPO Peat Audit Guidance (P&C 2018)

Update to proposal prepared by RSPO Peatland Working Group meeting on 13-14 September 2018 to clarify potential audit guidance for Criteria 7.7 (as adopted by GA).			
Indicator 7.7.1 There is no new planting on peat regardless of depth after 15 November 2018 in existing and new development areas			
Audit Issue	Audit Requirement	Guidance	Significance
New planting in peat	1. There is no new planting on peat soil in the plantation	<p>Checking may be based on records of land clearing and new planting, satellite image verification or site visits.</p> <p>Check any applications under NPP as well as planting within existing plantations or areas with NPP approved earlier.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check previous NPP documents. 2. Check details of area of peat identified (maps etc.). 3. Check management & monitoring plan based on NPP(s) submitted. 4. Check any areas of new planting 	High
Indicator 7.7.2 Areas of peat within the managed areas are inventoried, documented and reported (effective from 15 November 2018) to RSPO Secretariat.			
Audit Issue	Audit Requirement	Guidance	Significance
Mapping & peat inventory	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Peat Inventory is prepared as per RSPO peat inventory template. 2. Map of peatland areas is available. Map to show: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Extent of peat area & its land use (planted, conservation & other) as per 'RSPO Peat Inventory Template' guidance b. Information sources. 	<p>Information sources should be provided for peat extent – i.e. soil survey (mention date and methodology), existing soil maps etc.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check accuracy of maps – must be relevant 2. Auditor to do site verification of peat areas. 3. Conduct site verification of peat areas (planted, conservation others) against peat inventory <p><i>Map specification shall follow the 'RSPO Peat Inventory Template' guidance.</i></p>	High

Reporting to RSPO secretariat	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Peat inventory, map and shapefile are reported to RSPO secretariat within 12 months of adoption of RSPO P&C 2018 (by 15 Nov 2019) or prior to the first RSPO P&C 2018 certification audit – whichever comes first 2. Peat inventory, map and shapefile are updated to RSPO secretariat by 2022 or when significant changes occur on peat areas (e.g. acquisition or divestment etc.) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verify evidence of reporting or updating (e.g. emails to RSPO secretariat) 	High
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Indicator 7.7.3 (C) Subsidence of peat is monitored, documented and minimised.

Audit Issue	Audit Requirement	Guidance	Significance
Subsidence of peat (Monitoring)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is a minimum of one (1) subsidence pole in every 240 ha of peatland areas planted with oil palm* 2. Records of quarterly monitoring of peat subsidence are available <p><i>*For smaller fragmented blocks of peat, one subsidence pole should be placed for each fragment >10ha).</i></p> <p><i>*For contiguous areas of peat >5,000ha, intensity of subsidence poles may be reduced based on adequate peat stratification. Justification and evidence to be provided by the grower.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check map of subsidence pole & records of measurements. 2. Verify on site the presence of subsidence pole. If intensity is less than one pole/240 ha, check the evidence given by the grower. 3. For minimization of peat subsidence, see 7.7.4 	High

Indicator 7.7.4 (C) A documented water and ground cover management programme is in place.

Audit Issue	Audit Requirement	Guidance	Significance
Water management Programme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is a documented and implemented water management programme 2. Map of water management system (including canals, outlets and water control structures and monitoring points, flow direction) is available 3. Record of flooding history including area affected, duration and max water height during flood, is available and maintained. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is a water management team who are regularly monitoring and maintaining the water management system (including water control structures, records, water levels etc.) 2. Check that the map is accurate and the appropriate scale (refer 'RSPO Peat Inventory Template' guidance) 3. Verify that management measures are 	High

		<p>taken in response to water level monitoring to ensure target water levels are maintained.</p> <p>4. Check records and flood maps.</p> <p><i>Note: This also covers the water management aspects of 7.7.6</i></p>	
Ground cover management programme	<p>1. There is a documented ground cover management programme that ensures good vegetation cover in the young replanted areas (0-5years) of the plantation.</p>	<p>This is critical in young plantations (0-5 years) to protect the peat surface and maintain humidity.</p>	Moderate
<p>Indicator 7.7.5 For plantations planted on peat, drainability assessments are conducted following the RSPO Drainability Assessment Guidelines, or other RSPO recognised methods, at least five years prior to replanting. The assessment result is used to set the timeframe for future replanting, as well as for phasing out of oil palm cultivation at least 40 years, or two cycles, whichever is greater, before reaching the natural gravity drainability limit for peat. When oil palm is phased out, it should be replaced with crops suitable for a higher water table (paludiculture) or rehabilitated with natural vegetation.</p>			
Audit Issue	Audit Requirement	Guidance	Significance
Drainability assessment (replanting on peat only)	<p>1. Drainability assessment is conducted according to RSPO Drainability Assessment Procedure prior to replanting, and its summary is submitted to RSPO Secretariat</p> <p>2. Detailed result of the Drainability assessment is available, indicating:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Depth to drainage limit Drainage limit time (DLT) in years 	<p>Auditor to check that Drainability assessment has been undertaken for any recent replanting and that assessment is being planned prior to any upcoming replanting according to guidance in DA.</p> <p><i>Note: Refer to Annex 9 of RSPO DA Procedure.</i></p>	High
Long term Management plan for rewetted areas (if applicable)	<p>A management plan is developed and implemented; including with plans for areas where drainage limit time is < 40 years.</p> <p><i>Note: this include rewetting or rehabilitating the area with natural vegetation or productive land-use (paludiculture)</i></p>	<p>1. To check management plan and compare with site visit.</p> <p>2. Check monitoring of rehab sites as per management plan</p>	Moderate

Indicator 7.7.6 (C) All existing plantings on peat are managed according to the 'RSPO Manual on Best Management Practices (BMPs) for existing oil palm cultivation on peat', version 2 (2018) and associated audit guidance.

Audit Issue	Audit Requirement	Guidance	Significance
Water level monitoring	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water level monitoring post are placed in collection drains/main drains. 2. A minimum of one (1) piezometer per 120 ha, is installed in planted areas. 3. Water levels are monitored weekly in the collection drain or in-field. To ensure water levels are maintained: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. at an average of 60cm (between 50-70 cm) in collection drains; or b. at an average of 50cm (between 40-60 cm) in field 4. Water levels (outside the water control structure) at relevant outlet gates are monitored. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. For areas affected by tidal flow, records of daily tidal fluctuations at the outlet point are available. 5. Records of all water level monitoring are available. 6. Daily local rainfall data of the certification unit is available. 7. Water monitoring information should be used for active management of water levels in the plantation. <p><i>Note: Plantations with long term water level monitoring that have identified the correlation between collection drain and in-field water levels may use monthly monitoring interval provided on-site verification shows good management of peat areas.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check the map showing location of monitoring post and piezometer. 2. Random check of piezometer (in field) and water monitoring post in (collection drain) 3. Check the records of water level monitoring <p><i>It is expected that the water levels will fluctuate depending in dry and wet seasons.</i></p>	High
Fire prevention and control	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fire prevention and control plan is available. 2. Fire Danger Rating System (FDRS) warning signs and system are in place. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The fire prevention and control plan is available, adequately covers both fire prevention and control)and is being 	High

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Adequate firefighting equipment for peat fires is available. 4. Personnel have been trained to prevent and control peat fires. 5. Active fire patrols and monitoring are implemented. 	<p>implemented (including consultation as necessary with adjacent stakeholders)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. FDRS signage is in place, used for fire warning and prevention and warning level regularly updated (minimum every 2 days) 3. Regular training for personnel on fire prevention and response. 4. Specialized firefighting equipment is available and properly maintained (check records etc.) 5. Records of patrols and monitoring and follow up action if any incidents. 	
Leaning palms	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compaction and/or hole-in-hole method prior to replanting on peat areas. 2. A Plan is available to address occurrence of leaning palm in current or future cycles. <p><i>Note for current cycle the plans may not prevent further leaning but may address issues related to eg root mounding, water management, harvesting etc.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check record of compaction and /or hole-in-hole 2. Check plans to address the occurrence of leaning palm. 3. May be also tied to water management plan 	Moderate
<p>Indicator 7.7.7 (C) All areas of unplanted and set-aside peatlands in the managed area (regardless of depth) are protected as “peatland conservation areas”; new drainage, road building and power lines by the unit of certification on peat soils is prohibited; peatlands are managed in accordance with the ‘RSPO BMPs for Management and Rehabilitation of Natural Vegetation Associated with Oil Palm Cultivation on Peat’, version 2 (2018) and associated audit guidance</p>			
Audit Issue	Audit Requirement	Guidance	Significance
Conservation of peatland set asides	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is an assessment and management plan developed and implemented for the peatland areas to be rehabilitated and/or conserved. This plan can be established separately or as part of an integrated management plan for all conservation areas” 2. Degraded peatlands (if present) are being rehabilitated through restoration of hydrology, fire prevention, natural revegetation or planting of indigenous trees. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check the report and management plan and verify its implementation at site 2. Check monitoring reports of conservation areas to ensure implemented as per plan 3. Site visit to verify implementation of rehabilitation measures (f applicable) 	High

<p>Maintenance of natural water regimes in conservation areas and adjacent lands on peat</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Measure is taken inside the plantation's boundary that avoids drainage of peatland conservation areas as well as HCV or conservation areas adjacent to the plantation. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Water table is maintained at near natural levels in peat conservation areas and along plantation boundaries adjacent to HCV and conservation areas. b. Water management (refer to 7.7.4 in audit guidance) within the plantation should not increase the fire risk of areas adjacent to the plantation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To check records of water table maintenance at the boundary canal. 2. Mechanism to control the accessibility by land or water. 	<p>High</p>
<p>Fire prevention and control (Conservation areas)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fire prevention and control plan for conservation areas is available 2. Adequate firefighting equipment for peat fires available. 3. Personnel have been trained to prevent and control peat fires in conservation areas. 4. Active fire patrols and monitoring in conservation areas. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The fire prevention and control plan is available (as a separate plan or integrated with plantation plan) and is being implemented (including issue of consultation as necessary with adjacent stakeholders) 2. The plan covers both fire prevention and control 3. FDRS signage is in place, used for fire warning and prevention and warning level regularly updated 4. Regular training for personnel on fire prevention and response. 5. Specialized firefighting equipment is available and properly maintained (check records etc.) 6. Records of patrols and monitoring and follow up action if any incidents. 	<p>High</p>