

MINUTES OF MEETING

55th SSC Meeting

Time: 1500 - 1700 (MYT)

Date: Thursday, 24th July 2025

Venue: Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/98989919135> Meeting ID: 989 8991 9135 Passcode: 55@SSC

ATTENDEES

Name	Initial	Organisation	Representative Category
1. Olivier Tichit (Co-Chair)	OT	Musim Mas	P & T – Substantive
2. Lim Sian Choo (Co-Chair)	LSC	Bumitama Group	Grower (INA) - Substantive
3. Sander Van den Ende	SvE	SIPEF	Grower (RoW) – Substantive
4. William Siow	WS	MPOA/IOI	Grower (MY) – Substantive
5. Andrew Aeria	AA	PEMANGKIN	SNGO – Substantive
6. Jenny Walther-Thoss	JWT	WWF Singapore	ENGO – Substantive
7. Guillaume Lacaze	GL	L’Oreal	Consumer Goods Manufacturer – Substantive
1. Yen Hun Sung	HS	RSPO Secretariat	
2. Leena Ghosh	LG	RSPO Secretariat	
3. Jasmine Ho Abdullah	JH	RSPO Secretariat	
4. Akmal Arif Razali	AAR	RSPO Secretariat	
5. Maria Papadopoulou	MP	RSPO Secretariat	
6. Liyana Zulkipli	LZ	RSPO Secretariat	
7. Amrita Gunasekaran	AG	RSPO Secretariat	
<i>Guest:</i>			
1. Victoria Solbert	VS	Solbert Consulting	
<i>Absence with apology:</i>			
1. Anne Rosenbarger	AR	WRI	ENGO – Substantive
2. Lee Kian Wei	LKW	United Plantations	Grower (MY) – Alternate
3. Suzan Cornelissen	SC	CNV	SNGO – Substantive
4. Brian Lariche	BL	Humana	SNGO – Alternate
5. Librian Angraeni	LA	Musim Mas	P & T – Alternate

AGENDA

Time	Item	Agenda	PIC
1500 - 1505	1.0	Opening	Co-Chairs
	1.1	Acceptance of agenda	
	1.2	RSPO Antitrust Law	
	1.3	RSPO Consensus-Based Decision Making	
	1.4	RSPO Declaration of Conflict of Interest	
1505 - 1515	2.0	Meeting Dashboard	Co-Chairs
	2.1	Confirmation of the 54 th MoM on 26 th June 2025	
	2.2	Action Tracker	
	2.2.1	List of Supplementary/Derivative Documents of P&C and ISH Standard 2024	
	2.3	Progress Update WG/TF/SG under SSC	
	2.4	Progress Update of National Interpretation	
1515 – 1600	3.0	For Discussion	

	3.1	SSC Members Participation in Standards Related TFs	LG/HS
	3.2	Status of ISH FFB and IS-Credits	HS
	3.3	Procedural Updates of 2024 P&C and ISH Standard	HS
1600 – 1630	4.0	For Update	
	4.1	Supply Chain Certification Standard Review	MP
	4.2	Independent Review of the RSPO Standards Review and Revision Process	VS
1630 – 1635	5.0	Any Other Business	
1635		END	

DISCUSSION:

No.	Description	Action Points (PIC)
1.0	Opening	
1.1	The Chairs welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented the agenda of the meeting. The agenda was approved.	
1.2	The RSPO Antitrust Law, Consensus-Based Decision Making, and Declaration of Conflict of Interest were read out to the Committee. No comments were received.	
2.0	Meeting Dashboard	
2.1	<u>Confirmation of the 54th MoM on 26th June 2025</u> The minutes of the meeting were adopted.	
2.2	<u>Action Trackers</u> The action tracker of the previous meeting was presented. No other comments were received.	
2.2.1	<u>List of Supplementary/Derivative Documents of P&C and ISH Standard 2024</u> The Secretariat presented the list of supplementary/derivation documents of P&C and ISH Standard 2024. No comments were received.	
2.3	<u>Progress Update WG/TF/SG under SSC</u> The progress update for the WG/TF/SG Committee was presented. The Committee raised a question regarding the progress of the Supply Chain Certification Standard Review Task Force, and recommended for it to be included in the monthly progress updates to the SSC. The Secretariat takes note of this and will include this as a progress update in the future meetings.	Include SCCS Review Task Force in the progress update for SSC Action by: Secretariat

2.4	<p><u>Progress Update of National Interpretations of the 2024 P&C and ISH Standard</u></p> <p>The progress update for National Interpretations (NI) of the 2024 P&C and ISH Standard was presented.</p> <p>Two NIs are going for public consultation on 25 July 2025: the Malaysia NI for P&C and India NI for ISH Standard.</p> <p>Côte d'Ivoire has recently expressed interest in starting their NI process and is currently in the early stages of forming their NI Task Force (TF). Other countries expected to initiate NI processes include Mexico and Colombia while Guatemala, which was previously on hold, is now ready to move forward.</p> <p>The Committee raised a question regarding the Papua New Guinea & Solomon Islands (PNG&SI) NITF, whether they had confirmed the SSC's recommendation on the composition of their NITF members. The Secretariat confirmed that the PNG&SI NITF has agreed with the recommendation and has amended their composition accordingly.</p>	
3.0	For Discussion	
3.1	<p><u>SSC Members Participation in Standards Related TFs</u></p> <p>The Secretariat presented a brief recap of the participation of SSC Members in Standards Related Task Forces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As discussed at the previous SSC meetings in April, May and June 2025, the SOP for Standard Setting and Review and the ToR for Supply Chain Certification Standard Review Task Force have restrictions regarding the participation of SSC members in these Working Groups (WG) and Task Forces (TF). The Secretariat has further refined the options based on the comments raised by the SSC during the discussion. The refined options are shown below: <div data-bbox="292 1534 1198 1984"> <p>Options for Consideration</p> <div> <p>Option 1: SSC members will need to resign from SSC if they wish to take part in any standards development processes as mentioned above.</p> <p>Option 2: SSC members may nominate different individuals from their own organisations to participate in either SSC or TF.</p> <p>Option 3: In the event an SSC member chooses to participate in a TF, they must recuse themselves from any related discussions during SSC proceedings to avoid any conflict of interest.</p> </div> <div> <p>Option 4: In the event an SSC member chooses to participate in a TF, they should step down from the SSC temporarily.</p> <p>Option 5: An SSC member can participate in a TF as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> An observer - they retain the right to participate in the decision making process at the SSC As substantive member - they must recuse themselves from decision-making at the SSC. <p>Option 6: SSC member can join the TFs or WGs without restriction, provided there are sufficient checks and balances in the process of the standing committee</p> </div> </div>	

<p>3.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat also raised a question with the SSC members regarding the checks and balances currently in place as Option 6 appears to reflect the current arrangement without any changes. This is to assure that there are indeed checks and balances that are in place to avoid conflict of interest. <p>The Committee commented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee commented that the principle of checks and balances has always been upheld in the current process which includes a consensus-based decision-making approach, the requirement for members to declare any conflicts of interest, and generally well-established procedures that help ensure transparency and integrity in the proceedings. • The Committee highlighted the importance of recognising that, when participating in a specific WG or TF, members are not representing the Standing Committees, but rather their respective caucuses within the WG. Therefore, their actions and contributions should reflect the interests and perspectives of their caucus. This distinction is important to ensure that the outcomes of the WG are representative and balanced. • The Committee also commented that during discussions, the Secretariat are present to consistently remind members to contribute in their capacity as TF members. This demonstrates that the practice of checks and balances is already well in place. • The Committee preferred Option 6, provided that members clearly declare their interests and fully understand whom they represent within the WG or TF. Given that this matter has been discussed over several rounds and the SSC members present have expressed agreement to adopt Option 6, it is worth considering whether this should now be formalized as a decision. • The Secretariat explained that if SSC members are in agreement with Option 6, no formal decision is required, as it reflects the current status quo. The matter can then be considered closed. However, this “status quo” position should still be recorded in the minutes to ensure clarity and avoid any future confusion or oversight. • The Committee suggested that this agreement be communicated to the other Standing Committees to ensure they are aware of the SSC’s position, especially in case they encounter similar situations. This will help avoid any misunderstandings, since some Terms of Reference (ToR) may not allow the same flexibility. • The Secretariat takes note of this and will inform the other Standing Committees. 	<p>Inform the other standing committees on SSC’s position Action by: Secretariat</p>
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Status of ISH FFB and IS-Credits

The Secretariat presented a brief overview on the concern raised regarding the status of an Independent Smallholder (ISH) group's physical Fresh Fruit Bunch (FFB) once IS-Credits have been sold.

- At that time, it was said that the rule on IS-Credits and what happens to physical products is in the Supply Chain Certification Standard (SCCS) and it should be addressed there. However, this has come up in the MYNI TF and was also initiated as a discussion point at the Smallholder Standing Committee (SHSC) in May. The Secretariat was then asked to look into this and are currently canvassing opinions from different governance bodies on this question.
- There are several standards, documents and systems involved in this . First is the 2020 SCCS 2020 rules on Book and Claim as shown below:

Context – SCC Standard 2020 rules on Book & Claim

Annex 4 - Book and Claim (BC)

1. Definition

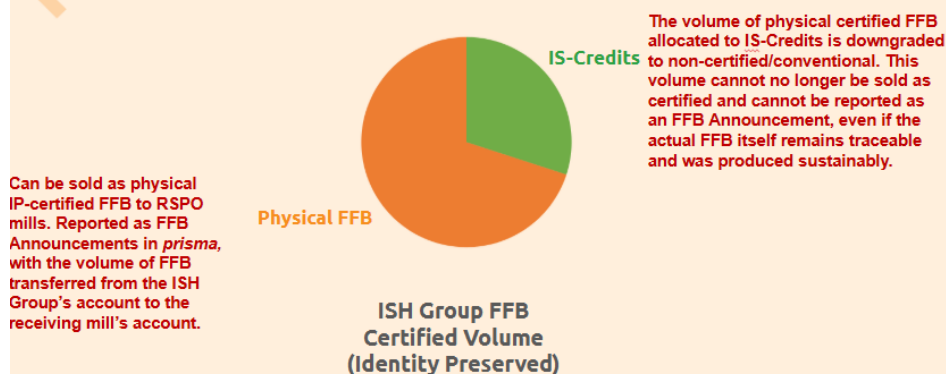
The 'Book and Claim' (BC) supply chain model allows RSPO certified mills, crushers, independent outgrowers, and independent smallholder groups to sell RSPO Credits to the supply chain actors at the end of the supply chain, while selling the physical oil palm products **as non-certified/ conventional.**

3.3. An RSPO certified independent smallholder group can sell RSPO Credits of Independent Smallholder Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (IS-CSPO), Independent Smallholder Certified Sustainable Palm Kernel Oil (IS-CSPKO), and Independent Smallholder Certified Sustainable Palm Kernel Expeller (IS-CSPKE). The amount of IS-CSPO, IS-CSPKO, and IS-CSPKE credits that the independent smallholder group can sell is based on the annual forecast output of Fresh Fruit Bunches (certified volume FFB) and the applicable standard OER(20%)/KER(5%) for that country or region. In case of overselling due to underproduction, the group needs to compensate by making a request to the RSPO Secretariat to buy-back RSPO Credits.

ISH FFB Certified Volume allocated to IS-Credits is downgraded to non-certified / conventional.

- An ISH group is allocated a certified volume of FFB. If they choose to allocate a portion of that volume to IS-Credits (represented in green in the pie chart below), that portion is effectively downgraded to non-certified or conventional. The remaining portion (shown in orange) remains as physically certified FFB, maintaining its Identity Preserved (IP) nature.

Context – ISH FFB Certified Volume Accounting



- Under Principle 5 of the 2024 RSPO P&C, the Smallholder caucus strongly advocated for the inclusion of an indicator requiring certified mills to support smallholder inclusion in their physical supply chains, i.e. buying certified FFB from smallholders and including it into their supply chains. The original proposal used the term “shall buy”, which would have made this a mandatory requirement. However, this was later revised to “shall actively engage, consult, and provide opportunities for smallholders to access the Unit of Certification’s (UoC) RSPO supply chain, where feasible”. This change reflects a more collaborative and practical approach—requiring mutual agreement between the mill and the smallholders on the feasibility and mutual benefit of such inclusion. The wordings for Indicator 5.1.4 are shown below:

Context – 2024 RSPO P&C (Principle 5)

5.1.4 (C)	<p>To support <u>smallholder</u> inclusion and to strengthen downstream traceability, the Unit of Certification shall actively <u>engage</u>, consult, and provide opportunities for all <u>smallholders</u> to access the UoC’s RSPO certified <u>supply chain</u> where feasible, including interested RSPO certified <u>independent smallholders</u>.</p> <p>Where potential <u>smallholder</u> partnership or collaboration opportunities is identified and is feasible, the UoC shall develop mutually agreed terms or agreement(s) that specify:</p> <p>For non-RSPO certified <u>independent smallholder</u> groups A) Management of the RSPO certification process; B) Roles and responsibilities of the UoC and <u>smallholders</u> for operating the <u>internal control system (ICS)</u>; and C) Certificate ownership.</p> <p>For RSPO certified <u>independent smallholder</u> groups A) Distribution, handling, and marketing of physical certified FFB, where possible.</p>
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Indicator 5.1.4 in the 2024 P&C was specifically included to assist smallholders (especially certified ISH) in accessing an RSPO certified mill’s physical supply chain.

- However, this may contradict with Indicators 3.5.10 and 3.5.11 shown below:

Context - 2024 RSPO P&C (Principle 3)

3.5.10 (C)	<p>Processing - For the <u>Identity Preserved</u> supply chain module, the Unit of Certification shall assure and verify through documented procedures and record keeping that RSPO certified palm oil and oil palm products is kept separated from non-certified palm oil and oil palm products at the UoC’s mill(s).</p>
3.5.11 (C)	<p>The Unit of Certification and its mill(s) shall comply to all registration/reporting requirements for the appropriate RSPO supply chain module (<u>Mass Balance</u> or <u>Identity Preserved</u>) through the RSPO Information System.</p>

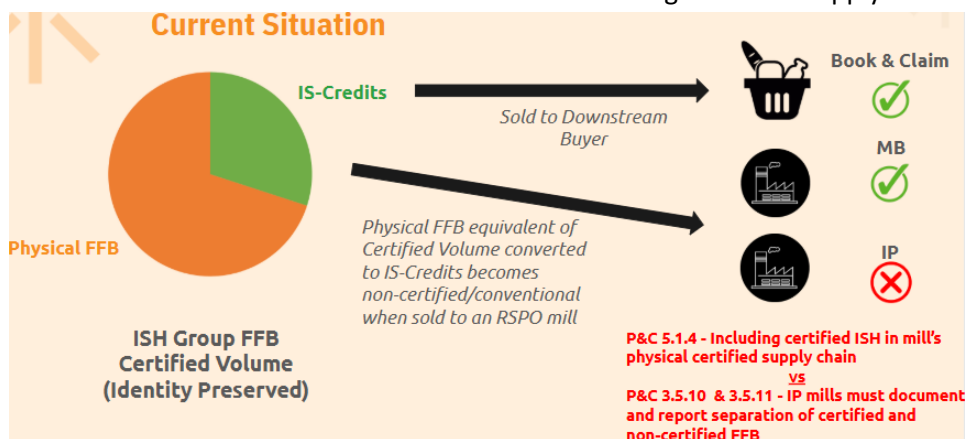
Criterion 3.5 in P&C 2024 requires Identity Preserved mills to maintain strict separation and control of certified FFB. Specifically, Indicators 3.5.10 and 3.5.11.

Where an ISH Group has already sold IS-Credits, IP mills see this as a risk since the FFB might have been downgraded to non-certified. The FFB Announcement function mitigates this risk, but it is still a risk. So, IP mills may be disincentivised from sourcing physical certified FFB from such ISH, as their compliance to 3.5.10 and 3.5.11 is prioritised over 5.1.4.

- For mills operating under the IP model, there is a strict requirement to maintain the separation of certified and non-certified material at all stages of the supply chain to preserve their IP status. This creates a risk

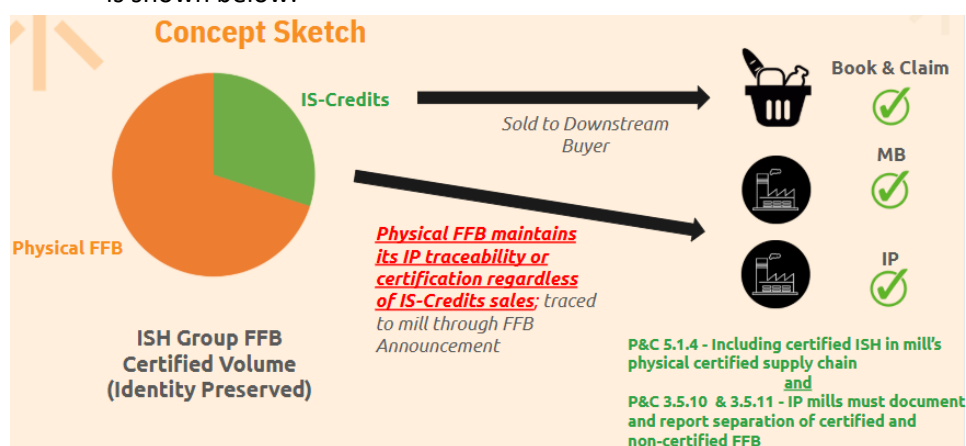
when purchasing from ISH groups that have sold IS-Credits on the same FFB they are supplying. In such cases, that portion of the FFB is effectively considered non-certified or conventional. Therefore, if proper documentation and traceability are not maintained, the mill's IP certification status could be compromised.

- The current situation is that the ISH groups that choose to allocate IS-Credits can sell to Book and Claim and Mass Balance (MB) but there seems to be some structural resistance entering into an IP supply chain.



- From February to June 2025, over 350,000 metric tonnes (MT) of physical certified FFB were sold by 34 certified ISH Groups via FFB Announcement.
- The physically certified FFB was purchased by 36 RSPO-certified mills or Independent Palm Oil Mills (IPOMs). 65% of these mills are located in Thailand, and 83% of these mills are either MB or dual IP-MB certification. Historically, the ratio of IP to MB mills within the RSPO system has been approximately 50:50. While there has been a recent trend favouring MB, the overall split remains around 55% MB to 45% IP. The fact that such a high proportion of mills sourcing certified FFB from ISH groups are MB or dual-certified, rather than strictly IP, suggests a possible structural barrier for IP mills in sourcing certified smallholder FFB.
- In the current market characteristics, of the 36 RSPO mills receiving FFB Announcements from ISH in February to June 2025:
 - 30 are MB or IP-MB certified. These mills support the inclusion of 31 ISH Groups in their physical supply chain.
 - 6 are IP certified, in Indonesia and Malaysia. These mills support the inclusion of 3 ISH Groups in their physical supply chain. Of those 3 ISH Groups making FFB announcements to the 6 IP mills: 1 Group sells its certified FFB only as physical. 2 Groups sell their certified FFB mainly as physical, with minor IS-Credits sales (all off-platform).

- During discussions at the SHSC, a key question was raised: Given the current situation and the structural barriers that appear to be there arising from how the standards are applied within the system, is it possible for an ISH Group's physical FFB to retain IP traceability or IP certification for volumes converted and sold as IS-Credit? This would represent a significant departure from the current system, which was designed with checks and balances to minimise the risk of double counting. However, the broader concern is that this strict separation may inadvertently create a barrier to smallholder inclusion.
- The concept sketch on a potential approach to overcoming this barrier is shown below:



- The idea is that if the FFB can maintain its traceability even when it is not certified or has been sold as conventional, then it would be allowed to enter an IP supply chain without being excluded. However, this itself introduces several risks and uncertainties.
- This is just an initial concept sketch, with caveats outlined below:

Caveats

- This is currently a very high-level and very initial concept
- Risk assessment of potential issues, consequences, auditing, accounting have not been fully identified or assessed; especially...
- The material risk of double-counting/claiming for IS-Credits and physical certified FFB
- Involves multiple standards and systems, the main ones being:
 - **SCC Standard**, for the rules and requirements of Book & Claim and the status of the certified FFB associated with IS-Credits (currently under revision);
 - **P&C 2024**, for any potential clarity required for Growers to meet both Indicators 3.5.10/3.5.10 and Indicator 5.1.4; and
 - **prisma**, for any logic changes to the underlying accounting of ISH Certified Volumes.
- Identified as an issue to be taken to the SCCS Review Task Force, but...
 - The revised SCCS is scheduled for adoption in September 2026, not including transition and implementation timelines; however, P&C 2024 becomes effective 13 November 2025. Can this issue wait to be resolved?
- There's also another question: Does the current system, with its existing checks and balances, need changing? And if change is necessary, what kind of change should be considered? Tweaking the current system or re-examining it as a whole?

- The SHSC had a discussion a few weeks ago and the general consensus was that this issue represents a systemic barrier that warrants closer examination. Some level of change is necessary to enable better inclusion of smallholders. The SCCS Task Force leaned towards tweaking the current system to foster smallholder inclusion.
- A parallel discussion is also ongoing within the Shared Responsibility Working Group (SRWG), where the 'Shared Responsibility methodology' is currently under revision. One of the proposals under review involves introducing requirements for sourcing physical products, including ISH-certified volumes.
- The Secretariat would like to pose the same question to SSC on the current system. Does it need to remain as is, be slightly adjusted, or fundamentally re-examined?

The Committee commented:

- The Committee raised a question on how the two ISH groups in Indonesia and Malaysia that are currently selling certified FFB primarily as physical, while also conducting minor IS-Credit sales are managing this dual approach. Is it a case of navigating around the system or is the current system already catering for such practices? If the current system has the functionality that allow ISH groups to sell certified FFB both as physical volumes and as credits, there is no need to change or tweak the system to accommodate this practice.
- The Secretariat explained that prisma does allow for this function. If the groups allocate some of their volumes to credits, the corresponding amount will be deducted from their balance, and similarly, if they sell certified FFB physically, that volume will also be deducted accordingly. support it. Therefore, no system changes are needed.
- The Committee commented that there are two scenarios: one is where the system is entirely self-managed by the growers. Growers will decide how much of their certified volume to allocate for credit sales if they are uncertain whether the full volume can be sold physically. This is a common practice among companies that may not be confident all their certified FFB will be picked up as physical and therefore allocate a portion as credits. The other scenario is that the credits are managed or verified by the system. In either case, as long as proper bookkeeping is maintained and all transactions are accurately recorded, the system can verify that no volume is double-counted.
- The Secretariat explained that while the system is relatively straightforward for growers, it is more complex for ISH. When ISH groups allocate their certified FFB to credits, the volumes are converted into IS-CSPO, IS-CSPKO, and IS-CSPKE credits. However, challenges arise when certain credit types don't perform well in the market. For

	<p>example, IS-CSPKO credits tend to sell well, while IS-CSPO credits currently have a significant volume of unsold stock, and IS-CSPKE credits have limited market traction. If an ISH group successfully sells all their CSPKO credits but is left with unsold CSPO and CSPKE credits, they cannot reconvert those back into certified FFB, as the conversion process is one-way and the volumes no longer align. The smallholders are then left with these unsold credits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee stated that the current setup appears to be functioning as intended in terms of the handling system, bookkeeping, and how volumes are declared. The core issue may not lie within the technical system itself, but rather in the structure and dynamics of the market, in the way it is organized and the level of demand for smallholder credits, which is a separate challenge altogether. • A Committee member commented that these issues are actually interconnected. While the technical system may be functioning, there is an underlying concern that smallholders are not receiving the full value of the certified products they produce. The current setup may be perpetuating a devaluation of the actual value smallholders contribute through certification. This situation varies as some smallholders do receive fair value, while others do not. This actually points to a broader conversation, and may be more appropriate for discussion at the SHSC. For now, the SSC should focus on reviewing the technical aspects of the system. • The Committee commented that the current credit system, and the way credits are sold—or not sold—appears to be creating unintended incentives. What was originally intended as a bridge to encourage smallholder inclusion in certified physical supply chains has, in some cases, become a trap. The system is being used by some downstream companies to purchase inexpensive credits as a way to offset their lack of certified physical volumes. • The Committee emphasized the importance of making it clear to all stakeholders that smallholders have the freedom to participate in both physical and credit markets. It also needs to be made clear that the system does allow for both options, selling credits and physical FFB, and smallholders must be fully informed that they have the option to sell both certified FFB and credits, within their certified limits. The pricing is a separate and more complex issue. The way smallholders are certified, how they declare volumes, sell products, and maintain their bookkeeping won't solve the pricing challenges. The root of the problem lies elsewhere in the market structure. While some actors are taking advantage of low prices, the situation is uneven: some smallholders receive excellent prices, others receive poor returns, and some have no market access at all. 	
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- The Committee provided an example that there is a mill in Malaysia receiving certified crops from smallholders. However, due to the credit system, where smallholders have sold their credits separately, their physical crop entering the mill's supply chain causes the mill's certification to be downgraded from IP to MB. As a result, the mill made a unilateral decision to exclude all smallholders from its supply chain, without any discussion on alternative solutions such as accepting partial credit or partial physical supply. This has left smallholders with no buyers for their crop. A similar issue is also emerging in Indonesia. This situation requires urgent attention.
- The Committee highlighted the devaluation of MB. This devaluation is concerning, as MB simply reflects the proportion of certified products per year. Despite being fully certified, MB is often seen as less valuable than physical, which is illogical and undermines the system's credibility. Re-examining the system should also consider the overview of the incentive-driven model, especially how premiums are structured and distributed. Recently, there has been growing concern about the willingness of downstream actors to pay fair premiums, or to pay them at all. A comprehensive review is necessary to evaluate the true value of MB, IP, and SG schemes.
- The Committee commented that there is a need to examine the current system rules, especially those implemented through prisma which are unintentionally creating mechanistic pathways that restrict flexibility for smallholders. The current standard does allow selling for both certified FFB and credits. This flexibility is a benefit, especially for smallholders, as it allows them to sell part of their certified physical crop and still trade the remaining volume as credits. Therefore, the focus should be on identifying any structural issues that may be unintentionally limiting growers' income. A thorough review is needed to address the issues, including the bookkeeping and accounting as well as the pricing mechanisms.
- The Committee stated that the key issue is on the accuracy and oversight of bookkeeping as well as the responsibility of the certification body during audits. Ensuring no double claiming or over-declaration of certified volumes is a matter of record-keeping and compliance. There are concerns raised by mills that are uncertain whether the FFB they receive from smallholders is still considered certified, especially if the smallholders have already sold a portion of their volume as credits. This uncertainty can lead to hesitation or rejection of smallholder crops. It is important to reassure mills that a smallholder selling a portion of credits does not invalidate the rest of the certified crop. As long as the smallholder's total certified volume is

	<p>respected, and accurate bookkeeping is maintained, there is no risk of non-compliance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Committee member proposed for the SCCS Review TF to examine these issues in more depth. It was mentioned that the SCCS Review TF may already be examining these issues, but from a supply chain perspective, focused on how certified crops are brought to market. This overlooks the key problem on the pricing dynamics and what different actors receive or pay for certified products across the supply chain. The key issue is on how the price determines how smallholders have access to the market and how many smallholders have been supported to become certified? Was it ultimately responsible or sustainable to encourage certification without first securing market access for them? In some cases, companies may have supported smallholders through certification processes without ensuring they had a viable market for their certified products. • The Committee emphasized that there should be no additional barriers on smallholder inclusion. It is essential to ensure that IP mills do not risk losing their IP status when sourcing from certified smallholders, as this could discourage them from buying smallholder crops. It is also important to keep the options for smallholders to choose between selling certified FFB and credits, or a combination of both. The act of selling credits should not undermine the certified status of the physical product. Yet, in practice, once a smallholder sells credits, the mill is no longer able to classify the corresponding FFB as certified, which results in a downgrade for the mill (e.g., from IP to MB). This situation creates the perception that there are effectively two standards within the system. It is highly problematic that a product certified under the same scheme is suddenly no longer recognized as such simply because credits were sold. • The Committee suggested looking into how other certification schemes, such as Rainforest Alliance, are addressing similar challenges. Rainforest Alliance has been collecting data on sustainability differentials and sustainability investments, and is now transitioning toward making the reporting of premium data a formal requirement within their standard. It is expected to enforce this premium reporting requirement later this year. It would be worthwhile to review this approach and share any relevant insights or learnings. • The Committee expressed confusion over why certified ISH FFB can no longer be classified as certified by the mill once a portion has been sold as credits. If the FFB is certified, it should remain certified, provided proper records are maintained to prevent double claiming. There is a need to initiate a study or review to examine the certification and traceability system in its entirety. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee questioned whether this discussion falls within the remit of SSC, or whether it should be escalated to the Board of Governors (BoG). The SSC has agreed that a full re-examination of the system is necessary and there is already an existing Grower Incentives Working Group looking into this issue. However, the broader question on whether the overall RSPO ISH certification system and market mechanisms are truly delivering value and impact for smallholders goes beyond the remit of the SSC. That discussion should be elevated to the SHSC and the BoG. • The Committee requested clarity on the way forward. Specifically, what is the decision regarding the concerns raised about certification inconsistencies and smallholder inclusion? Will the Secretariat come back with a proposed approach or recommendation? • The Secretariat explained that no definitive solution has been established yet. The current process is focused on canvassing views and understanding where stakeholders stand. So far, there is broad consensus that change is needed, but the scope and nature of that change are still to be defined. If the issue is limited to adjustments within the SCCS, such as revising how smallholder FFB is treated after IS credits are sold, this could potentially be addressed within the SCCS Review TF. For instance, rather than classifying the FFB as non-certified, a downgrade to “traceable” could be considered. Any such proposal would be reviewed by the SCCS Review TF and then reported back to the SSC. If changes are needed within the P&C to reflect such adjustments, this would also fall within the SSC’s remit. However, if the required change involves the overall system including how certification interacts with the supply chain and the material accounting balance system in place, this goes beyond the Secretariat’s mandate. The Secretariat are currently facilitating targeted discussions and liaising with other Standing Committees and Working Groups. The next steps depend on the level and scale of change required. • The Committee suggested that the Secretariat do some initial background work and return to SSC with recommendations for a more informed decision on whether the matter should remain within its remit or be escalated to other governance bodies. Any recommendation should align with existing structures such as the SCCS TF and the Grower Incentives WG. If it is deemed beyond their scope or resources, it may need to be flagged for consideration at the BoG. • The Secretariat is currently conducting a comprehensive analysis of physical and credit buying patterns for ISH since 2022. This data-driven assessment aims to provide clearer context and quantitative insights into the current situation. The Secretariat will continue this analysis to 	
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<p>3.3</p>	<p>support more informed decision-making and to highlight structural challenges within the ISH credit system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee raised a question regarding pricing transparency in IS credit transactions—specifically in over-the-counter or direct deals between buyers and smallholder groups. The Committee asked whether these off-market transaction prices are captured in the ongoing analysis. Will the analysis consider the actual transaction prices? Will there be visibility into the prices agreed in direct or managed transactions? • The Secretariat explained that from the ongoing data analysis, covering ISH trading patterns over the past 12 months, 80% of IS-Credit trades occurred off-market, while only 20% were conducted through the official market. Off-market trades typically pay 25% to 50% higher per credit than on-market trades, indicating that direct negotiation often leads to better returns for smallholders. Another trend is the long-standing ISH groups are benefiting most from these higher-value trades. In contrast, newer ISH groups (certified within the past 3 years) and those in Eligibility or Milestone A categories (who are only eligible to sell credits) are facing greater difficulty in selling credits. • The Committee highlighted that this shows that the newly certified smallholders are not receiving premium prices for their credits. As more smallholders become certified, the situation is likely to deteriorate further, particularly in the absence of structured market access or post-certification support. This concern aligns with ongoing discussions in the SHSC, which has repeatedly flagged the risk of certifying smallholders without a clear plan or buyer support in place. This is a systemic issue that must be urgently addressed. <p><u>Procedural Updates of 2024 P&C and ISH Standard</u></p> <p>The Secretariat presented the second batch of procedural updates identified in the 2024 RSPO P&C and ISH Standard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the 53rd SSC Meeting in May 2025, the first batch of identified procedural updates of the 2024 standards was approved and has been incorporated in Version 4-1 of the 2024 RSPO P&C and V2-1 of the 2024 RSPO ISH Standard. • RSPO WGs/TFs and NITFs have identified several additional potential procedural updates that may be required, and the Secretariat has presented them in this meeting for discussion. • Following the discussion, a decision paper will be presented to the SSC in August 2025 for approval. Upon approval, the 2024 RSPO Standards will be revised via a procedural update. • There are currently 6 issues identified so far, as shown below: 	
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No. 1

Procedural Update #1 (P&C and ISH 2024)

Section	Text requiring clarity (with explanation)	Proposed change
Annex 1: Terms and Definitions	<p>Land clearing/land clearance</p> <p>Conversion of land from one land use to another. Clearing of actively managed certified oil palm plantations to replant oil palm is not considered land clearing.</p> <p>Within existing Units of Certification, clearing of less than 10 ha meeting all the requirements below is not considered land clearing:</p> <p>A) 10 ha threshold is the maximum limit (cumulative) within a specified Unit of Certification over the lifetime of the plantation;</p> <p>B) Must not be contiguous to HCV and potential HCS forests; and</p> <p>C) Must not be HCV and potential HCS forests.</p> <p>The MYNI TF proposed adding 'non-actively managed' as an exclusion in the definition to allow replanting on existing planted areas abandoned, left fallow, set aside or unmanaged due to <i>force majeure</i>. The updated sentence would read: <u>'Clearing of actively managed and non-actively managed certified oil palm plantations to replant oil palm is not considered land clearing.'</u></p> <p>The proposal has merit; in tropical climates, unmanaged land can begin to resemble a Young Regenerative Forest (YRF) within a year. However, a cut-off threshold should be set. Upon checking, the RSPO New Planting Procedure 2021 provides additional conditions for what is, and what isn't, considered land clearing. Clearance of unmanaged land is only considered land clearing after 3 years. NPP 2021 also provides scenarios for scheme/independent smallholders and new acquisitions of land.</p>	<p>Align the P&C 2024 with the NPP 2021 to provide clarity across both documents, by updating the definition of Land Clearing/Land Clearance in Annex 1 with an additional sentence at the end:</p> <p><i>"Please refer to most recent RSPO New Planting Procedure document for additional details on scenarios and/or conditions applicable for new land clearing. Clearing of non-actively managed certified oil palm plantations to replant oil palm is not considered land clearing if carried out within 3 years of the land lapsing from active management."</i></p>

- The Committee raised strong concerns over the impractical expectation placed on growers regarding land use and conservation obligations under current requirements. A specific example was cited from Papua New Guinea, where the government designates land for agricultural development. When a landowner or leaseholder chooses not to develop the land, and a company steps in to fulfill that intended agricultural purpose, it is unreasonable for the system to expect that land to be managed as a conservation area or national park, especially in a country that already maintains 80% forest cover. The Committee strongly disagrees with the current threshold of 10 hectares as it is considered too small. In Indonesia, there are companies that have taken over plantations containing 30-hectare blocks of degraded or mismanaged land, and are now expected to regenerate these as forests within larger estates of 4,000 to 5,000 hectares. This approach brings no real conservation benefit and imposes significant challenges to plantation management. Additional concerns were raised about the interpretation of High Conservation Value (HCV) assessments, where some assessors are labelling even minor or ecologically insignificant patches as HCVs. The Committee emphasised on re-evaluating this and increasing the threshold sizes for conservation requirements in agricultural landscapes and ensuring a more grower-friendly approach.
- The Committee commented that while land clearing restrictions were included in the 2018 P&C, the actual definition of land clearing was only formalized in 2021 through the New Planting Procedure (NPP). This refinement was introduced to prevent the application of NPP in impractical or absurd situations, which

	<p>had previously caused implementation challenges. The Committee expressed concern that implementation is increasingly being driven often from members who lack understanding of the practical realities of land management and the national development objectives that growers contribute to. A point of concern is how young or regenerating forests are being treated. Any such areas should be evaluated based on whether they truly contribute to ecological integrity, including measurable ecosystem services and meaningful biodiversity value. Thresholds should not be absolute and should allow for contextual interpretation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Secretariat explained that the definitions in the P&C and the NPP are currently not fully aligned. The goal is to ensure both documents are consistent and can be read together. As it stands, the P&C prohibits land clearing of unmanaged land, while the NPP allows that land to be classified as not cleared if it has been unmanaged for three years, creating a potential conflict. ○ The member who is also the co-chair of MYNI TF clarified that the current proposal does not reflect the original proposal from the MYNI TF. The Secretariat explained that the MYNI TF had proposed adding "non-managed land" to the clause specifically, to include both actively and non-actively managed land in the definition of land clearing. The Secretariat was tasked with conducting a technical analysis of the potential impact. The outcome of that analysis showed it would be more effective to reference the full NPP, as there are other scenarios in the NPP that are not covered in the definition of land clearance in the P&C. ○ The co-chair of MYNI TF highlighted that the MYNI draft has already been put forward for public consultation. This proposal should have been presented to the MYNI TF for discussion first before bringing it to the SSC for endorsement or discussion. Even though the Secretariat has shared the proposal with the MYNI TF, there was no discussion within the MYNI TF. ○ The Secretariat clarified that the proposed change is intended for the generic P&C that apply across all countries, not only Malaysia. Engagement with the MYNI TF is part of the process, but the next step depends on whether the SSC approves the procedural change in August. ○ A Committee member highlighted that the MYNI TF raised this issue in part because the NPP is also under revision. Since this proposal originated from the MYNI, it should be discussed in 	
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	<p>the context of the ongoing NPP review, rather than simply defaulting to existing requirements as a final decision. The Secretariat responded that the P&C will take effect in November 2025, and it's uncertain when the revised NPP will be finalized. Therefore, from November onwards, the 2021 NPP will remain applicable. To avoid inconsistencies or implementation issues, it would be best to align the standard with the current NPP until any revisions are formally adopted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Committee advised caution before making any changes to the NPP or related definitions. The current NPP was the result of a difficult and carefully negotiated compromise, and any changes should be approached with broad and thorough stakeholder consultation. The Committee requested for more time to consult their stakeholder groups and assess implications. ○ A Committee member commented that the MYNI TF had not discussed the specific “3-year” provision nor the issue of HCVs. There is a sensitivity within MYNI TF regarding this issue, particularly due to the lack of consensus and the perception that they were not adequately consulted. The Committee recommended that the MYNI TF be requested to review the proposal and provide input as part of the global consultation. ○ The Committee asked whether other National Interpretations had raised similar concerns. The Secretariat responded that no other NIs had raised this issue. The Secretariat clarified that the proposal does not involve any changes to the NPP itself, including no changes to HCV or potential HCS forest definitions. The intent is simply to insert a reference in the P&C to ensure alignment with the existing NPP, so that if a grower follows the NPP properly, those actions are recognized in the P&C and do not result in future compliance issues. ○ The Committee clarified that the concern is not about changing content, but about ensuring a transparent and inclusive process with proper consensus building. Since the proposal originated from MYNI, they should be given the opportunity to review and discuss it internally, and if appropriate, make a formal suggestion. The Committee recommended that the matter be referred to MYNI for internal agreement before it is brought to the SSC for further consideration. ○ The Secretariat explained that during the last MYNI meeting, it was communicated that the proposal would be brought to the SSC as a procedural update to gather initial feedback. It was agreed that MYNI TF will reconvene in October, after the 	
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current public consultation period and discuss the SSC's feedback.

No. 2

Procedural Update #2 (P&C 2024)

Section	Text requiring clarity (with explanation)		Proposed change
Indicator 1.3.1	The text of the Indicator, as adopted on 13 November 2024, is as follows:		To update the second Procedural Note in Indicator 1.3.1 from:
1.3	The Unit of Certification shall identify, address, and monitor human rights impacts in its operations, through implementation of Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD).	1.3.1 <i>The Unit of Certification shall identify existing and potential human rights impacts within its operations and its direct suppliers, through implementation of Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD). Existing and potential human rights impacts identified through the HRDD shall be addressed through an action plan developed by the UoC. The action plan shall be reviewed at least once every 2 years.</i> Procedural Note <i>The RSPO Human Rights Working Group (HRWG) shall develop a guidance to assist members and UoCs in their compliance to Indicator 1.3.1 regarding their respective Human Rights Due Diligence obligations.</i> <i>The RSPO Human Rights Working Group (HRWG) shall develop a list of RSPO-recognised HRDD methodologies e.g., the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, OECD (Refer to Annex 4).</i>	<i>"The RSPO Human Rights Working Group (HRWG) shall develop a list of RSPO-recognised HRDD methodologies, e.g., the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, OECD (Refer to Annex 4)."</i>
The wording of the second Procedural Note is misleading for 2 reasons:			to:
1) The UNGP's and OECD's steps to guide HRDD process are known as frameworks, not methodologies.			<i>"The RSPO Human Rights Working Group (HRWG) shall provide a list of RSPO-recognised HRDD frameworks (Refer to Annex 4)."</i>
2) The HRDD Subgroup/HRWG is not reviewing available HRDD methodologies , instead they are publishing a list of RSPO-recognised frameworks which methodologies should be aligned with			

- The Committee asked whether there is a timeline for the related guidance. The Secretariat responded that the HRDD Subgroup is currently developing the guidance which will follow the UNGP's 4-step approach rather than the OECD's 6 steps. The purpose of the proposed amendment is to formally reference these frameworks instead of methodologies. Companies may use any method as long as it aligns with the recognised frameworks.

No. 3

Procedural Update #3 (P&C 2024)

Section	Text requiring clarity (with explanation)	Proposed change
Indicator 7.5.3 (C)	<p>The text of the Indicator, as adopted on 13 November 2024, is as follows:</p> <div><p>7.5.3 (C) The Unit of Certification shall protect <u>watercourses</u> and wetlands by maintaining and <u>restoring</u> appropriate <u>riparian</u> reserves and other buffer zones, in line with the latest version of the 'RSPO Manual on Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the Management and Rehabilitation of Riparian Reserves'.</p></div> <p>This text itself is largely a holdover from P&C 2018, where the Indicator reads as:</p> <p>7.8.2 (C) Water courses and wetlands are protected, including maintaining and restoring appropriate riparian and other buffer zones in line with 'RSPO Manual on BMPs for the management and rehabilitation of riparian reserves' (April 2017).</p> <p>A contradiction was identified during the MYNI TF. The RSPO Manual on BMPs for Management and Rehabilitation of Riparian Reserves is an Informative guidance document. However, the indicator uses the strictest verb form – 'shall' – in combination with the phrase 'in line with', which indicates a normative requirement. CBs and auditors present at the MYNI TF confirmed that an auditor will interpret 'shall' + 'in line with' as the UoC having to follow the guidance line-by-line strictly and exactly.</p>	<p>Update the text for clarity to:</p> <p><i>"The Unit of Certification shall protect watercourses and wetlands by maintaining and restoring appropriate riparian reserves and other buffer zones, in line with guided by the latest version of the 'RSPO Manual on Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the Management and Rehabilitation of Riparian Reserves'."</i></p>

- The Committee recommended splitting the sentence into two to improve clarity while preserving the intent of the update. The second sentence could begin with: "The Unit of Certification (UoC) can be guided by the latest version of the Best Management Practices (BMP)."

Amend the proposed change in Indicator 7.5.3 accordingly
Action by: Secretariat

- The Secretariat takes note of this and will amend accordingly.

No. 4

Procedural Update #4a (P&C 2024)

Section	Text requiring clarity (with explanation)
Indicator 7.7.2 (C)	<p>The text of the Indicator 7.7.2, as adopted on 13 November 2024, is as follows:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>7.7.2 (C) For all land clearing since November 2005, the Unit of Certification shall provide evidence of a historic Land Use Change Analysis (LUCA).</p> <p>Where there has been land clearing without prior HCV assessment since November 2005, or without a prior Integrated HCV-HCSA Assessment since 15 November 2018, the 'RSPO Remediation and Compensation Procedure (RaCP)' applies.</p> </div> <p>The first clause has been flagged as a potential compliance issue, since not all UoCs will have a LUCA depending on when the UoC was first certified.</p> <p>Indicator 7.7.1 sets out RSPO's rules on land clearance as it has evolved since 2005. Indicator 7.7.2 requires evidence that the UoC had followed those rules, as they applied at that point in time. Interlinked procedures were implemented at different times (NPP, RaCP, ALS), so LUCA cannot be sole evidence required to fulfill the Indicator's intention. Other documented evidences apply e.g. approved NPPs (from 2010), Disclosures for non-compliant land clearing/NCLC (in 2014, part of RaCP), Land Use Risk Identification (LURI).</p>

Procedural Update #4a (Restructuring Criterion 7.7)

7.7.1: Identification - what or which type of land cannot be cleared (and therefore must be protected), and what or which type of land can be cleared? Different cut-off dates apply based on when specific rules, assessments or mechanisms were introduced.

7.7.2: Documentation – evidence verifying that the UoC meets the requirements set out in 7.7.1 based on the rules, assessments or mechanisms that applied at that point in time i.e., land clearing conducted in 2013 is validated by documents showing it followed the RSPO requirements that applied in 2013 (not before or after).

7.7.3: Management – land that must be protected, as identified in 7.7.1 and verified through documentation in 7.7.2, is managed and monitored to protect its value.

7.7.4: Adaptation – management and monitoring of land that must be protected (from 7.7.3) is updated to adapt to any changes in the status of the land e.g., shifting HCVs, presence/non-presence of RTE species, presence/non-presence of human-wildlife conflict.

7.7.5: Respecting rights – in cases where the land that must be protected overlaps with the rights of local communities, a negotiated agreement is required to ensure that the UoC's protection, management and monitoring of the land does not diminish the rights of those local communities.

Procedural Update #4b (P&C 2024)

Section	Text requiring clarity (with explanation)
Indicator 7.7.2 (C)	<p>The text of the Indicator 7.7.2, as adopted on 13 November 2024, is as follows:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>7.7.2 (C) For all land clearing since November 2005, the Unit of Certification shall provide evidence of a historic Land Use Change Analysis (LUCA).</p> <p>Where there has been land clearing without prior HCV assessment since November 2005, or without a prior Integrated HCV-HCSA Assessment since 15 November 2018, the 'RSPO Remediation and Compensation Procedure (RaCP)' applies.</p> </div> <p>Upon further investigation on Procedural Update #4a, the Secretariat has noted that the second clause may also present a potential compliance issue.</p> <p>HCV assessments for land clearance since November 2005 has been an RSPO requirement since the P&C Pilot in 2005 and P&C 2007. However, guidance in P&C 2007 states that HCV assessments "could be integrated with the SEIA". Therefore, some UoCs certified between 2007 and 2013 did not do a prior standalone HCV assessment and instead did an SEIA incorporating assessment of HCVs. This guidance was removed in P&C 2013.</p>

Procedural Update #4a and #4b(P&C 2024)

Proposed changes for Indicator 7.7.2 (C)

Option 1: LUC as part of NPP requirement

To clarify: that land use change analysis is part of the NPP requirement for new plantings.

Suggestion:

A historic Land Use Change (LUC) analysis is conducted prior to any new land clearing and can be carried out in coordination with the integrated HCV-HCSA assessment.

Where land was cleared without a prior HCV assessment (for clearings after November 2005) or without a prior integrated HCV-HCSA assessment (for clearings after 15 November 2018), the RaCP applies.

Option 2: LUC as evidence of compliance with prevailing requirements for new plantings.

To clarify: that the UoC can demonstrate evidence that prevailing NPP requirements at the point of land clearing has been adhered to during land clearing subject to membership status since Nov 20025.

Suggestion:

For all land clearings conducted since November 2005, the Unit of Certification shall provide evidence of compliance with the RSPO's prevailing requirements for new plantings applicable, including, where relevant, a historical land use change analysis.

Where land was cleared without a prior HCV assessment (for clearings after November 2005) or without a prior integrated HCV-HCSA assessment (for clearings after 15 November 2018), the RaCP applies.

Option 3: LUCA for calculating RaCP liability

Intent: to clarify that LUCA is required as part of the RaCP, and for calculating liability.

Suggestion:

Where land was cleared without a prior HCV assessment (for clearings after November 2005) or without a prior integrated HCV-HCSA assessment (for clearings after 15 November 2018), the RaCP applies.

A Land Use Change Analysis (LUCA) to establish the basis for calculating liability under RSPO Remediation and Compensation Procedure (RaCP) shall be provided as evidence.

- The Secretariat recommended for the SSC members to provide any additional feedback via email before the next meeting.

Provide feedback or comments via email
Action by: SSC Members

No. 5

Procedural Update #5 (P&C and ISH 2024)

Section	Text requiring clarity (with explanation)	Proposed change
Annex 1: Terms and Definitions	<p>The definition of High Carbon Stock in the adopted text has attracted criticism publicly from non-member NGOs due to the lack of mention of the HCSA approach.</p> <div><div>High Carbon Stock</div><div>High Carbon Stock forests are defined as forests with above and below ground carbon stores, where the sequestered carbon losses as a result of land use change are greater than the potential gains in carbon stock within the new development area (including set aside and non-planting areas) over the period of one planting cycle.</div></div> <p>The 2018 P&C definition of HCS was:</p> <div><div>Term</div><div>Definition</div><div>High Carbon Stock forest</div><div>Forests that have been identified using the High Carbon Stock Approach (HCSA) Toolkit</div></div> <p>This issue has been raised by HCVN at the BHCVWG, which will be revisiting the definition of HCS to ensure consistency and alignment with the intention of the standards and referenced documents (e.g. Integrated HCV-HCSA Assessment Manual, November 2017 and June 2023 versions only).</p> <p>Other terms related to HCS (e.g. 'forest') may also be proposed for a revision in their definitions, to avoid any incoherence or misalignment. The BHCVWG has also sent a request to the GHGTF to consider adding a definition for 'carbon stock' to align.</p>	<p>To be discussed at the BHCVWG meeting in early August 2025, any proposed changes to be sent to the SSC.</p> <p>The GHGTF has agreed on a definition of 'carbon stock' to be added to Annex 1. This proposed definition will be presented to the SSC together with proposals from the BHCVWG on 'high carbon stock' and 'forest'</p>

No. 6

Procedural Update #6 (P&C and ISH 2024)

Section	Text requiring clarity (with explanation)	Proposed change
Annex 1: Terms and Definitions	The following 3 terms are defined in Annex 1, but are not referenced in the text of either the P&C 2024 or the ISH Standard 2024 (except within Annex 1 itself).	
	Ethical recruitment	Hiring workers lawfully and in a fair and transparent manner that respects and protects their rights
	Gender Sensitive	To understand and give consideration to socio-cultural norms and discriminations in order to acknowledge the different rights, roles, and responsibilities of women, and men, in the community and the relationships between them. Policies and programmes that take into account the particularities pertaining to the lives of both women and men, while aiming to eliminate inequalities or imbalance between women and men, and promote gender equality, including an equal distribution of resources.
	Hazardous waste	Hazardous waste is a waste with properties that make it dangerous or capable of having a harmful effect on human health or the environment.
	The presence of the 3 unused terms in Annex 1 has no substantive or material impact on the P&C and ISH 2024, or implementation of the standards. But it is good document control practice to remove unused terms to avoid confusion or misleading readers.	
		To remove the 3 unused terms (and their definitions) from Annex 1: <i>Ethical Recruitment</i> <i>Gender-Sensitive</i> <i>Hazardous-Waste</i>

4.0

For Update

4.1	<p><u>Supply Chain Certification Standard Review</u></p> <p>The Secretariat provided an update on the Supply Chain Certification Standard (SCCS) Review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2nd SCCS Review TF Meeting took place on 16 to 17 July 2025. • Prior to the meeting, the TF members were asked to review and assess the requirements in the existing RSPO SCCS via an Excel (Requirement Review Tool) that the Secretariat had prepared. This review helps identify which requirements may need revision—whether for clarity, implementability, auditability, consistency, or to address any missing context. • A summary of the 2nd TF Meeting was presented as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The structure options for the SCCS were presented and TF members discussed the best structure. ○ Existing requirements of the 2020 SCCS were revised where a live poll was conducted to collect comments on the improvements needed. The requirements covered were General Chain of Custody, Supply Chain Models and all Annexes apart from Annex 1, 4 & 6 which will be discussed in the Technical Committee (TC) meetings. ○ A presentation on the importance of food service companies was delivered by an observer in the TF group. ○ Presentations on a few topics were delivered by the RSPO Secretariat. The topics included IS-Credit, Artisanal Mill, Supply Chain Traceability Beyond Refinery and Palm-Based Feedstock Waste/ By-Products. • The 1st round of TC meetings will take place in the week of the 27th of July for the following 3 TCs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strengthening Mass Balance model, Conversion Rule, 1:1 Rule, Yield Scheme, Certification of FFB Trader ○ Annex 6 - RSPO Oleochemicals and its Derivatives ○ Social and Environmental Requirements • The next virtual TF Meeting will take place at the end of September 2025. The 4th TF Meeting will be held physically in Kuala Lumpur on 6 to 8 November 2025. <p>The Committee raised a question whether there are any specific points or concerns raised by members so far that could potentially become problematic and require further attention?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat responded that no major difficulties have emerged so far, and that a structure and content plan has been established. However, there is some uncertainty around how discussions in the TC on strengthening the MB model will unfold, which may present challenges. The Secretariat will keep the SSC updated on any 	
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	<p>developments and will report back if issues arise once Draft 1 is released, as potential concerns may surface during that stage. Any challenges will be captured in progress updates.</p>	
4.2	<p><u>Independent Review of the RSPO Standards Review and Revision Process</u></p> <p>The Secretariat introduced the consultant for the Independent Review of the RSPO Standards Review and Revision Process, Victoria Solbert. The consultant provided a brief introduction on her background and experience.</p> <p>The Committee raised questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee inquired about the consultant's level of familiarity with consensus building. The consultant responded that while consensus was not always the exact approach while employed at Fair Trade USA, it was always an objective the team strived to achieve as much as possible. She has worked extensively in that space, particularly within standard-setting processes where consensus is crucial. The challenge lies in balancing the effort required for consensus building with the available resources and timelines. • The Committee highlighted that the internal stakeholder consultation (Phase 2) in the proposal should be broader and expanded to include members as well rather than just the Secretariat. The consultation with stakeholders planned for Phase 5 should also occur earlier, by consulting all TF members involved in the last Standards Review Process. Many TF members were dissatisfied with the process. This aspect needs to be reconsidered to improve how consultations, discussions, and feedback gathering from TF members are conducted. Greater member involvement in the consultation process is needed. • The Consultant explained that the stakeholders were divided into internal and external groups, with the internal consultation primarily intended to ensure a solid understanding of the process and documentation before expanding the consultation to others. However, the TF members can definitely be included in the initial consultation process. • A member who is also a member of the MYNI TF raised their concern that the MYNI TF members had requested for this independent review to report to a subcommittee of the BoG, rather than to the Secretariat or the SSC. The Secretariat explained that the SSC is responsible for overseeing the independent review, as requested by the BoG and reflected in the ToR. The consultant will provide regular updates to the SSC throughout the review process. • The Committee suggested that when identifying concerns, the SSC should be given the opportunity to propose ideas on how to improve the process and envision how it could work better within RSPO. The 	

	<p>Consultant agreed, emphasizing that while pinpointing key areas of concern is important, the focus will also be on finding ways to improve. This approach will help frame the consultations, allowing everyone to voice their concerns while concentrating on making progress moving forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee emphasized the need to remain flexible in how benchmarking best practices are allocated, as the current plan to do this later in the process might not be the most effective approach. On top of that, the target to complete the final report and presentation within 1-2 months is ambitious and may be challenging to meet. • The Consultant explained that the first three phases of the process will actually overlap. Benchmarking best practices being in the third phase was intended primarily to ensure familiarity with relevant documents. The internal consultation focuses on engaging directly with those involved to understand the process and main concerns, which will lead to recommendations. A broader consultation with TF members before the interim report is also planned, aiming to develop a solid starting point that minimizes the need for major changes in the final report. However, the pace of consultation and the ability to reach consensus on recommendations will be key factors. There is a meeting planned for the November General Assembly, targeting the preparation of initial proposals from the internal report by then, which would provide an opportunity to present initial ideas, begin broader consultation with all members present, and introduce more of the project's work. • The Secretariat suggested establishing direct email communication between the consultant and SSC members, noting that its role will be purely facilitative and that it is also a party to the review. This would allow SSC members to communicate directly with the consultant regarding any concerns or issues. The Committee agreed with this approach. • The Committee inquired about the budgeted travel expense for the lead consultant's one-week in-person trip. The Consultant confirmed that it would be during RT2025 in November, which the Committee agreed was the most relevant timing since all members from around the world attend then. However, the Committee emphasized the need to schedule the meeting well in advance, as RT is usually packed with meetings. The Secretariat added that the consultant will also be meeting the BoG at the September meeting. • The Committee suggested compiling a list of TF members to share with the consultant and the members can arrange for a meeting in Kuala Lumpur during the consultant's visit. The Committee also recommended noting down any additional questions to discuss in the next meeting and then forwarding them to the consultant. 	<p>1. Connect consultant with the SSC members via email</p> <p>2. Share the list of TF members with the consultant</p> <p>Action by: Secretariat</p>
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5.0	Any Other Business	
5.1	<p><u>Prisma Issues</u></p> <p>The Committee raised an issue that obtaining certificates for Annual Surveillance, Recertification, and new certifications has become difficult. The recertification process needs to be reviewed as it is now exceedingly challenging to get recertified, even for supply bases that have been certified for over three cycles.</p> <p>The Committee expressed concern that prisma is applying rules very strictly. This includes the requirement that there cannot be more than a 1% discrepancy between GIS-measured hectarage and legally licensed measured hectarage. The Committee questioned the origin of this rule and asked the Secretariat to examine whether it exists within the certification system or any other standard references. In practice, GIS measurements can vary by more than 1% due to technical reasons, even when measuring the same location.</p> <p>Additionally, there is also an issue of conducting Land Use Change Analysis (LUCA) using new technologies, despite previous agreements within the BHCVWG and the CTF2 that liabilities should not be reassessed using new technologies.</p> <p>The Committee also questioned why prisma appears to be taking on tasks that should be the responsibility of the Certification Bodies (CBs). This is causing a backlog in prisma certificates, requiring multiple extensions for supply bases certified for over 15 years. This is damaging RSPO's mission by focusing on the wrong priorities.</p> <p>The Committee requested the Secretariat to review the above issues. While this issue may not fall directly under the SSC's scope, it is important and should be formally noted and investigated. It may be more relevant for the Assurance Standing Committee (ASC) to address. The Secretariat will forward the concerns to the Integrity Team and verify the relevant references. The Secretariat will provide updates in the upcoming meetings.</p>	<p>Forward the concerns to the Integrity Team and provide update to the SSC</p> <p>Action by: Secretariat</p>
5.2	<p><u>Certification System for the 2024 P&C and ISH Standard</u></p> <p>The Secretariat provided an update on the progress of the Certification System for the 2024 P&C and ISH Standard. One current issue is that the Certification System falls under the oversight of two standing committees: the ASC and SSC. This has caused some confusion within the ASC regarding the endorsement process. The Secretariat would like to propose a meeting between the co-chairs of both ASC and SSC to discuss and agree on next steps toward endorsements that are acceptable to both Standing Committees. This proposal has already</p>	<p>1.Send the list of issues to the co-</p>

	<p>been discussed with the ASC co-chairs. There are also some issues that remain unresolved within the ASC, which has contributed to shifts in the endorsement timeline.</p> <p>The SSC co-chairs agreed with this and recommended circulating a paper outlining the issues, discussion points, and potential solutions before the meeting with the other co-chairs. The Secretariat will prepare and circulate this document and schedule a meeting between the co-chairs of both Standing Committees.</p>	<p>chairs of SSC via email 2. Schedule a meeting between co-chairs of ASC and SSC Action by: Secretariat</p>
5.3	<p><u>SSC Meeting in October</u></p> <p>The Secretariat has sent out a doodle poll to schedule the SSC meeting in October, with suggested dates of 16, 22, and 23 October 2025. It is important to confirm the meeting date soon, as the primary focus will likely be on endorsing National Interpretations for submission to the BoG for approval. Since the BoG meeting is scheduled for 6 November, all related materials must be submitted at least two weeks prior to meet internal deadlines.</p> <p>The Secretariat requested members to respond to the doodle poll to confirm their availability. The SSC co-chairs have indicated that 16 and 22 October are suitable dates. The Secretariat will send a reminder to all SSC members to respond to the poll.</p>	<p>Send a reminder for the doodle poll for SSC meeting in October Action by: Secretariat</p>

MEETING ENDED AT 1710 MYT