

MINUTES OF MEETING
Market Development Standing Committee

Time : 20.02 - 21.25 (MYT) / 14.02 - 15.25 (CET)

Date : Tuesday, 24 September, 2024

Venue : Market Transformation Zoom

Attendees:

Name	Initial	Organisation	Representative Category
Eddy Esselink	EE	MVO	Co-Chair, P&T
Ian Suwarganda	IS	Golden Agri-Resources	Co-Chair, Grower IN
Anne-Laure Faure	ALF	WWF International	eNGO
Caroline Westerik-Sikking	CW	AAK	P&T
Harjinder Kler	HK	HUTAN	eNGO
Julian Walker-Palin	JWP	Retailers Palm Oil Group	Retailer
Mansuetus Alsy Hanu	MAH	Oil Palm Farmers Union	Grower SH
Marieke Leegwater	ML	Solidaridad	sNGO
Sergio Talocchi	ST	Natura & Co.	CGM
Tracey Gazibara	TG	Cheyenne Mountain Zoo	eNGO
Inke van der Sluijs	IVDS	RSPO Secretariat	Director, Market Transformation
Divya Bajpai	DB	RSPO Secretariat	Manager, Shared Responsibility
Christine Joan Spykerman	CJS	RSPO Secretariat	Malaysian office

Absent with apologies:

Name	Initial	Organisation	Representative Category
Jose Roberto Montenegro	JM	Agrocaribe	Grower RoW
Laura Schlebes	LS	AAK	P&T
Dr Surina Ismail	SI	MPOA/IOI	Grower MY

Invited but not in attendance:

Name	Initial	Organisation	Representative Category
Nil			

Agenda:

Time	Topic
20.02 - 20.03	1.0 Opening 1.1 Antitrust Statement Reading
20.03 - 20.03	2.0 Approval of the Agenda
20.03 - 20.06	3.0 MDSC Composition and Attendance 3.1 Terms of Reference
20.06 - 20.07	4.0 Approval of the Meeting Minutes - 23 May 2024
20.07 - 20.14	5.0 Updates: 5.1 RSPO Secretariat 5.2 SCT WG
20.14 - 20.24	6.0 Updates: 6.1 Shared Responsibility Working Group (SRWG)
20.24 - 20.31	7.0 PalmOil Scan App (Mandai Group, Singapore)
20.31 - 20.43	8.0 SustainPalm Project
20.43 - 21.21	9.0 MDSC Support for Unsold Independent Smallholders Credits
21.21-21.25	10.0 AOB - Meeting schedule 2024 - RT & GA 2024

DISCUSSION:

No.	Description	Action Points (PIC)
1.0	Antitrust Statement Reading	
	<p>EE and IS co-chaired the meeting and welcomed Members of the MDSC to the meeting. EE reminded the members of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All MDSC members will have to abide by the RSPO Antitrust law - MDSC follows a consensus-based decision making as outlined in the ToR - Members have to declare Conflict of Interest (CoI) under any items and excuse themselves to remain objective to the discussion. 	
2.0	Approval of the Agenda	
	The meeting Agenda was presented and accepted with no additions nor objections from the Members.	

3.0 MDSC Composition and Attendance

Constituency	Name - organisation	Attendance?	Signed ToR?
Growers (4)	Indonesia Ian Suwarganda - GAR (co-chair)	✓	✓
	Malaysia Dr. Surina Ismail, MPOA		
	RoW Jose Roberto Montenegro - Agrocaribe	✓	✓
	SH Mansuetus Alsy Hanu - SPKS	✓	✓
P&T (2)	Eddy Esselink - MVO (co-chair)	✓	✓
	Caroline Westerik-Sikking, AAK	✓	Laura S to sign
Retailers (2)	Julian Walker-Palin - Retailers Palm Oil Group	✓	e-signed
	VACANT	NA	
CGM (2)	Sergio Talocchi, Natura &Co LatAm	✓	
	VACANT	NA	
B&I (2)	VACANT	NA	
	VACANT	NA	
eNGO (2)	Harjinder Kler - HUTAN	✓	✓
	Anne-Laure Faure, WWF (alternate)	✓	✓
	Tracey Gazibara, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo	✓	✓
sNGO (2)	Marieke Leegwater, Solidaridad	✓	
	VACANT	NA	

MDSC members who have yet to sign and return the ToR to do so

IS welcomed Sergio Talocchi from Natura & Co, Latam who will represent Consumer Goods Manufacturer (“CGM”) to the MDSC.

IVDS shared the MDSC Composition and mentioned that there are still vacancies for Retailers, CGMs, B&I and social-NGO. IVDS further requested Members who have yet to execute the ToR to kindly sign and return it to CJS.

4.0 Approval of Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes from the previous MDSC Meeting ([23 May 2024](#)) were presented and accepted with no amendments.

5.0 Secretariat Updates

5.1 The Secretariat announced the following updates and news :

- Standards review. Concluded the stakeholder consultations. Comments reviewed and the Steering Group meets this week for decisions on outstanding topics.
- Stakeholder Awareness and Reputation [Study](#) shows Increased Certification Recognition and Reputational Improvement. This is the second Survey commissioned by RSPO and conducted by Echo Research.
- [Prisma](#) - RSPO’s new system replacing PalmTrace. It is still work in progress. The deadline for the development is by December 2024 and the implementation will either be at the end of December 2024 or early January 2025.
- [RT2024](#) will be held in Bangkok Thailand from 11-13 November, 2024
GA21 will be on 13 November, 2024
 - Call for nominees for the [Excellence Awards](#) by 4 October

5.2 Updates Supply Chain Traceability Working Group (SCT WG)

IVDS gave a brief recap on the SCT WG to formalise the decision to retire the SCT WG.

The objective of the MDSC Supply Chain Traceability Working Group is to provide guidance to the Secretariat on optimising the supply chain for uptake of CSPO and traceability requirements via the Terms of Reference (ToR) and work programmes of the MDSC.

- Request to retire and can revive when needed

The mandates of the SCT WG are as follows:

- Supply Chain Certification Standard guidance and revision: to start when P&C, ISH is done
- Explanation and revision of Supply Chain Certification Models to RSPO members: [new factsheets](#)
- Reporting uptake including data quality assurance: [RSPO website](#)
- Jurisdictional approach: other WG
- PalmTrace developments: prisma under subgroup of BoG
- Dual certification: members
- Support the Shared Responsibility Working Group in case implementation requires changes in the Supply Chain Certification Standard
- Oleochemicals and Palm Kernel Oil supply and sales (Task Force, retired)

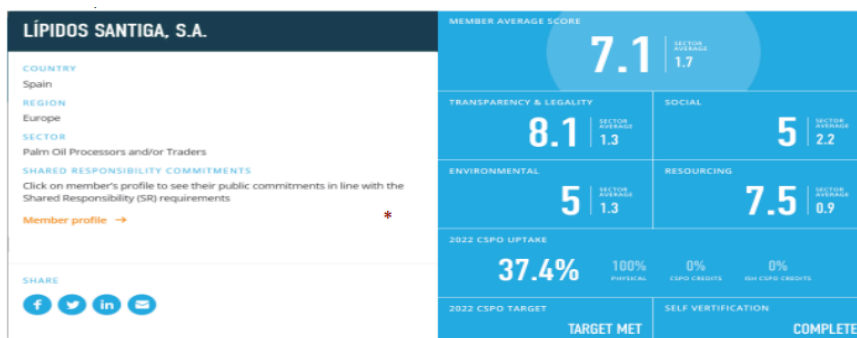
EE opined that if the SCT WG is retired, it should be available for revival when needed as there is specific expertise in SCT WG.

6.0 Updates RSPO Shared Responsibility Working Group (SRWG)

DB shared the main updates for the SR Scorecard, SRWG and SR Engagement.

- **SRWG**
 - 5th Virtual (34th) meeting 7th Aug 2024 → main topics:
 - **SR Scorecard [Announcement](#)** on 8th July:
 - Deadline to complete MyRSPO SR Section 5th August (internal- 20 August) → SR Scorecard will be updated on 27 Sept 2024.
 - Sanction mechanism - 1st warning letter (Drafted the letter and will be given to SRWG for approval)
 - Self Verification field new in MyRSPO → part of the SR average score (new scoring methodology can be found [here](#)) it was approved by SRWG without any objection.
 - New members from 5 September 2023 CSPO baseline → use the membership application (question 6 and 7)

- Alignment with Comms Unit - SR toolkit in Sept (announcement done on 12 Sep)
- Key SR documents (i.e. VM, factsheets, FAQ document, MyRSPO SR guidance, etc.) updated and will be translated into relevant languages.
- **SRWG:**
 - Updated SR Scorecard visuals



Next SRWG Meeting

- Proposal to have a SRWG meeting virtually on 1st October **instead of** the physical meeting in November
- Tentative agenda: Uptake targets 2025 (Year 6) approval, Results SR Scorecard will be published on 27th Sep 2024, Plan calls/SRWG activities in 2025, AOB.
 - Objective to have the Uptake targets endorsed by BoG in its November meeting (i.e. needs to be endorsed by MDSC by 30th October latest)
- **New SRWG members:**
 - **B&I** : Camille Maclet replaced Catarina VILALVA (BNP)

ML enquired whether the SR Unit is planning to prepare a dashboard for CSPKO. IVDS explained that there is no target for CSPKO for the Members due to the tightness in the market, hence there is no report on the CSPKO uptake.

7.0 PalmOil Scan App (Mandai Group, Singapore)

ALF gave a brief presentation on the PalmOil Scan App which will be officially launched in Singapore by Mandai Zoo (“Mandai”) next year. Mandai is in the process of populating its product database. Their initiative is to advocate for consumers to choose CSPO products. ALF suggested that RSPO Secretariat assist in expanding the database by connecting their members who sell products in Singapore with Mandai.

TG added that the PalmOil App is now available in several countries, including the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, and India, where the app is gaining

traction. TG mentioned that she is currently working with the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (“WAZA”) on a new draft of MOU with RSPO to include a way for retailers to help with providing a product database for the App. TG requested the Secretariat to help with building the database and the MDSC Members to provide ideas to expand the App.

IVDS expressed support for the initiative and the WAZA-RSPO MOU collaboration. She also mentioned that she has requested the RSPO Trademark Unit to assist in providing a list of products that carry the CSPO trademark to help further develop the app's product database.

ML then nominated the PalmOil App to be in running for the RSPO Excellence Award 2024. CW seconded the nomination. TG informed that WAZA will submit the PalmOil Scan App for the aforesaid Award.

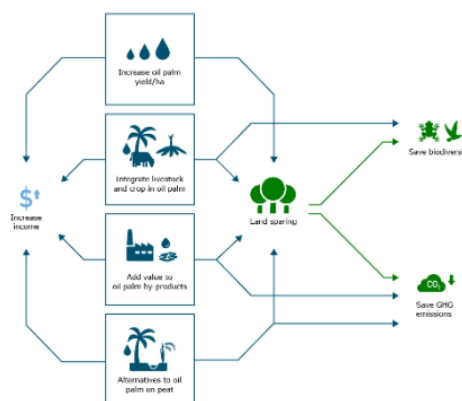
8.0 SustainPalm Project

A joint implementation program between Indonesia and The Netherlands to support sustainable palm oil production in synergy with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Universities and government NL-Indo

Topics:

- Increasing yield, crops and livestock integration
- Sustainable residue use
- Carbon & biodiversity rich landscapes



The Secretariat to invite Maja Slingerland of Wageningen University to the next MDSC Meeting to do a presentation on SustainPalm.

EE gave a brief overview on the SustainPalm Project, describing it as a step towards "Sustainability 2.0" in the palm oil sector. It's a joint initiative supported by the Dutch and Indonesian governments which focuses on increasing palm oil yields per hectare, integrating livestock and crop production and adding value by utilising by-products through a bio-based approach.

The Project is currently in a research phase, involving both Universities in the Netherlands and Indonesia, exploring the feasibility of the program's aim to develop sustainable practices and reduce the carbon footprint of palm oil production while contributing to biodiversity conservation and greenhouse gas emission reductions. The results will guide the program's implementation to promote a "landscape approach," focusing on land sparing and other sustainable land management strategies. EE then proposed to have more discussions and do a deep dive on the project during the next meeting.

CW raised questions about how the program fits into existing sustainability frameworks and expressed interest in learning more about how RSPO members can engage with SustainPalm and how it can be aligned with RSPO's sustainability objectives, though there will be challenges in business model viability and supply chain setup.

Few Members proposed to invite representatives from SustainPalm to present

	<p>further details at the next physical meeting in November. This will offer an opportunity to explore potential collaboration and stay informed about the latest developments in palm oil sustainability research. IVDS indicated that she'll contact Maja Slingerland to invite her for the next MDSC meeting.</p>	
<p>9.0 Independent Smallholders Credits</p>		
	<p>Last meeting we discussed data, activities, and communication campaigns on Independent Smallholder Credits.</p> <p>What can the MDSC do to support the uptake of IS credits or certified FFB from certified ISH groups?</p> <p>MDSC Members suggested the following during the last meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the Secretariat to set up a database for ISH to check and monitor the data compliance to meet EUDR requirements; 2. Have more outreach activities or avenues for Certified Smallholders to share their messaging and/or Smallholder Credit stories; 3. Increase the capacity of the Smallholders Unit in the Secretariat, i.e spread the responsibility of the Smallholders across the different Divisions within the Secretariat and Standing Committees not just in the SH Standing Committee. <p>IVDS revisited the Independent Smallholder Credits (“ISH”) topic, focusing on the need to support the uptake of ISH Credits and certified Fresh Fruit Bunches (“FFB”). There were three (3) key suggestions proposed previously for in depth discussions, namely, (i) the creation of a smallholder database to ensure compliance with EU Deforestation Regulation (“EUDR”) requirements; (ii) have avenues for certified ISH to share smallholder messaging and/or credit stories; and (iii) improving the Smallholder Unit’s capacity within the Secretariat.</p> <p>EE raised a question about the availability of current information and/or communication regarding the ISH, particularly in relation to the EUDR compliance, specifically, where can they find the information. The Members also addressed the need for better data management, monitoring and data transparency for ISH to comply with the upcoming EU Deforestation Regulation (“EUDR”).</p> <p>MAH emphasised the importance of maintaining a database of Certified Smallholders’ compliance data, including polygon maps and coordinate points, to facilitate traceability and compliance with EUDR requirements. MAH further shared insights on the efforts of smallholders who have already achieved RSPO certification, and the importance of maintaining accurate records for compliance with international regulations. He suggested that RSPO should facilitate a data management system that ensures Certified Smallholders’ information is available to buyers, but only with adequate privacy safeguards in place and in line with RSPO’s new Principles and Criteria (“P&C”).</p> <p>The Members discussed the complications of sharing smallholder data, particularly in the context of national systems highlighting the need for better</p>	<p>Discussion on MDSC support for unsold IS Credits on the agenda for next meeting</p>

	<p>access to national systems in producing countries, such as Indonesia and Malaysia, and all Smallholders should be included in their respective countries' national system capturing the necessary data to be EUDR compliance. It was noted that there is an ongoing challenge in balancing transparency and data security and the new EUDR compliance requirements. It was suggested that more systematic and accessible data collection would benefit both smallholders and buyers.</p> <p>ML and MAH further stressed on the need for improved outreach and better communication strategies as well as messaging and storytelling to promote the benefits of purchasing from RSPO-certified smallholders and supporting smallholders.</p> <p>In regard to the third point, IVDS informed that the Secretariat faced difficulties on where to place the Smallholders Unit as issues related to the Smallholders are things on the ground for the Smallholders and/or Groups to implement the Standards and finding markets and mechanisms to support the Smallholders. IVDS agreed that the Smallholders Unit should fall under different Divisions in the Secretariat and this is one of the workstreams in the Future Strategies of RSPO that will get attention of the Board's review early next year.</p> <p>For the second point, it has been mentioned that the Secretariat is developing stories on the ISH and there will be more communications on this during the RT as well as the presentation of certificates to the newly certified ISH.</p> <p>JWP suggested having a small central sustainability team embedded in the Secretariat to hold the process and goals and to disaggregate it into Operations teams to deliver it. JWP further suggested creating a searchable database of smallholder projects to help retailers align their ESG goals with their purchasing decisions and give the retailers communication tools to talk about for their marketing team.</p> <p>MAH updated the Members that a request for the inclusion of three (3) additional seats for Smallholders in the RSPO governance structure has been sent to the Board and they are waiting for a response from the Board. IVDS informed that she'll check on the request and revert. ML then proposed to keep the ISH Credit topic on the agenda for the next meeting to monitor progress and ensure smallholder representation.</p>	
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10.0 AOB		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Next meeting in 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Monday 11 November 9- 12h Bangkok ○ Who attends in person/virtual? ● Few MDSC Members suggested the following issues to be brought 	<p>Secretariat to send out email and Calendar Invites</p>
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	<p>back to the Agenda for the next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● SustainPalm - the university to provide more details for MDSC to review the relevance for Committee's work● ISH Discussions - to review progress of the ISH Credit Database communications and organisation● Regional Updates - how RSPO progress in the different Regions● MDSC Work plan - Reflect on Achievements in 2024 and Look ahead in 2025● RSPO Branding position - Status and Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">● ALF informed that WWF could present an insight on their PalmOil Scorecard during the opening Plenary (Market Outlook) Session at RT2024, if the Secretariat is interested. IVDS informed that she'll discuss it with the RT2024 Organising Committee.	
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