

Resolution 6g

Proposed Resolution to be adopted at the 12th General Assembly of the
Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)

19th of November 2015

TITLE: RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE THE ACOP REPORTING PROCESS

Submitted By: Zoological Society of London

Co-signed By: Aidenvironment, Both ENDS, Cargill Incorporated, HSBC Holdings Plc,
HUTAN - Kinabatangan Orang-utan Conservation Programme, New Britain Palm Oil
Ltd, Oxfam, Rabobank International, Sime Darby, Solidaridad

Background:

All RSPO members have to submit an Annual Communication of Progress (ACOP) report as an update on their progress towards 100% RSPO-certified sustainable palm oil. The ACOP reports are vital for communicating the successes of the RSPO. They are an essential tool for increasing transparency of RSPO member operations and for the assessment of members' progress towards certification and the RSPO's aim of transforming markets to make sustainable palm oil the norm.

We welcome the RSPO's efforts to support progress amongst its members by enforcing the ACOP process, and suspending and terminating members for non-submission of ACOP reports for two or three years, respectively.

However, there are significant issues with the ACOP process that need to be addressed.

Currently, the format of the ACOP reports and the information requested results in some members not reporting fully across their operations. For example, vertically integrated companies may only report progress for those operations directly relevant to their membership category, while others may not report across all operations globally.

Furthermore, we observe inconsistencies in the accuracy and completeness of the information submitted. A contributing factor to this is a lack of clear definitions and related guidance on the information to submit in the ACOP report.

We believe these current shortcomings of the ACOP process to be unfair on members who are fully and accurately completing their ACOP submissions for their entire scope of operations. We also believe this to severely reduce the ability to monitor and assess progress across RSPO membership. This affects the ability of the RSPO to report effectively on its impact and is a risk to the credibility of the RSPO Standard and all its members.

This will create a fairer system for all members, improve the quality and accuracy of information submitted, assist members in the ACOP submission process, and improve significantly the RSPO's

ability to monitor progress and its impact. Overall, this will increase the RSPO's credibility and that of its members.

THIS RESOLUTION PROPOSES:

THAT to address these issues and improve the robustness of the reporting process, the RSPO reviews the current system, to include a consultation on its strengths and weaknesses and membership needs, and to update the system accordingly by the date of the next ACOP submission. As a minimum this shall include:

- a. The development and implementation of a process to quality assure the information reported in the ACOP process.**
- b. The development and implementation of a process to resolve any identified issues with the ACOP report with the relevant members, such as the extension of the current system for non-submission of ACOPs.**
- c. Clear communication and ACOP reporting guidance to ensure that members report progress against their full scope of operations¹ in the ACOP reporting process.**
- d. The development of clear, publicly available, standardised definitions for the information requested in the ACOPs.**
- e. The development of a standardised system for compiling, storing and publishing the ACOP data in an accessible manner that allows members and users to download and analyse the reported data.**

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References:

¹ Full scope of operations includes all operations globally that apply irrespective of membership category.