# National Interpretation (NI)

The NI occurs due to the differences between countries on important issues, such as labor, ancestral land tenure or agricultural practices, the socio-economic context, the relationship of the supply chain, among others, which are reflected in their own legislation. Therefore, the NI includes the identification of applicable legal requirements at the international, regional and national levels and, where there is a difference between an RSPO P&C indicator and a legal requirement, the most demanding requirement will prevail.

# Summary Process in Nicaragua

The process of the National Interpretation (NI) of the standard of Principles and Criteria (P&C) of the RSPO (Round table on Sustainable Palm Oil), v. 2018 and, the process of Local Interpretation (LI) of the certification standard for Independent Smallholders (ISH), v. 2019, for Nicaragua, began with the request of Sollidaridad, in the interest of the Chamber of Producers and Suppliers of Oil Palm (Capropalma) , in April 2020. In October of that same year, official approval was received by the RSPO and Solidaridad Network Nicaragua was defined as the Technical Secretariat. Likewise, the Facilitating Team was hired, with extensive experience as implementers of the RSPO standards and as consultants.

On the other hand, the Task Force (TF) was formed composed of 17 people from the following organizations: OleoCaribe, WAPI Industrial, Extraceites, Industrias Aceiteras de la RAAS, PALCASA, AGROSA, MONISA, E. Chamorro, WWF, SNV, Solidaridad, FUNIDES, La Fise, BANPRO, ProNicaragua, IPSA and SERENA, as well as representatives of independent oil palm growers and a legal experts.

Five training meetings and five plenaries were held (starting on October 15, the day of the Official Launch and ending on December 4, 2020); and five meetings by the subgroups: Prosperity, People and Planet; for a total of 15 virtual meetings, given the restrictions derived by the health contingency (Covid-19) that changed the work routine and demanded greater care and prevention.

The TF reviewed 100% the guidelines and terms of reference, as well as the regulatory framework of the P&C and the concepts of Independent Smallholders and other relevant issues for this standard, generating the first draft that is the one that is put to consideration in the Public Consultation, since it was already reviewed by the RSPO.

# Public Consultation

The public consultation lasts sixty (60) days, from 2nd July to 1st September of 2021, during which time any person, belonging to the palm oil value chain, representing a governmental, non-governmental or community entity, can express their free and voluntary opinions regarding the draft document.

Therefore, below, you will find the form where you can express your comments, which will serve the Task Force (TF) to generate a second draft, which will pass, in the same way, to review and approval of the RSPO. The approval of an NI of the RSPO by the Board of Governors will depend on whether it is demonstrated that the development of the NI has met a set of requirements of **participation, process and content.** [[1]](#footnote-0) It is the duty of the TF to reply to all comments received. We are counting on your contributions!

# Public Consultation National Interpretation of Principles and Criteria

# Local Interpretation Independent Smallholders Standard

Your contribution to the process is very important to us. All your contributions, questions, suggestions or corrections to the proposed draft document are welcome. If you would like to fill in your contact details, to make our response easier, write them down below, otherwise please submit your comments anonymously. If you have any questions aboutit, please contact the palma.nicaragua@solidaridadnetwork.org or phone-WhatsApp (+505) 84471491 – 85609273.

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| --- | --- |
| Location and date |  |
| Name(s) and Last Name (s) |  |
| email  |  |
| telephone |  |
| Mark where in the Value Chain you belong to: | Grower |  | Mill |  | NGO |  | Government |  |
| Financial Institution |  | Refiner  |  | Final Consumer |  | Distributor or Retailer |  |
| Advisor or social expert |  | Environmental advisor or expert |  | Community member |  | other |  |
| Organization to which you belong or represent |  |
| Principles and Criteria of the RSPO, version 2018 |
| Then write the NUMBER of the PRINCIPLE, the number of the CRITERIA and the INDICATOR of which you want to make your comment. Be as clear as possible to understand your reasons. Also, you can make suggestions regarding the GUIDELINES that support the criteria.  |

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| **Principle** | **Criteria** | **indicator** | **guidelines** | **comment** |
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| Independent Smallholder Standard, 2019 version |
| Remember that for the standard of Independent Shmallholders can only be made annotations referring to:* Definition of Smallholder (including size threshold);
* Applicable local laws and regulations relating to land rights and legality and land use; and
* Any other matter relevant to the local context of the ISH.

Proposed definition for Independent Smallholders: "They *are producers who grow oil palm,* *and* sometimes*,* at the *sametime,* other *subsistence crops, whose families provide most of the labour force (and sometimes have additional workers, for field work, mainly harvesting). The farm is their main source of income, where the area planted with oil palm is usually less than or equal to 50 hectares. They make their own decisions about what to plant, how to do it, who to sell their fresh fruit bunches (FFB) to. They are self-managed, self-funded and self-organized. They may receive technical assistance or financial support from third parties (Mill, governmental and non-governmental organizations).* |

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| **comment** |
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| **If you would like to express additional comments or concerns that you believe contribute to the public consultation process, you are welcome!**  |
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1. *RSPO Standard Operating Procedure for Standard Setting and Review. 2020 (Revised). This revision incorporates the RSPO Theory of Change, the changes in the RSPO Governance Structure (Review) and the procedural requirements in line with the adoption of the RSPO P&C 2018 and the RSPO Independent Smallholder Standard 2019. Approved by the RSPO Standard Standing Committee on 28th of July 2020.* [↑](#footnote-ref-0)