

MINUTES OF MEETING
Road to COP26 Taskforce

Time : 2000 - 2130 (MYT)
Date : Thursday, 8th April 2021
Venue : Zoom Conference Call

Attendees:

Name	Initial	Organisation	Representative Category
Anita Neville	AN	Golden Agri-Resources	Chair, Grower
Sian Morris	SM	Procter & Gamble	CGM
Stacey Philips	SP	Credit Suisse	FI
Steven Fairbairn	SF	Olam International Limited	Grower
Jeremie Gallon	JG	McLarty Associates	Observer
Eleanor Spencer	ES	Zoological Society of London	ENGO; Observer
Inke Van Der Sluijs	IVDS	RSPO Secretariat	
Kamal Prakash Seth	KPS	RSPO Secretariat	
Cameron Plese	CS	RSPO Secretariat	
Monisha Mohandas	MM	RSPO Secretariat	

Absent with apologies:

Name	Initial	Organisation	Representative Category
Colin d’Silva	FL	Cargill Incorporated	P&T
Gaëtan Etancelin	GE	Savonnerie Tropicale S.A	Grower
Fay Richards	FR	RSPO Secretariat	

Agenda:

Time / Item	Topic
1.	Antitrust Statement Reading
2.	Taskforce Member Introductions
3.	<p>Overview of Taskforce ToR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Taskforce Chair, with support from the RSPO Secretariat, has converted the original Taskforce ToR approved by the BoG into a draft campaign plan. The Chair will go through this document, inviting questions and inputs from Taskforce members

4.	<p>Discussion on Taskforce Logistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting schedule - External advisors and agency support
5.	<p>Discussion on Immediate Action Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakeholder mapping - COP26 Event Plan Submission
6.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Next Meeting Dates

DISCUSSION:

No.	Description	Action Points
1.0 Antitrust Statement Reading		
	<p>The Chair welcomed members of the Road to COP26 Taskforce to the meeting and reminded members of the following,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All TF members will have to abide by the RSPO Antitrust law - TF follows a consensus-based decision making as outlined in the ToR. - Members have to declare Conflict of Interest (Col) under any items and excuse themselves to remain objective to the discussion. 	
2.0 Taskforce Member Introductions		
	<p>As it was the first meeting for this Taskforce, all present in the call introduced themselves. The following are the Taskforce members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anita Neville (Chair) - Sian Morris - Stacey Philips - Steven Fairbairn - Colin d’Silva (absent with apologies) - Gaëtan Etancelin (absent with apologies) <p>In early April, RSPO signed a contract with McLarty Associates to help with government relations tasks. As the Road to COP26 TF seeks to engage governments and policymakers, a representative from McLarty</p>	

(Jeremie Gallon) attended the call.

Eleanor Spencer attended the first call as an observer to understand the scope of the TF and provide initial inputs from a NGO perspective.

3.0 Overview of Taskforce ToR

The TF Chair, with support from the RSPO Secretariat, has converted the original TF ToR approved by the BoG into a draft campaign plan (campaign deck). The deck is an outline of the campaign plan and is not definitive.

The Chair read out the key role and responsibilities of the TF.

The UK COP26 Presidency will be focusing on five campaigns of which the Road to COP26 TF will be based on the Nature campaign because it will:

- bring together the major producer and consumer countries of forest-risk commodities to agree collaborative actions to protect forests, while promoting development and trade.
- build momentum of efforts to shape policies, innovation and investment for transitions to sustainable agriculture, improving food, water and economic security.
- seek to increase the amount of public finance being directed towards nature, working with governments, international financial institutions, business and the investor community.

The goal of this campaign will be to ‘position the RSPO standards and multi-stakeholder engagement process as a global solution to delivering sustainably produced commodity supply chains, recognised within Green Trade Deals and international policy statements’.

The objectives of this campaign will be to:

- Secure investment in strengthened assurance systems to increase public and private sector, civil society and consumer confidence in sustainability standards to underpin green trade deals and due diligence systems (regulatory and voluntary)
- Strengthen the RSPO’s role as a globally recognised convenor, advocate and catalyst for sector wide transformation, showcasing its ability to convene civil society, government,

business and industry around a shared vision for sustainable palm oil that is inclusive of, but not limited to, RSPO certification.

- Reset to neutral the debate around sustainably produced palm oil, to enable a balanced conversation about CSPO and the RSPO's role in delivering change at an industry level.

Discussion Points from TF:

- To make the objectives SMART, it is necessary to understand what is considered a successful campaign and how we achieve it.
- We may not be able to reset the debate to neutral, but it is more convenient to create a constructive debate on sustainably produced palm oil and its positive elements.

The primary audiences for this campaign are governments and policymakers (UK, EU, USA, ASEAN, China, and India), financial institutions and C-suite decision makers within P&T, CGM and Retailers. The enabling targets (actors that may mobilise or influence primary audiences or create the right conditions for primary audiences to act) will be RSPO members and youth activists.

Discussion Points from TF:

- Considering that China and India are listed as priority market governments and due diligence priority governments are UK, EU, USA, ASEAN, it seems that there may be a difference in what is expected to be achieved by targeting these components, the approaches have to be different, and a decision needs to be made which component can be considered as an actual priority (if targeting both is considered too ambitious).
- McLarty has started mapping key influential members in the EU parliament who are involved in previous and current debates. This stakeholder mapping exercise will help the TF to identify priority governments when moving forward with the campaign.
- In North America and Europe, the main questions of focus when it comes to increasing uptake of CSPO are can the standard be trusted? How is it proven? Can the impacts be shown?
- Can this campaign set the grounds for diplomacy to be used by the Western Governments to influence the Asian governments leading to site specific Declarations like the Amsterdam Declaration?

The campaign is looking at three key messages as its pitch:

- Companies and Governments want due diligence and the

removal of risk from supply chains.

- Making the business case and drive demand
- Focus on progress not perfection; demonstrate the direction of travel is right, the methodology of multi-stakeholder platforms is sound.
 - Decade of Assurance
- We cannot do this alone. We call on companies, investors and governments to scale up adoption of certification, drive awareness and strengthen capacity in emerging economies.
 - Say NO to boycotts

Discussion Points from TF:

- There is external pressure in the EU for companies to do more than using voluntary schemes to do due diligence. So, the TF needs to be careful with the messaging and explain how we are complementary.
- The campaign should mention some of the existing tools the RSPO uses to make the business case on due diligence such as the Palm Trace system which can improve Traceability.

The campaign will be looking at five ‘asks’ that originates from the campaign objectives:

- Preference Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO) in trade deals, policy and procurement.
- Invest in Assurance
- Invest in Smallholders
- Buy certified
- Stop the boycott/No “Palm Oil Free” Claims

Discussion Points from TF:

- Need to include actors not in the sustainability line or palm oil line but have a role to play in pushing this campaign, in the stakeholder mapping and determine how to engage them.
- Urge RSPO members themselves to increase uptake of CSPO.

One of the ideas to push the uptake of CSPO is a positive palm oil pledge among C-suite decision makers to commit to investing towards position palm oil, shared responsibility commitment, commit to No palm oil free

<p>claims on and off pack during the WEF Davos event.</p> <p>To empower enabling targets (RSPO members and youth activists), two concept suggestions were provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Inconvenient Truth concept <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Using impacts data obtained from RSPO Secretariat as well as peer reviewed articles and studies to showcase information about sustainably certified palm oil. - Member’s toolkit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support advocacy and outreach programmes to guide members. - Developed with clear links to the ‘asks’ of the Road to COP26 campaign <p>Discussion Points from TF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Inconvenient Truth concept is interesting and a good idea. It will be great if the TF can find influential speakers such as David Attenborough to present. - The narrative for the Inconvenient Truth concept must be engaging audience emotionally and logically. - Need to be careful of what facts will be presented in this narrative/ presentation and acknowledge the fact that there are gaps in the system and the RSPO is working on resolving them. - The TF can engage with NGOs to help build up an appropriate and credible set of evidence which can be used in the narrative/ presentation. - Will it be possible to produce a series in Netflix on sustainable palm oil and have David Attenborough as the narrator? This idea is also being pitched to the TFA FACT Dialogue Taskforce. <p>The following recommendations as the next step were suggested by the Chair for the TF to review and approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakeholder mapping exercise is a priority, and the Secretariat should urge McLarty to move this forward. - Further define key messages and a set of clear limited asks based on the output from the Stakeholder mapping exercise. - Develop a brief for the development of the Inconvenient Truth style of shareable/ trainable deck targeted at young leaders and members. - Develop a brief for the Member’s Toolkit. - Develop an operating budget for key deliverables. 	<p>TF members to provide feedback and approval about the recommendations section of the campaign deck by Monday morning (12 April 2021).</p>
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4.0 Discussion on Taskforce Logistics

Meeting Schedule:

- Future TF meetings will be held monthly for an hour each.
- Materials will be provided for each meeting in advance.
- Road to COP26 TF meetings will be aligned with the MDSC meetings because the TF needs to provide a report back to the MDSC.

External Advisors and Agency Support:

- The RSPO Secretariat will be having support from McLarty Associates.
- The TF needs to develop briefs on the type of external communication support required, scope of work and budget. This external communication support will be for the Inconvenient Truth concept and Member’s Toolkit.

5.0 Discussion on Immediate Action Items

Stakeholder Mapping:

- McLarty Associates will be supporting the TF by conducting a key stakeholder mapping exercise.

COP26 Event Plan Submission:

- The deadline for the COP26 Event Plan submission is in May 2021.
- The RSPO Secretariat will develop a proposal which will be shared with the TF for input.

6.0 AOB

Three optional dates were given for the next meeting:

- 28 April 2021 (2000hours GMT+8)
- 4 May 2021 (2000hours GMT+8)
- 6 May 2021 (2000hours GMT+8)

Most attendees were fine with all the dates and timings given.

The 28 April date might clash with the OWG meeting.

KPS to double check on the timing and date for the OWG meeting and get back to MM.

MM to share the campaign deck and ToR with the TF members after the meeting.

Meeting Ended at 2130.

ANNEX:

In alphabetical order:

AOB – Any Other Business

BoG – Board of Governors

CGM – Consumer Goods Manufacturer

COP – Conference of Parties

MDSC – Market Development Standing Committee

OWG – Outreach Working Group

P&T – Processor & Trader

TF – Taskforce

ToR – Terms of Reference