

20-06-2015

Dear Stakeholders,

Public Notification on upcoming RSPO Initial Certification Assessment of Twifo Oil Palm Plantations Limited (TOPP), Cape Coast, Ghana (RSPO Membership no. 1-0157-14-000-00)

Twifo Oil Palm Plantations Limited has commissioned TUV Rheinland Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. (RSPO auditing office of RSPO accredited office, PT TUV Rheinland Indonesia) for the initial assessment and certification of their holdings at Twifo Ntafrewaso at Cape Coast in the Central Region of Ghana against the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil Generic Principles and Criteria 2013 and RSPO Supply Chain Certification Standard 2014 (Note: At time of this announcement, the Ghana National Interpretation (NI) is under review. In case the new Ghana-NI is confirmed prior to the audit date, the audit will be conducted against the new Ghana-NI instead of the Generic P&C 2013). The assessment shall be carried out by a qualified team of auditors to assess the legal, environmental, economic, health & safety and social aspects as covered by the RSPO P&C.

Twifo Oil Palm Plantations (TOPP) LTD was registered as a limited liability company on 23 February 1977 and issued with a certificate to commence business on 2nd June 1977. TOPP has 4,234 ha of Nucleus oil palm plantation and a 30T/hr palm oil mill. TOPP also provides extension services to 1,325 ha Smallholder Plantation and a 3,300 ha Outgrower Project. TOPP buys about 25% of its FFB from 1,241 farmers from the scheme smallholder and the Buabin outgrowers project as well as 18% of its FFB from independent outgrower farmers

TOPP has been a member of RSPO since 8 June 2014. TOPP endeavors to promote RSPO internally through:

1. Education/awareness creation, participation in seminars/National Interpretation working groups.
2. Incorporating their RSPO management system into all business operations.
3. Driving compliance/performance at all levels of the organization through goal setting & annual compliance/performance measurements & build agreed goals/targets into the corporate reward system.

By joining RSPO, TOPP would contribute to the production & trade in sustainable CPO/PKO and ultimately help to guarantee forests/habitats/environmental protection/preservation and responsible use of natural resources.

TOPP does not require a time bound plan as the company has no other plantation subsidiaries.

TOPP announces for the information of the public that their holdings will be assessed against the global RSPO standards framework. The scope of the audit consists of one mill with a capacity of 30mt/hour, one nucleus estate as the main supply base of the mill covering 4,234 ha, and the TOPP smallholder scheme who comprise 255 farmers. The Buabin outgrowers who comprise 986 farmers with area of 3300 ha and supplies approximately 11% of the mill's crop is excluded from the certification scope and will undergo preparation for certification within 3 years. The independent smallholders who supply approximately 18% of the mill's FFB are also not included in the certification scope.

Scope of assessment:

The RSPO certification assessment of TOPP Limited is scheduled to commence from the week of 3 – 7 August 2015. The assessment shall be carried out for 1 (one) Palm Oil Mills, 1 (one) company-owned estate and 1 (one) smallholder scheme. The details of the palm oil mill, estate and smallholder scheme to be assessed are as follows:

Palm Oil Mill to be included in the main assessment*						
Name of Mill	Location	GPS location		Average Annual Output*		Mill Capacity (Ton/hour)
		Latitude	Longitude	CPO (Tonnes)	PK (Tonnes)	
Twifo Oil Palm Plantations Palm Oil Mill	Twifo Ntafrewaso, Cape Coast, Central Region, Ghana	N05° 33. 984'	W001° 31. 277'	14,220	3,522	30

*Note: Total annual output for year 2014 from 74,483 MT of FFB received from various sources, i.e. nucleus output of 42,530 MT, smallholder supply of 10,859 MT, Buabin Project outgrowers supply of 7858 MT and independent outgrowers supply of 13,236 MT

Company Estate to be included in the main assessment*						
Name of estate	Location of estate	GPS locations		Area Summary (ha)		Average Annual FFB Production (tonnes/year)
		Latitude	Longitude	Total	Planted	
Twifo Oil Palm Plantations Estate (Nucleus)	Twifo Ntafrewaso, Cape Coast, Central Region, Ghana	N05° 32. 845'	W01° 32. 885'	4,544.00	4,234.00	42,530

Smallholder Scheme to be included in the main assessment*							
Name of estate	Location of Scheme	GPS locations		Area Summary (ha)		Number of farmers	FFB supplied from this source (Tonnes)
		Latitude	Longitude	Total	Mature		
TOPP Smallholder	Twifo Ntafrewaso, Cape Coast, Central Region, Ghana	N05° 31.051'	W01° 34.793'	1,325	1,325	255	10,859

* All data is provided by the organization undergoing assessment and will be verified during the on-site assessment.

Assessment Team

TUV Rheinland Malaysia and PT TUV Rheinland Indonesia are members of the TÜV Rheinland Group, a global leader in independent testing and assessment services. Established in 1872. TÜV Rheinland Group has over 130 years of experience in providing various types of certifications as well as technical services for over 500 locations in 65 countries worldwide.

The assessment team assigned for the certification assessment of Twifo Oil Palm Plantations Ltd. is as follows:

Lead auditor: Carol Ng Siew Theng (Good Agricultural Practices, Environment, OSH, Legal, and overall requirements)
 Auditors: Aswan Hasibuan (OSH, Chemicals, SOPs and Legal & Communications)
 Hendra Fachrurozy (Environment, HCVs, Greenhouse Gas management, Supply Chain)
 Dr. Savinder Kaur (Social, Transparency, External Stakeholders, Workers, Local Communities)
 Local expert: Yaw Osei-Owusu (Conservation Alliance)

Invitation to all stakeholders:

As a part of the certification assessment procedure we invite stakeholders to offer comments and feedback (if any) on Twifo Oil Palm Plantations Limited in relation to the relevant RSPO Principles and Criteria as per the Ghana National Interpretation (RSPO GNI) on any of the following issues:

- Environmental protection
- Biodiversity conservation
- Opportunities for employment, earning fair wages, overtime and piece-rated work
- Company approach to community development
- Provision of housing, sanitation, amenities and educational support
- Community development
- Land acquisition process
- Free, prior and informed consent
- Other matters pertaining to RSPO

Your comments or observations can be communicated to us through either a meeting with assessment team member during the fieldwork or submitting written comments by email, fax or regular mail to contact details below. Comments submitted within 30 days from the date of this notification shall be considered during the certification assessment. However, your input will be welcome at any stage of the assessment process. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and made available to only TUV Rheinland Malaysia, PT TUV Rheinland Indonesia and the RSPO Board.

Contact details:

TUV Rheinland Malaysia Sdn. Bhd.

No. 27, Jalan Para U8/103,
 Metropolitan Business Park, Seksyen U8,
 Bukit Jelutong, 40150, Shah Alam,
 Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia
 Contact person: Ms. Carol Ng
 (Assistant Manager –
 Environmental Technology Department)
 Tel: +603 78598023 / +6019-3389864
 Fax: +603 78598020/21
 Email: carol.ng@tuv.com

PT TUV Rheinland Indonesia

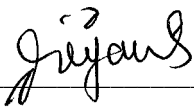
Menara Karya 10th Floor
 Jl. H.R. Rasuna Said Block X-5 Kav 1-2
 Jakarta 12950
 Contact person: Ms. Dian Susanty Soeminta
 Tel : +62 (0)21 – 579 44 579
 Fax : +62 (0)21 – 579 44 575
 Email : Dian.Soeminta@tuv.com
www.tuv.com

Auditee :

Twifo Oil Palm Plantations Ltd. (TOPP)
P.O. BOX 138 Cape Coast / Ghana
Contact person: Mr. Emmanuel Ahiable
(General Manager)
Tel: +233 202041631
Email: Emmanuei.Ahiable@toppghana.com

We thank you for your comments and feedback.

Yours sincerely,



Dian S Soeminta

General Manager of Sustainability Assurance
PT TUV Rheinland Indonesia