

# RSPO

## RSPO NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED NEW PLANTING

This notification shall be on the RSPO website for 30 days as required by the RSPO procedures for new plantings (<http://www.rspo.org/?q=page/535>). It has also been posted on local on-site notice boards.

### Date of notification:

Tick whichever is appropriate

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This is a completely new development and stakeholders may submit comments.
<input type="checkbox"/>	This is part of an ongoing planting and is meant for notification only.

### 1. COMPANY: NBPOL

**SUBSIDIARY: New Britain Palm Oil Limited**

**RSPO Membership No.: 060-04 (O)**

**Location of proposed new planting: Roka Estate Palm Oil Plantation, West New Britain Province, PNG.**

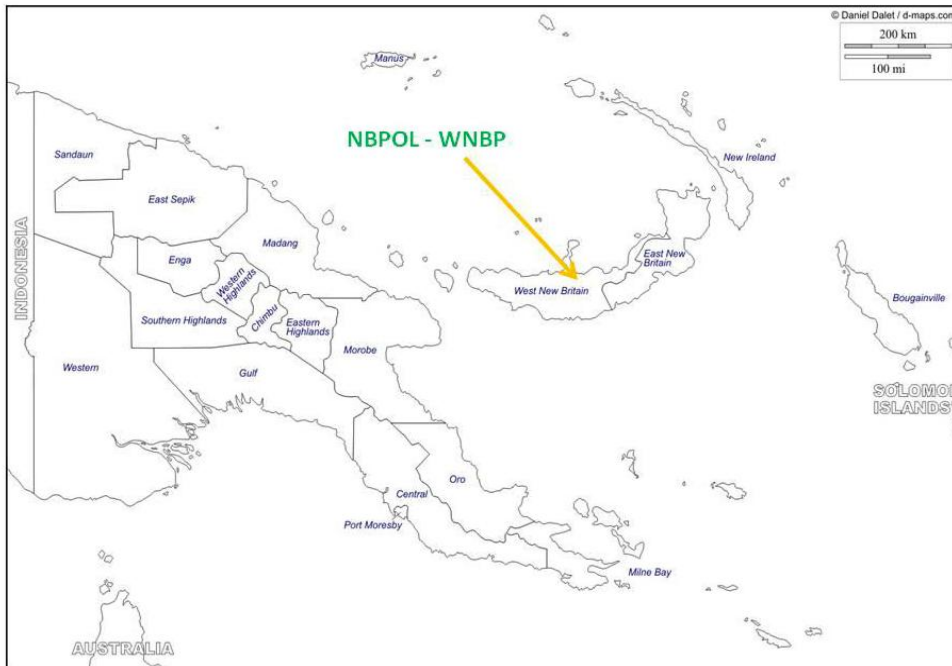
**See attached Maps**

### 2. Legal Documents and Regulatory Permits required

- Land Title of Roka Estate
- Survey Plan of Roka Estate

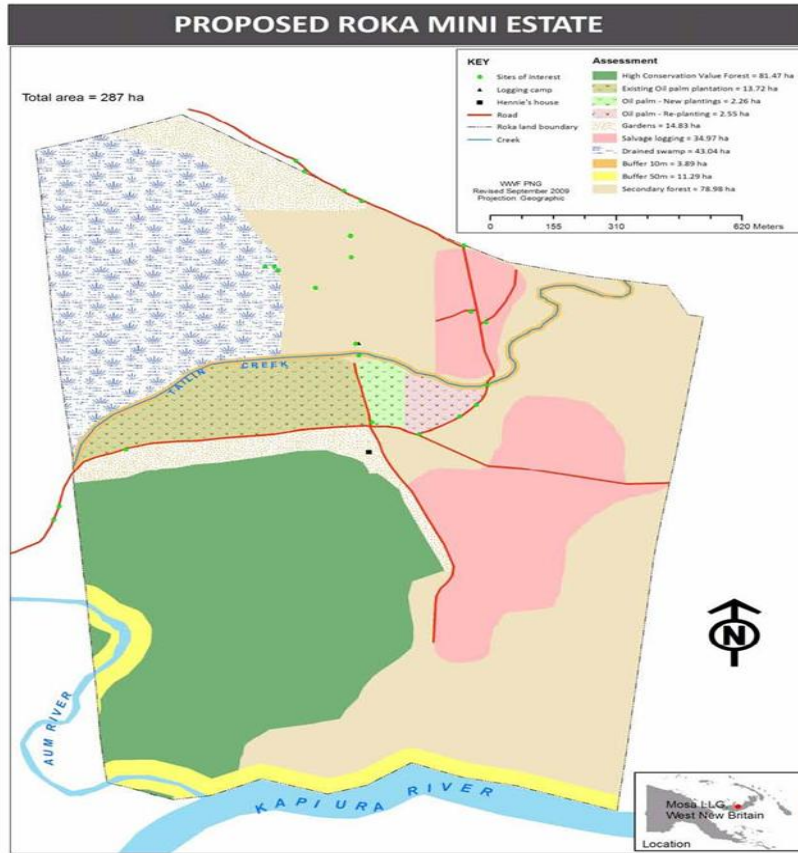
- Rokahill Ltd records of decision to enter into agreement with NBPOL
- Lease Agreement Rokahill - NBPOL

### 3 Location Maps



Map 1 Locality of Roka in regards to PNG

Map 3 Final Classification and Identification Of HCVF Proposed Roka Mini-Estate



Draft HCVF Survey proposed Roka Mini-Estate

page22

Map 2 Location of proposed new planting – Roka Mini - Estate.

#### **4a SUMMARY FROM SEI ASSESSMENTS:**

The first SEIA was undertaken by a local team supported by an independent Forestry Consultant. The local team was Biatus Bito a local professional forester and Ted Mamu a biologist in May 2009. Biatus Bito and Ted Mamu have been recently accepted as approved HCV assessors by the RSPO. The supplementary SEIA was undertaken by Mr Narua Lovai who is a local PNG assessor. This was undertaken in May 2013 and report issued in June 2013.

This is a new planting as defined by the NPP 2010.

NBPOL have completed a SEIA in 2009 and a supplementary SEIA in 2013. This was for the development of Rokahill Estate. This Social and Environmental Impact Assessment for these developments was undertaken to comply with RSPO P&C. The SEIA included consultation with local stakeholders and included reports of the outcomes of these meetings. This development was first discussed with the previous land owner who passed away some time ago. This was as far back as 1984 and even earlier. The original land owner's descendants have now approached NBPOL to develop Roka Estate.

The lease is recognised and uncontested by all stakeholders with regards to ownership of the lease.

There were concerns with regards to the none development of the land and extreme pressures on the land from influx of outsiders into Roka. This includes hunting, illegal squatters, illegal logging and other activities. The development and control by NBPOL would mitigate these outside impacts.

This development which would include the HCV and buffer zone areas would help secure the estate which will be protected by NBPOL.

A number of recommendations have been made which help in controlling the estate.

These include the following:

- Identifying the area through signage with NBPOL control
- Restrict the activities of outsiders hunting in HCV areas
- Prevent human access into the area through gating
- Protect critical natural habitats of threatened species
- Awareness programmes for local people.

The landowners of Roka Estate have already put aside 14.83 ha for the planting of gardens which will not be encroached by the company.

#### **4b SUMMARY FROM HCV ASSESSMENT(S):**

A full HCV assessment was completed for all the activities of Roka Estate was completed in May 2009 by an independent team including Tom Vigus, Biatus Bito and Ted Mamu as above. This pre-dated the NPP requirements and the set-up of a register of RSPO HCV assessors. Since this time however Mr Biatus Bito has been registered as an approved HCV assessor. This HCV assessment and current assessment identified some HCV areas and buffer zones which will be protected. This includes HCVF of some HCV 3 the habitat of endangered species (Blackheaded Paradise Kingfisher), Blyth's Hornbill and species of bats. There is also the presence of HCV 4 which includes critical water catchments and protection of sloped areas. There is also an identified sacred site as part of the HCV area on the hill top. This is HCV 6 and is included in the HCV area below.

The total area is 287 ha of which 175.52 ha will be planted with Oil Palm once the agreement is signed.

Areas highlighted for protection and development:

- Area of HCV 81.47 ha
- Water courses and reserve areas 15.18 ha
- Existing land use, gardens and coca 14.83 ha
- Development area 175.52 ha
- Total area of Roka Estate Development 287.00 ha

A follow up assessment was carried out by the company and a report completed 4th October 2013. This was signed off by the General Manager of NBPOL as well as the Sustainability Manager.

### **SUMMARY OF PLANS:**

A number of conclusions were made as a result of the SEIA as well as recommendations which are reviewed and accepted by both NBPOL and the Roka Estate Landowners however the agreement still remains to be signed by both parties.

A planning and implementation plan has been developed which includes a time scale and responsibilities for the ongoing development of this new planting area. This plan includes all the provisions for control of all affected areas during the new development stage. There is extensive control of all aspects of the development, the impacts and control measures in place. There is a time line for monitoring each aspect with responsibilities outlined in the plan. This plan has incorporated the findings from the SEIA and local HCV into the above mentioned management plan.

Both the 2009 SEIA and HCV assessment was peer reviewed recently in August 2013 by Guy Williams who is an approved RSPO HCV assessor which describes the findings and decisions made as robust and credible and sufficient to maintain or enhance the identified HCV areas.

### **VERIFICATION STATEMENT:**

The assessment was peer reviewed by an RSPO approved assessor (Guy Williams on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 2013) due to the fact that the initial assessment was done pre NPP and pre RSPO HCV assessor approval process. This was a process requested by the RSPO in 2012 (Audrey Lee). The initial assessment was done in 2008/2009 by current RSPO approved assessors (Ted Mamu and Biatus Bito). The Certification Body review as well as the HCV peer reviewer confirmed that the assessment and plans are comprehensive, professional and compliant of RSPO principles, criteria and indicators. The Certification Body review was undertaken

as desk top review by Mr. Allan Thomas as the lead Auditor who visited the area during the most recent RSPO assessment in July 2013.

Signed for on behalf of

BSi Group Singapore Pte Ltd



.....

Mr Allan Thomas

Lead Auditor

Date: 16.10.13

Adjustment: 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2013