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January 25, 2017

To the RSPO Secretariat and the RSPO Complaints Panel members:

As the executive directors of Rainforest Action Network (RAN), Organisasi Penguatan dan Pengembangan Usaha-usaha Kerakyatan (OPPUK) and International Labor Rights Forum (ILRF), we write concerning our RSPO complaint filed on October 11, 2016, against Indofood's PT. PP London Sumatra Indonesia Tbk. (Lonsum) and its parent company PT. Salim Ivomas Pratama Tbk. (Salim Ivomas), for labor violations on multiple Lonsum plantations in contravention of the RSPO Principles and Criteria and violations of the RSPO Code of Conduct. In the complaint, RAN, OPPUK and ILRF request that the RSPO membership status of Lonsum and the associated Salim Ivomas be suspended until transparent actions are taken to resolve the violations outlined in our complaint. We understand that no such decision has been considered by the Complaints Panel¹ to date, three and a half months after the filing of our complaint. We write to ask why and reiterate the request outlined in our complaint to suspend RSPO membership status.

Our organizations have provided the RSPO with compelling, detailed evidence of serious violations of the RSPO Principles and Criteria on multiple Lonsum plantations. Furthermore, an assessment conducted by RSPO's own accreditation body, Accreditation Services International (ASI) further corroborated evidence of labor violations on a third and separate Lonsum mill and plantation base.² Following the ASI process, Lonsum then undertook corrective actions and was re-audited by its certification body, SAI Global. Although SAI Global deemed Lonsum's actions adequate, ASI did not, and thus suspended SAI Global on December 1, 2016.³

The RSPO's credibility is closely tied to its responsible handling of complaints such as ours. Delaying the suspension decision of a company like Lonsum, which RSPO's own accreditation body and other sources have shown is in violation of the RSPO Principles & Criteria, means the RSPO permits the ongoing use of its label by companies shown to be in violation of its own standard. This poses a serious reputational risk for the RSPO and calls into question the credibility of its label.

The complainants once again ask the RSPO Complaint Panel to consider the evidence presented by both the complainants and ASI and to immediately suspend the membership of PT Lonsum and its parent company PT Salim Ivomas.

¹ Email from RSPO to Complainants. December 26, 2016.

² ASI Final Assessment Report on SAI Global. September 5, 2016. Available: <http://tinyurl.com/grax8xbf>

³ ASI Suspension of SAI Global. December 1, 2016. Available: <http://tinyurl.com/z2nw5lz>



The letter RSPO sent to Lonsum on December 6, 2016, that proposes a meeting between the complainants and Lonsum fails to give consideration to the evidence presented by the complainants, or to ASI's suspension of SAI Global five days prior.⁴ Instead of asserting that critical, unaddressed non-compliances remain on Lonsum's plantations, the RSPO seems to imply that Lonsum is only in breach of the RSPO Code of Conduct. This is not the case. The primary issue is that Lonsum remains in violation of the RSPO Principles and Criteria, and that no transparent actions have been taken to address these non-compliances. The actions Lonsum took through the ASI process were not transparently reported but were clearly inadequate, indicated by ASI's suspension of Lonsum's CB SAI Global.

As stated in RAN's July 22, 2016, letter to IndoAgri and Indofood, the complainants remain willing to meet with senior representatives of the company. However, in order to be productive the meeting must include the participation of key senior executives, including Mr. Mark Wakeford of IndoAgri. We also request that ASI be present, given its additional assessments on Lonsum plantations and position as RSPO's accreditation body.

We look forward to your response and to the RSPO Complaints Panel's decision regarding the suspension of Lonsum and Salim Ivomas' RSPO membership. We also request Lonsum's corrective action plan and the full ASI report on SAI Global's suspension be made public so all parties have access to existing information.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Allen
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Rainforest Action Network
(RAN)

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⁴ RSPO letter to PT Lonsum. December 6, 2016. Available: <http://www.rspo.org/members/complaints/status-of-complaints/view/92>