

Framework for the RSPO Standards Revision Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Process

Objective

The objective of the Multi-Stakeholder Consultation process is to finalise the drafting of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) revised Principles and Criteria (P&C) and Independent Smallholder (ISH) Standards documents.

Process

From 5 July to 20 August 2024, the draft P&C and ISH Standards documents (Revision 1.0) underwent physical and virtual stakeholder consultations to receive feedback and comments on the changes proposed.

Following the closure of the stakeholder consultation period on 20 August 2024, the RSPO Secretariat shall perform an analysis of the feedback and comments received, as per the Decision Paper approved by the Standards Standing Committee (SSC) on 1 August 2024. The analysis shall identify, distil and categorise the feedback received from stakeholders into the following categories.

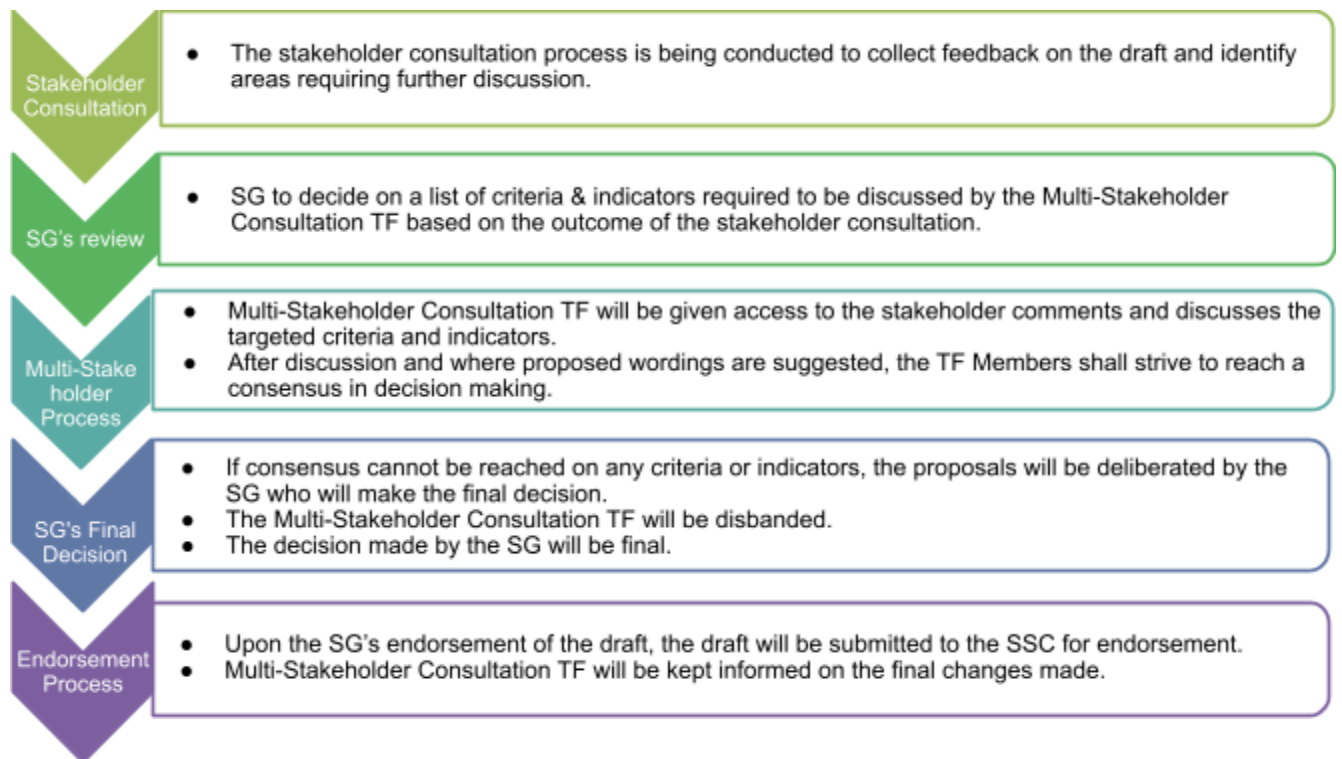
Category of feedback	Details
General consensus	80% or more of feedback received through the stakeholder consultations is aligned in a single direction
Divided consensus	Feedback received through the stakeholder consultations is broadly split in different directions.
No consensus	Feedback received through the stakeholder consultations indicates no trend or commonalities in direction.

The draft P&C and ISH Standards documents (Revision 1.0) will be updated by the Secretariat to incorporate feedback and comments (Revision 2.0) to enable two (2) parallel processes that will take place simultaneously over the period 2-13 September 2024:

1. Publication of Revision 2.0 for public consultation (online only), via the digital commenting platform Konveio
2. Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Task Force (TF), focusing on criteria and indicators in Revision 2.0 where feedback and comments indicate divided consensus, divergent opinions or no consensus. Time permitting, the Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Task Force may proceed to discuss the remaining criteria and indicators in Revision 2.0 if consensus has been received on all areas of divided, divergent or no consensus.

The list of indicators to be discussed and deliberated on by the Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Task Force for consensus shall be finalised by the Standards Review Steering Group (SG) based on the analysis of stakeholder consultation feedback. The list will be shared with the members of the Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Task Force ahead of time.

The proposed process is as follows:



Following the SG's endorsement, the list of feedback and comments received through the stakeholder consultation process shall be published on the RSPO website. This shall include the analysis of the feedback and comments received, and any adjustment or changes decided through consensus via the Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Task Force and SG in the final draft of the Standards. This step is necessary to ensure that RSPO remains compliant with the principles of transparency and inclusivity in Standards development set out in the ISEAL Code of Good Practice v1.0 (Clause 6.7).

Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Task Force

Dates: 2 - 6 September 2024

Venue: RSPO Office, Jalan Unit 13A-1, Level 13A, Menara Etiqa,
No.3, Jln Bangsar Utama 1,
59000, Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia

Composition

The Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Task Force shall comprise a balanced representation (50/50) between growers and supply chain members (including NGOs). The Task Force shall be made up of representatives of the seven sectors of the RSPO Ordinary Membership and should

ideally have 28 members divided between them. Members of the Steering Group (SG) shall not be members of the Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Task Force.

- Oil Palm Growers – 14 members including representatives of owners and managers of large plantations and their associations, smallholder growers and their associations. Members will be drawn from Malaysia (3), Indonesia (3), Africa (2), Latin America (2), Rest of the World (1) and Smallholders (3).
- Processors and/or Traders - 2 members
- Consumer Goods Manufacturers - 2 members
- Retailers - 2 members
- Financial Institutions - 2 members
- Environmental Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) - 3 members
- Social Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) - 3 members

In addition to representatives of the seven sectors, the Multi-Stakeholder Consultation TF shall also include stakeholder representation from the RSPO Accreditation Body (ASI, 2 members) and accredited Certification Bodies (3 members). The Accreditation Body and Certification Bodies shall represent the assurance aspect of the revised Standards, particularly in providing their expert opinion on the clarity and auditability of the criteria and indicators. Representatives from ASI and/or Certification Bodies do not and cannot represent any sector nor participate in any decision making through the entire standard review process.

In the event the volunteers exceed the allocated seats for the sector, the Board of Governors (BoG) would make the final selection.

Each sector is allowed one (1) observer. The observers are expected to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the RSPO Standards Review and will have no voting rights. In the event the Representative from the sector is unable to attend the meeting, the 'Observer' can be deputised to act as a 'Representative' with voting rights only upon the agreement of the members representing the sector.

Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Process

The Multi-Stakeholder Consultation process shall involve both physical and virtual meetings to enable meaningful and comprehensive engagement with growers and others throughout the main palm oil production and consumption regions where RSPO Members are. The process will be as follows:

1. Physical meetings in the morning from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM (MYT).
2. Virtual meetings from 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM (MYT) every evening to update the TF members who are unable to attend the physical meeting. The evening update shall summarise and describe the decisions made for the day, to seek inputs and agreement. In the event that there are disagreements, it will be noted and proposed alternatives will be sought for discussion the following day during the physical meeting. If consensus

cannot be reached on the proposed alternative during the physical meeting the following day, it will be brought up to the SG for final deliberation and determination. Members who attend the physical meeting may join the evening virtual meeting.

3. The next morning, at the start of the meeting, the Secretariat will update the physical meeting on the feedback received from the evening virtual meeting. In the event there are dissenting opinions, the meeting will discuss these first before moving to new topics.

Task Force Member Appointment & Representation

The Secretariat will be announcing a call for Expression of Interest (EOI) as soon as possible. Upon fulfilment of the Task Force composition requirements, the Multi-Stakeholder Consultation TF will be officially formed.

Each sector shall nominate their Representative(s) accordingly to be a member of the Multi-Stakeholder Consultation TF. The Representative, as the member, joins on behalf of the sector. Each member of the TF shall be an RSPO Member.

Due to the strict timeline, it is anticipated that available TF members shall commit to be present for the physical meetings for the entire week from 2 - 6 September 2024. Virtual meetings shall be arranged for the TF members who are unable to attend the physical meetings due to different time zones, distance, or physical availability.