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This multimedia report is designed to capture the spirit of the 16th Roundtable and summarises the event's key discussion and messages. To access videos of the sessions, follow the links throughout the report to RSPO's dedicated Vimeo conference site.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



WATCH RT16 HIGHLIGHTS

The majestic Mount Kinabalu provided a fitting backdrop, as a crowd of over 850 representatives from the global palm oil industry spanning 46 different countries geared up for three days of knowledge transfer at The Magellan Sutera Resort, Kota Kinabalu.

Held from 12 to 15 November 2018, the 16th Annual Roundtable Conference on Sustainable Palm Oil (RT16) saw juggernauts from the palm oil industry weigh in on matters close to heart. Themed A Renewed Commitment to Achieving Market Transformation, preparatory cluster sessions, plenary sessions and talks proved to be a time for self-examination and self-critique on past practices, with the view of making improvements and searching for what works best.

One thing was clear – issues such as sustainability leadership, exploitation and jurisdictional approaches permeated the mood at the event.

RSPO Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Darrel Webber set an uplifting tone in his opening address by

Marking a pivotal time for RSPO and its more than 4,000 global members, RT16 was framed around the key elements of the recent RSPO Principles and Criteria (P&C) review: halting deforestation, protecting peatlands, and strengthening human and labour rights.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (CONTINUED)

stressing the need for continuous improvement and incremental innovation, through shared responsibility.

"Since 2004, we have not stopped innovating. It is because we have created an ecosystem that has empowered and enabled us to innovate," he said.

Marking a pivotal time for RSPO and its more than 4,000 global members, RT16 was framed around the key elements of the recent RSPO Principles and Criteria (P&C) review: halting deforestation, protecting peatlands, and strengthening human and labour rights. This resulted in resulted in a draft P&C 2018, aimed to universally strengthen social development, environmental protection, and economic prosperity across the sustainable palm oil value chain.

The RSPO P&C are a set of environmental and social standards which member companies must comply with to meet RSPO certification standards. It is reviewed every five years and benchmarked against the International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling Alliance (ISEAL), a global membership association for credible sustainability standards.

The collaborative, multi-stakeholder P&C review process, launched in March 2017 and continued through October 2018. It received almost 11,500 individual stakeholder comments making it the most inclusive and comprehensive RSPO P&C revision to date. The review process also resulted in the subsequent development of an additional and separate standard specifically for independent smallholders, due for adoption in November 2019.

In his opening, Webber encouraged members to vote to adopt the P&C 2018 standard, which includes a number of new elements, including adopting no deforestation through the implementation of the High Carbon Stock Approach.

"We are endorsing a universal, transformative, and integrated agenda, intended to strengthen transparency and inclusivity in the RSPO system,

increase implementation of the RSPO standards, boost market uptake of sustainable palm oil through shared responsibilities, and create an enabling environment for our shared vision of market transformation.

"The new P&C is testament to the review process. Two 60-day public consultations, 18 face-to-face events in 13 countries, six Task Force meetings, and an unprecedented participation of civil society [made] it the most inclusive review of its kind to date, and for that we are proud," Webber said.

Once adopted, The P&C 2018 will come into effect immediately, with existing RSPO grower members given a one year transition period to implement the new standards. "Let there be no doubt that RSPO is moving forward incrementally and we want to bring the masses along, even though it is unglamorous. Not all revolutions are successful. The ones that can be considered a success stand the test of time and inspire mainstream. And for mainstream ideas to roll, you need to have consistent incremental innovation," he added.

Other topics of interest at RT16 included Sustainable Financing and the Responsible Consumption and Production in Emerging Markets as well as the release of RSPO's latest Impact Report.

True to the welcoming nature of Sabah, the Opening Ceremony was an insight into the rich culture of the indigenous state. Traditional dance and music by the renowned head-hunters, Murut of Sabah, introduced the audience to a welcoming ceremony for their warriors who had a successful hunting expedition. This included the Angalang and Maguambit dance, with hunters on *sumpit* (blowpipes).

Furthermore, a ministerial address was delivered to RT16 delegates by Datuk Seri Panglima Wilfred Madius Tangau, Deputy Chief Minister and State Minister of Trade and Industry, Sabah.

RSPO.

DELEGATES OVERVIEW

RT16 PARTICIPANTS







NORTH AMERICA	40
Costa Rica	1
Canada	4
Guatemala	2
Mexico	1
United States of America	32
LATIN AMERICA	8
Brazil	1
Colombia	4
Ecuador	3
AFRICA	15
Cameroon	1
Côte D'Ivoire	5
Gabon	1
Ghana	2
Kenya	1
Monrovia, Liberia	1
Nigeria	1
Sierra Leone	2
South Africa	1

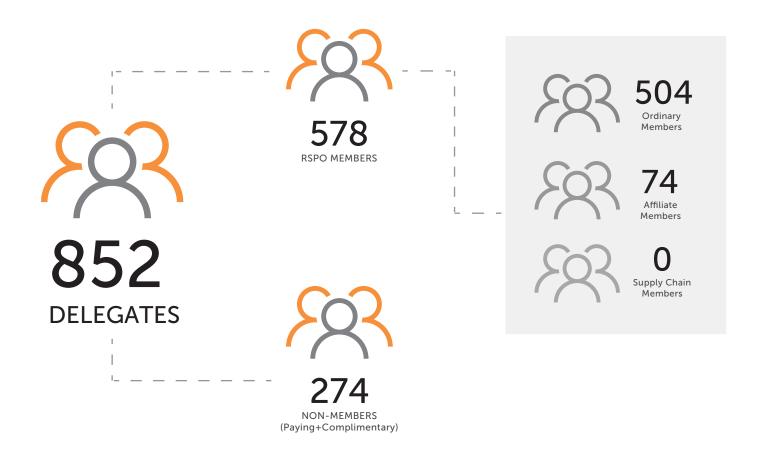
EUROPE	126
Belgium	5
Denmark	4
Finland	2
France	11
Germany	9
Holland	1
Luxembourg	2
Norway	2
Spain	1
Sweden	2
Switzerland	9
The Netherlands	38
United Kingdom	40
(Great Britain)	

ASIA	613
Brunei	1
India	6
Indonesia	204
China	7
Japan	40
Hong Kong	1
Korea, South	1
Malaysia	272
Philippines	3
Singapore	63
Thailand	15

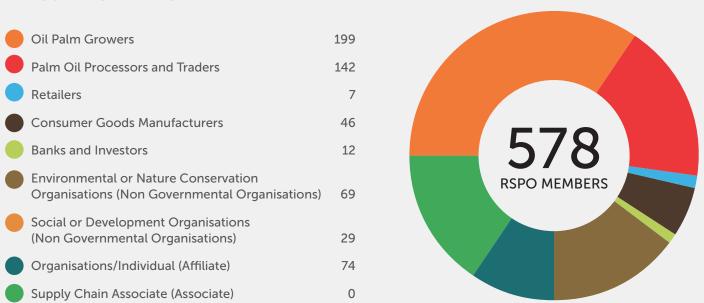
AUSTRALASIA / OCENIA	18
Australia	3
New Zealand	2
Papua New Guinea	12
Solomon Islands	1

DELEGATES OVERVIEW (CONTINUED)

REGISTRATION BY MEMBERSHIP



INDUSTRIES REPRESENTED



WELCOME ADDRESS

DATUK DARREL WEBBER

Chief Executive Officer, RSPO





Incremental innovation has been instrumental in mainstreaming and transforming the landscape of sustainable oil palm plantations and sustainable palm oil production across the globe.

RSPO Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Darrel Webber said the establishment of RSPO in 2004 marked a revolution in sustainable palm oil as the non-profit organisation went on to create an ecosystem that allowed stakeholders to work together to improve upon the original idea of certified sustainable palm oil.

Drawing lessons from world renowned political and social rebellions, such as the 1789 French Revolution, the 2011 Arab Spring as well as the Apple Revolution, which introduced the innovative iPhones and influenced the world's smart devices, Webber shared that every revolution should be measured based on the longevity of its ideals and principles post revolution.

In other words, each revolution should result in sustainable ideas that continue to transform the practices it sought to overthrow in the first place.

"By continually improving upon the original ideas of an innovation, you open up pathways for more people to use it and inspire the hearts and minds of the mainstream," said Webber as he drew attention to the idea of incremental innovation.

Emphasising that incremental innovations are extremely impactful and profitable because it allows mainstreaming, Webber said RSPO has been chartering a path with this in mind since 2004.

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"In 2005, we created the first definition of what sustainable palm oil is. In 2007, we reviewed it and created a new standard. We also developed our complaints mechanism which was crucial to RSPO as it allowed our stakeholders to engage us on crises and issues happening at the ground. In 2008, we created the new planting procedure, enabling our growers to set aside high conservation areas the size of about 350,000 football fields," explained Webber.

He also spoke about how in subsequent years, RSPO raised their credibility through third party accreditation; continuously reviewed and made improvements to the RSPO Principles & Criteria (P&C) to tackle various issues; increased transparency by revealing concession boundaries; launched RSPO NEXT; set up an assurance task force to improve quality assurance and launched the Smallholder Strategy to change the way RSPO engaged with the smallholder fraternity.

At present, the RSPO community was looking at sustainable approaches to High Forest Cover Countries and Landscapes in some of the world's last remaining tropical rainforests in its P&C review. The meet also viewed the development of the standard for independent smallholders in its effort to be more inclusive. Webber encouraged all attendees to reflect on the latest P&C review to understand what they wanted from this revolution that started 14 years ago.

"Let us not doubt that RSPO is moving forward incrementally. We want to bring the masses along. We know it is completely unglamorous, but we must do so if we want to effect permanent and real change in the hearts of minds of the mainstream," said Webber.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

PROFESSOR KAI CHAN

University of British Columbia's Sustainability and Conservation Scientist





Presenting the keynote speech at RT16, sustainability and conservation scientist, Professor Kai Chan of University of British Columbia spoke on his research in sustainable sector transformation.

"Transforming supply chains is inherently central to sustainable pathways, and it's going to take a continued evolution and integration of several different approaches to achieve sustainability goals," said Chan.

He added that most current systems are incentive-based and focus primarily on a Payment for Ecosystems Services (PES) concept, where in essence companies and manufacturers are paid for "not polluting" the environment.

These PES programmes place the burden and responsibility of payment on end-users, based on the idea that "you should pay for what you receive" and that companies that stop degrading should be paid for it, instead of the burden being equally spread.

Chan suggested a complete redesign of current palm oil supply chains in order to avoid these outcomes.

"Mainstream PES models generally exclude the supply chain, including consumers, retailers, distributors, and so on." Chan explained that as we begin to reimagine PES models, we need to focus on involving the entire supply chain by including companies and individuals.

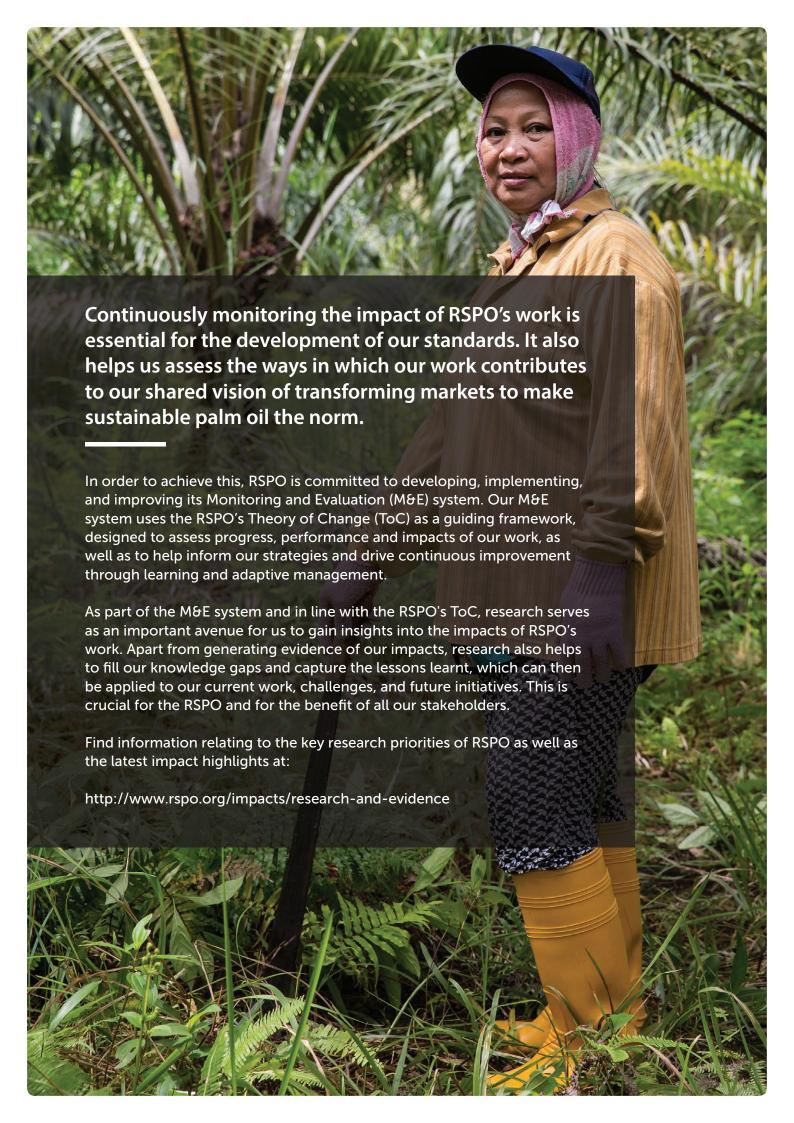
"Mainstream models mostly avoid paying those who are already taking positive actions, sending signals that positive actions are worthless. Reimagined models could reward brands who do good," Chan said, adding that such a model would also reduce the need for the traditional high monitoring costs, as this would be naturally replaced by peer monitoring.

"What is needed is a shared responsibility approach. Certification is the primary tool for transforming supply chains; however, there are common challenges," Chan said. According to Chan, common challenges include cost, residual impacts and labour.

Chan feels that many certifications' efforts tend to stay away from consumers in fear of scaring them away, but he believes engaging consumers is the only way to grow demand and pull change in the supply chain. Although a common misconception is that consumers will "never pay more" for sustainable efforts, Chan explained that evidence shows consumers are increasingly conscious of sustainability, signalling the ability for a global consumer approach to be effective.

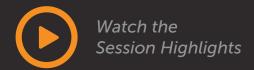
Chan suggests harvesting the power of consumers by building sustainability costs into prices to reduce the need for consumers to intentionally buy sustainable palm oil. This could increase the funding needed to leverage change.

Transforming supply chains is inherently central to sustainable pathways, and it's going to take a continued evolution and integration of several different approaches to achieve sustainability goals



SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP: POLICY, PRACTICE AND PARTNERSHIPS

PREPARATORY CLUSTER 1





MODERATOR

Professor Erik Meijaard

Director, Borneo Futures Sdn Bhd & Chair, IUCN Oil Palm Task Force

SPEAKERS

Lim Sian Choo

Group Head of Corporate Secretarial Services & CSR, Bumitama Agri Ltd

Fenneke Brascamp

Program Manager Sustainable Landscapes, Aidenvironment Asia

Anne Rosenbarger

Southeast Asia Commodities Manager in the Food, Forests and Water Program, World Resources Institute

John Payne

Executive Director, PONGO Alliance

The discussion covered an array of topics, generally on grower's sustainability of oil palm and under the RSPO's certification more specifically. It saw a growing realisation that there is a need to look beyond individual states and concessions, and understand how sustainability functions both on the social and environmental sides across larger landscapes.

Lim Sian Choo presented her views on community partnerships for sustainable landscape conservation. According to Lim Sian Choo, building a strong community is important.

"With the adoption of the NDPE in Bumitama, whatever we want to do with communities has become a system and a process, it's no longer all talk. It is something that is in our system, which we must embrace. It is no longer the plantation which is the focus, the community is equally important.

"When we marry stakeholders together, the challenges are there, including multi-stakeholder satisfaction, balance, relevance and benefit. Our approach is integrating the plantation with the surrounding area, working on a partnership on collaborative basis with experts including NGOs, local communities and the government," Lim added.

Fenneke Brascamp ran through guidelines for social High Conservation Value (HCV) remediation and compensation procedures. She said there are six categories of HCV, the first

SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP: POLICY, PRACTICE AND PARTNERSHIPS (CONTINUED)

three being environmental values, the rest are social values which are not developed for oil palm plantations.

"Not all companies were aware of RSPO's guideline to grower member companies to conduct HCV assessments prior to land development for plantation back in 2005. Some companies bought already developed land without HCV assessment which resulted to plantation development without assessment.

"To address this issue, and to provide grower companies with possibility to compensate HCV losses, RSPO developed the remediation and compensation guidelines. Support was given to these companies to disclose their HCV loses and come to implementation monitoring of the plans. At the end of last year, 226 management units disclosed their liabilities which resulted to more than 75,000 ha of conservation liability," Brascamp added.

Anne Rosenbarger spoke about addressing deforestation risks with Global Forest Watch Pro, which is in the business of harnessing the power of remote sensing, cloud computing and big data. Then, utilising that information in understanding what is happening in forests around the world, specifically how those changes relate to commodities and supply chains.

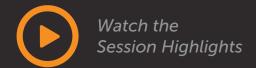
She also gave examples of specific use cases with partners in the RSPO context, and how to apply the technology.

John Payne explained, the PONGO (Palm Oil NGO) Alliance which sees oil palm growers, related businesses, biologists and NGOs try to jointly identify, support and help implement programmes that sustain wild populations of orangutans, and other wildlife species across landscapes that encompass protected areas, forest remnants and plantations.

Links to the presentations can be obtained at https://rt.rspo.org/c/rt16-presentation/

STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE OF SMALLHOLDER FARMERS

PREPARATORY CLUSTER 2





MODERATOR

Ashwin Selvaraj

Head of Smallholder Programme, RSPC

SPEAKERS

Rob Nicholls

General Manager of Programs & Projects Plantation, PT Musim Mas

Sheila Senathirajah

Program Director for the Palm Oil Initiative Program WildAsia

Mohamed K Kamara

General Manager, Natural Habitats – NedOi

In this session, Mohamed K Kamara presented an inclusive model for independent smallholders in Africa, with a focus on Sierra Leone. NedOil is part of the National Habitats group, that produce and process organic palm oil with a network of over 2000 independent smallholders.

"Our farmers are scattered over 111 villages, within a 75km radius. Grouped into farmer free schools, each school has an executive elected by the group. We try our best to legalise the group by first giving them land titles and grants," said Mohamed, adding that they regularly conduct capacity building in best management practices, agricultural practices, and health θ safety compliances, as well as land and human rights.

"Africa needs support for its farmers, which include improved planting materials, access to local and global markets, access to finance to buy farm inputs, technical support to grow other food crops etc. However, the legality issues in Africa is very challenging because of all the different bodies and agencies involved. The farmers have their own right to their land, and in fact, they see that getting land titles is needless as they already have the land. So, we really must go down to teach the farmers the importance of getting legal documents to the land and its entitlement. We, as group managers, need to try and secure land titles for the farmers," he added.

"Certification is key, but it should not be the entry point for smallholder farmers, especially the ones with one or two hectares. Collaboration is key, and we need to go down the usual

STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE OF SMALLHOLDER FARMERS (CONTINUED)

standards, as they can only be sustainable if they have the right equipment, knowledge and access. Most importantly is strengthening the relationship with the farmers."

Sheila Senathirajah felt there is a huge need to represent independent smallholders.

"Some challenges that we faced in the past and how we solve it is to go down on to the ground to really understand their problems. We want to support small farmers by understanding who they are and develop programs that are simple, clear and adaptable by them. For long-term sustainability, we must create things that are adaptable to them, we must go back to what is important to them and build our programmes around that. Working directly with the farmers has really helped us. It helps to see the issues first-hand, hear them up straight," she said, going on to share WildAsia's methodologies with their smallholder programme.

"We are dealing with an older generation because farming is not sexy in Malaysia anymore and a lot of the youth have moved out. So that is an issue as well. You must take into consideration that we deal with the land owners and management, so those are challenges that needs to be addressed to create something long lasting."

"Legality is very hard to deal with. We sit down with the farmers and put it all on the table and deal with it on a case to case basis. Many of them are national issues where the local government has to step in, but most of the time they don't know the basic boundaries and rights. Issues that you can't deal with, we talk to other agencies and bodies to help them out. This is the whole strength of group management."

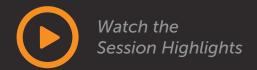
Rob Nicholls assured they were working with smallholders on a very large basis.

"We are involved in all aspects of the supply chain. Smallholders are small business people, where development, training and cooperation is required. If they stand alone, they suffer the issues of poor-quality seedlings, lack of finance, technology, etc. It is how we coordinate to improve their livelihoods. There is a role for everyone to play, including NGOs, finance institutions and local agencies and the government. We are all here for a sustainable future in palm oil and a part of it is the growth of the smallholders," he added.

Links to the presentations can be obtained at https://rt.rspo.org/c/rt16-presentation/

SUPPLY CHAIN TARGETS AND PROGRESS

PREPARATORY CLUSTER 3





MODERATOR

Mark Wong

Head of Downstream Sustainability, Sime Darby Plantation Berhad

SPEAKERS

Inke van der Sluijs

Head of European Operations. RSPC

Jalal Sayuti

Group Manager, Gapoktan Tanjung Sehati

Dave McLaughlin

Sr. Advisor - Strategy, Conservation International

Andreas Knoell

Secretary General, FONAF

The session was interactive and covered the supply chain targets looking into best practices and progresses. Questions were thrown at the audience, engaging them to define their understanding of the processes.

Inke van der Sluijs presented data on the progress of regional targets. "In successful market trends transformation, credits play a very important role. It is not always possible for consumer goods manufacturers or retailers to immediately switch for their products or ingredients, but they can achieve their 100% commitment today because they can cover their volume by credits. Smallholder credits are especially important as they incentify smallholders for the change that they have created. Although RSPO Credits have been criticised, as an RSPO community, we can understand that it is a huge effort for smallholders to become certified and we need to support them by rewarding them for their efforts."

Jalal Sayuti revealed that all smallholders face the same problems. "Although we are from different backgrounds, our purpose is the same, we want to plant oil palm. However, we have realised it is not as easy as it looks as there is a gap. After harvesting and selling the fruit, the challenges lie in pricing and the unfair treatment from the mills on the independent smallholders. And so, we've come to realise that there is a need to form a group."

The audience broke up into groups representing regions to discuss the difference in practices.

SUPPLY CHAIN TARGETS AND PROGRESS (CONTINUED)

Dave McLaughlin felt the real market transformation is about transformative production systems. The Theory of Change really is about leveraging market drivers to transformational change in production practices, by being able to bring demand to production needs to drive change on the ground.

"There is a big shift in terms of demand coming from Europe, for a less risky place to buy. It is a very dynamic situation and we need to recognise the current trajectory in deriving the demand on the ground."

Andreas Knoell shared about the new working group on shared responsibility of the supply chain. "It doesn't matter if you are producing as a mill or not, you need to be legally compliant and will have to make sure that workers' rights are implemented."

Links to the presentations can be obtained at https://rt.rspo.org/c/rt16-presentation/

JURISDICTIONAL APPROACHES: DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE AND DEFORESTATION-FREE PALM OIL PREPARATORY CLUSTER 4





MODERATOR

Dr Gary Theseira

Special Functions Officer, Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Malaysia (MESTECC)

SPEAKERS

(Pak) Yulhaidir

Head of Regency, Seruyan District, Central Kalimantan

Frederick Kugan

Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sabah Forestry Department

Patricia Serrano

REDD+ Component Coordinator & Financing PROAmazonía, United Nations Development Programme In this robust session, moderator Dr Gary Theseira debunked myths surrounding Jurisdictional Approaches (JA), revealing the truth behind delivering sustainable and deforestation-free palm oil.

(Pak) Yulhaidir stated that with the production of palm oil, farmers must imbibe principles in their systems for sustainable farming.

"It is not an easy and cheap process, however there are many products and programmes available. There are still plenty of challenges that we face in the development of a more sustainable system for Seruyan. There are many stakeholders involved in the process of our certification, who have put in a lot of initiative towards our wellbeing. Incentives that we are working on is to assist them in obtaining certification and providing the necessary training to scale up."

Frederick Kugan went on to reveal the palm oil landscape in Sabah. "JA is necessary for competitiveness as well as to address issues concerning labour, land and rights. It is cost effective and provides better access to the premium market. All this is not possible without state involvement," he said.

The previous state government approved the initiative of the Sabah Jurisdictional Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (JCSPO) Initiative. It is a ten-year initiative adopted in 2015 to bring all oil palm plantations in Malaysian to be certified under RSPO.

JURISDICTIONAL APPROACHES (CONTINUED)

"It is a complementary effort, JCSPO brings standards that are widely accepted by the international market and our core members include government agencies, industry players and NGOs. Sabah Forestry Department kicked off the initiative contributing RM1 million followed by many others who have contributed in cash and kind. We have developed the first five-year action plan, followed by the Year One Action Plan which will include an HCV-Compensation Working Group, FPIC Working Group and Smallholders Working Group. JA is a pragmatic approach, despite the pessimistic comments received. You have to be open about its use. The government feels that it should not just be imposing the standards, but also help and support farmers to obtain it. If the JA doesn't work, I don't know what else will," Kugan claimed.

Patricia Serrano presented the land use plan of Ecuador. According to her, the national development plan was established in 2017 to reduce deforestation. The REDD+ National Action Plan was issued in 2016 and defines the policies and measures to reduce deforestation and forest degradation.

"We have different agencies on a national level, and we are all working together to bring in the JA. In the last 10 years, we have seen the gross deforestation rate reduced by 27%. 28.8 million tons of CO2eq were reduced between 2009-2014. This has been reported at the UN Framework of Climate Change. Our achievements in terms of traceability, transparency and origin, are astounding. We can now identify the plantation, from which the palm export is sourced and how it was produced."

"By 2025, Ecuador's Inter-Institutional Committee on Sustainable Palm Oil is planning to double the production and triple the exports, increasing productivity of at least 30% without compromising areas with high conservation values. We have a national forest monitoring system to have information on the state of forests at the local level. Local initiatives are complimentary to the national initiatives. In Ecuador, there is no expansion, the higher standard of palm oil has been reduced, proving that we are operating on a different context. The idea is to use the areas that have already been degraded and use pastures instead of forests," she added.

Links to the presentations can be obtained at https://rt.rspo.org/c/rt16-presentation/

THE RESEARCH AGENDA: 5W'S AND 1H

PREPARATORY CLUSTER 5





MODERATOR

Dr Gary Theseira

Special Functions Officer, Ministry of Energy Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Malaysia (MESTECC)

SPEAKERS

Dr Kristin Komives

Impacts Director, ISEAL Alliance

Professor Erik Meijaard

Director, Borneo Futures Sdn Bhd & Chair, IUCN Oil Palm Task Force

Dr Jennifer Lucey

Programme Manager for SEnSOR Programme & Knowledge Exchange Fellow, University of Oxford

Oi Soo Chin

Impacts & Evaluation Director, RSPC

This session saw an engaging discussion dissecting the various who, what, when, where, how and why of the oil palm research agenda.

Dr Kristin Komives presented the steps RSPO is taking to comply with the Impacts Code. "We have seen steady growth in the number of studies, particularly in the last 5 years, but there are some limitations. We have a lot more evidence on coffee and forestry than we do on palm oil, and that's all in a limited number of countries. Most compare certified and non-certified, but not looking at the changes over time. We are making progress, but we are not as far as we would like to be."

Komives felt that it is possible to synthesise the results that are out there. "ISEAL is involved in the synthesis of research on conservation, the adoption of practices, business benefits and the social impacts of sustainability standards."

In his presentation, Professor Erik Meijaard compared 3 studies on RSPO certification, orangutan and forest loss. Each study had different findings. "The difference lied in location, sampling methodology, parameters and sample sizes. It is understood that different analyses will result in different outcomes. The RSPO certification is also not perfect, orangutan loss and deforestation continue. Having said that, the RSPO certification seems to offer more environmental and economic benefits and further improvement of the Principle & Criteria may be needed to address these issues."

THE RESEARCH AGENDA: 5W'S AND 1H (CONTINUED)

Dr Jennifer Lucey presented the impacts of RSPO certification on smallholders' land use planning.

She discussed the studies done by members of the SEnSOR Programme, focusing on interactions between social and environmental factors in the smallholder context.

Oi Soo Chin, in her presentation, stressed the need to support the independent researchers.

"The research agenda is important to help us to understand performances and impacts of our certification, it will be used to test and validate our Theory of Change. It is also very helpful for us to reach out to the research community, to foster collaboration and research partnerships on a global scale to address the gaps and challenges," she added.

Links to the presentations can be obtained at https://rt.rspo.org/c/rt16-presentation/

ASSURANCE! HAVE WE DONE ENOUGH?

PREPARATORY CLUSTER 6





MODERATOR

Paul Wolvekamp

Advisor, BothEnds

SPEAKERS

Aminah Ang

Head of Certification. RSPC

Daryll Delgado

Labour Task Force Lead, RSPC

Aryo Gustomo

Global RSPO Accreditation Manager, SGS Indonesia

Sanjiv Singh

Social Competence Manager, Accreditatior Services International GmbH A session that addressed the shortcomings and changes in the accreditation process, moderator Paul Wolvekamp took the audience on a journey, questioning the intensity of accountability.

According to Aminah Ang, the RSPO Certification Systems
Document for Principles & Criteria sets out to strengthen the
whole assurance process for Certification Bodies and growers.

In one of the updates, she stated that companies need to declare all mills and estates, and they need to be certified within five years of membership.

"Since it was implemented on 1 July 2018, those who were members before that date are given five years from that date," she explained, adding that details to the revised document can be downloaded from the RSPO website.

Aryo Gustomo presented on the challenges and opportunities with RSPO's New Planting Procedure (NPP) verification.

"NPP is a set of assessments and verification activities conducted by growers and certification bodies prior to new palm oil development. New constitutes land planned for oil palm planting," he said, reminding that the NPP was proposed at the RSPO General Assembly in November 2008 and formalised in May 2009.

"RSPO has put in a lot of effort with certification bodies (CBs) in the workshops. During the workshop, RSPO gives updates and highlights on NPP. It would be good if CBs can sit down with

growers, however, RSPO is already doing the necessary work already," Gustomo said.

Sanjiv Singh explained the role of ASI, which performs oversights on the CBs and work as a service provider to RSPO.

"We realised that social competence needed to be strengthened. We've found that both non-conforms and adequate evaluation is high. Some of the harder to audit issues, we address that by doing internal training. Global risk indexes are looked into and we evaluate the schemes and audits that are taking place in those countries. We also look at producing white papers on issues that are very hard to audit," he added.

"We live in a world that is constantly changing, so there is always something new and better that can be done. There's a lot more to be done (in terms of) best practices, certification etc," Singh concluded.

Daryll Delgado felt that growers need to collaborate with companies.

"We know that the workers in the palm oil sector are poor workers. Some of them are very vulnerable – migrants, refugees, women, young, indigenous people, and companies are in the best position to improve their lives. They also need assurance as much as they need to provide assurance to their buyers and customers. Certification costs a lot of money, but we need to understand the kind of investment certification units are putting out to get certified. They need help as much as the auditors do. They are the ones who need to show the auditors that they understand the standards and are doing the necessary. These growers operate in areas where it's not necessarily easy to do the right thing. Whatever tools we are providing to CBs and auditors, I feel we need to also provide to growers," she said.

"Part of Resolution 6h, where the Labour Task Force is concerned, really helped us to push what we've been wanting to do for labour. Is there a system and mechanism to determine if we have done enough? Much of the work that we've done in the year and a half is creating awareness. It may not sound sexy or impactful, but the work is very important. I'd like to claim that one of the key inclusions is the new and improved labour policies. Standards are a first step, but implementation and effectiveness are two very critical steps. We keep getting reports from media, NGOs in assessments and audits that labour issues are not detected in audits but in other investigations. One of the complaints we receive from CBs is that NGOs have more access to the issues on the ground. We remind them that they too have the access and that they have the power to get into the issues and go to the ground as well."

Links to the presentations can be obtained at https://rt.rspo.org/c/rt16-presentation/

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION IN EMERGING MARKETS

Watch the Session Highlights

PREPARATORY CLUSTER 7



MODERATOR

Kamal Prakash Seth

India Representative - Outreach & Engagement, RSPO

SPEAKERS

Girish Deshpande

Global Business Planning. Procter & Gamble

Mark Eastham

Senior Manager, Sustainability - Global Food Business, Walmart

Felicia Liu

Palm OII Lead, People's Movement to Stop Haze (PM Haze)

Andrian Pramana

National Engagement Coordinator, Youth in Sustainability

Bhavna Prasad

Director, Sustainable Business, WWF India

Isaac Abban-Mensah

Sustainability Controller, Africa, Wilmar International Ltd Moderator, Kamal Prakash Seth, turned the session into an interactive audience driven session, after the presentations. Discussions revolved around finding new ideas to create a balance between preservation and growth in emerging markets, as well as exploring possible models to create a win-win situation for CSPO uptake in emerging markets. This included opportunities and challenges for responsible sourcing policies, supply chain engagement, and consumer awareness campaigns.

Isaac Abban-Mensah presented the challenges and best practices of sustainable palm oil production and growth in Africa.

"In this region, the tradition, culture, and diets of people are involved in parallel with this commodity. So, for most application, it presents an irreplaceable commodity and you don't really have an alternative. So, it's very crucial for food security in this region," Abban-Mensah said, adding that 27% of population in rural areas face some form of food insecurity.

"There is a big supply deficit in Africa, as the population increases"

Bhavna Prasad gave a background on India's palm oil imports and consumption.

"We are the largest importer and consumer of palm oil, importing about 22% of the world's palm oil and 17% of global consumption. We have a deficit in terms of edible oil production and there is a

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION IN EMERGING MARKETS (CONTINUED)

huge gap in production and consumption and that's why we rely significantly on imports from Malaysia and Indonesia," she said.

"Most of the palm oil in India goes into edible oils and 13% goes into FMCG sector or non-edible use. So, currently the numbers of import are going to go up to 85% in the next 5 years. Our trends are continued interest and increase of palm oil consumption in the country and to drive the market we need to be talking to the larger importers, traders, refiners who have the greater stake in consumption," Prasad added.

Andrian Pramana presented on the 2K programme on educating young people on sustainable palm oil and capacity building. He also touched on digital campaigns and its reach to the youth.

Felicia Liu gave a brief on the movement and its work since the haze issues cropped in Singapore. She presented on campaigns such as "We Breathe What We Buy" with consumer guides, posters and publications.

Both Mark Eastham and Girish Deshpande spoke about the connection between growers and end consumers, while playing the role of businesses.

The audience then broke out into focus groups for further discussion.

Links to the presentations can be obtained at https://rt.rspo.org/c/rt16-presentation/

RSPO.

HALTING DEFORESTATION & PEATLAND PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

PREPARATORY CLUSTER 8





MODERATOR

Ginny Ng

Global Conservation Lead, Wilmar International Ltd

SPEAKERS

Dr Belinda Howell

Representative. Retailers Palm Oil & Sov Groups

Grant Rosoman

Co-Chair, HCS Approach Steering Group

Paulina Villalpando

Executive Director, HCV Network

Faizal Parish

Director, Global Environment Centre

Dato' Paduka Ir Keizrul Abdullah

Director, Wetlands International

In this session, moderator Ginny Ng led the discussion on halting deforestation and peatland protection and conservation, and collaboration and compliance was the order of the day.

Dr Belinda Howell agreed that there is a lot more than can be done with market uptake in terms of buying CSPO.

"All 13 retailers met their targets to source 100% CSPO by 2015 and some earlier. And over the last few years, we've transitioned to report on group global palm oil use. 96% of global palm oil use is certified. Impressively, 93% of that is via physical supply chain options, being segregated and mass balanced," she said.

"We have to meet companies' no deforestation, no peat, no exploitation policies and then we have to prove it through certification through RSPO revised P&C. If we don't, we can expect more campaigns like Iceland supermarket, pledging to phase out palm oil in its own brand products," Howell added.

Grant Rosoman stated that the RSPO standard can become a no-deforestation standard that delinks certified sustainable palm oil production from deforestation.

"The HCS Approach aims to put no-deforestation in practice, but first, we must identify which areas are forest and which are not forest which can be developed," he claimed.

RSPO RSPO

HALTING DEFORESTATION & PEATLAND PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION (CONTINUED)

"We have to work with the local communities and players in the landscape to promote conservation through incentives and benefits."

Paulina Villalpando spoke about HCV-HCSA assessments. "It wasn't until 2014 that we got to thinking how we could use these two methodologies (HCV and HCSA) at the same time, by the same teams on the ground. We set up the working group, then. In 2016, our governance bodies decided we need to collaborate more formally to develop a manual to explain assessments."

In view of the revised RSPO P&C on peatlands, Faizal Parish ran through the key changes with focus on the ban on new planting on peat.

"There is a misunderstanding with this. There is no conflict in the policy. What it is saying that from now on if you are wanting to develop new plantings on peat, you will not get certified. But if you already have previous plantations on peat, maybe developed 20-30 years ago but not entered RSPO process, there is no barrier but you may need to meet other requirements but there is no blocking on certification," he clarified.

Dato' Paduka Ir Keizrul Abdullah presented on assessing the feasibility of replanting on peatlands through the drainability assessment procedure.

"This is not something new, there is a drainability assessment required prior to planting of peat. Our working group is hoping to have the assessment available by early 2019," he said.

"If there is a risk of serious flooding between two crop cycles, we need to plan appropriate rehabilitation or alternatives such as paludiculture."

Links to the presentations can be obtained at https://rt.rspo.org/c/rt16-presentation/

RSPO.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION: A JOURNEY THROUGH DSF'S MEDIATION PROCEDURES

PREPARATORY CLUSTER 9



MODERATOR

Brenda Brainch

Independent Mediator, DSF Consultant

This session took a hard look at the Dispute Settlement Facility (DSF) mediation process, its benefits and challenges.

According to Brenda Brainch, DSF is growing at a steady pace. DSF is RSPO's in-house facilitation service to support RSPO members (notably growers), local communities and other stakeholders to effectively use mediation to help resolve disputes.

It facilitates disputant parties to gain access to information, contacts, know-how and experiences to assist them in resolving palm oil production-related disputes, in cases where at least one party is an RSPO member. It also aims to resolve disputes between companies and communities.

"DSF is one of the arms of a broader complaints mechanism within RSPO. In preparing the revised documents, we have engaged with users, stakeholders, complainants, growers and people who use the system and taken particular heed of current human rights standards and practices in defining DSF's mandate." she said.

Confidentiality is an important feature of mediation and parties need to feel confident that their open and frank participation will not be compromised. Confidentiality will be discussed with the parties at the outset and will be included in the terms of reference for mediation and agreed by the parties.

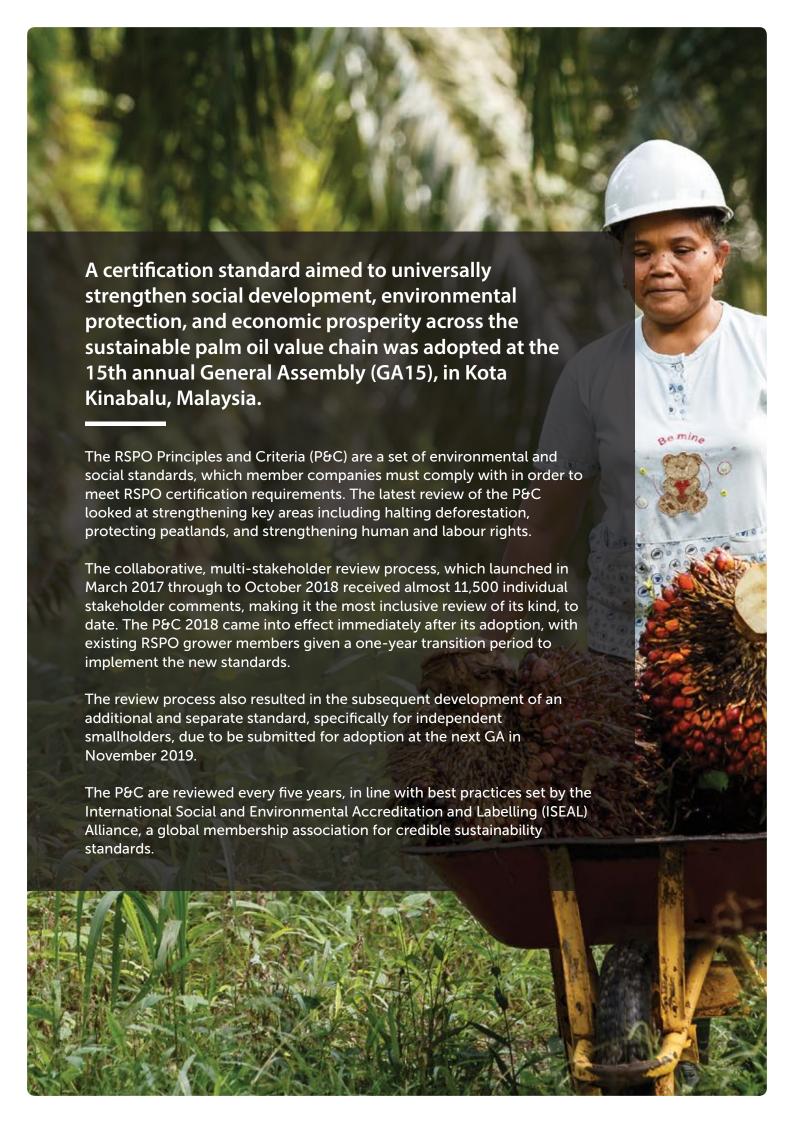
PUBLIC CONSULTATION (CONTINUED)

"The power of mediation allows us to go deeper and find out what it is that makes people angry. It is our responsibility to get behind that and agree with the parties about what the issues are. Finding out what the problem is and working with the parties to solve it," Brainch added.

RSPO, through DSF enables RSPO members, local communities and other parties to gain awareness and understanding of how to use the DSF, including how to be involved in or commence a DSF mediation process, how a mediation process is conducted, what the requirements are, and how to prepare oneself for a mediation process.

"DSF's decision is not the panacea of everything. It is an option, and one of the choices made available. It's not always about money, it can be rehabilitation, education, land use etc. All of that is looked at in mediation. Sometimes, it's a question of opening the minds of the companies to look at the opportunities of the community. We really want to get away from the expectation that it is about claims and remuneration," she stressed.

Links to the presentations can be obtained at https://rt.rspo.org/c/rt16-presentation/



PRINCIPLE AND CRITERIA 2018: WHAT'S NEW?

PLENARY SESSION 1



6TH ANNUAL ROUNDTABLE ERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL rember 2018 | Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia

MODERATOR

Elizabeth Clarke

Global Palm Oil Lead, WWF-International

SPEAKERS

Bilge Daldeniz

Programme Director, International Programmes, Proforest

Q & A PANELISTS

Tulio Dias

Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility Manager, Agropalma Group

Audrey Lee

Sustainability General Manager, Olam International Ltd

Perpetua George

General Manager for Group Sustainability, Wilmar International Ltd

Faizal Parish

Director, Global Environment Centre

Change was the order of the day. The session opened with a presentation by Bilge Daldeniz on the revision of RSPO's Principles and Criteria (P&C).

"We have to review the P&C every 5 years to stay current and relevant," she said, adding that the approval for a RSPO Smallholder Strategy and RSPO's new Theory of Change impacted the timeline of the new P&C.

Major content changes were in these areas; peat, labour, legality, deforestation, smallholders, pesticides, fire prevention, grievances and human rights defenders, integration of supply chain standard modules, restructuring to align with the RSPO Theory of Change, streamlining of texts and active language, and shared responsibility.

To tackle the normative parts of the standard, the P&C decided upon critical indicators for the messaging to the outside world to know that these issues will be treated with more focus than it was previously.

Faizal Parish explained that the new P&C was very clear in terms of planting on peat.

"No planting on peat, be it new or existing peat. All RSPO member companies also need to document and share with RSPO all

PRINCIPLE AND CRITERIA 2018: WHAT'S NEW? (CONTINUED)

peatland under their management. All remaining unplanted peatland areas need to be gazetted peatland reserve areas," he said.

"What has happened now is more specific requirements have been put in place. They need to look at phasing out plantations on peat. Before you get to flooding and saline intrusion, you need to phase out with options of other crops or rehabilitation. We don't have 5 years prior to replanting; from January 2019, companies need to do assessments on planting on peat in the coming 5 years and move towards a phase out. We will guide on transition process," Parish assured.

Regarding Principle 7 on Labour, with the assistance of the Labour Task Force, RSPO can now define better protection of vulnerable groups (e.g. migrant and contract workers, women and children).

"We have new and clear indicators for child and forced labour. They are mandatory and will assure that such situations do not happen. No passports are to be held by growers or recruitment agencies, the workers need freedom. We also include a clear indicator and criteria related to the decent living wage. Right now, as companies, it will be a challenge but implementation will not be tough. Growers will count on RSPO for guidance in tackling this issue," said Tulio Dias.

SIMPLIFICATION OF SMALLHOLDER CERTIFICATION - MYTH OR REALITY?

PLENARY SESSION 2





MODERATOR

Johan Verburg

Inclusive Value Chains Advisor, Oxfam Novib

SPEAKERS

Rukaiyah Rafik

Executive Board, Yayasan Setara Jambi

Ashwin Selvaraj

Head of Smallholder Programme, RSPO

Ingrid Richardson

Sustainable Sourcing Senior Manager, Unilever

David Burns

Manager, Tropical Forests & Agriculture, National Wildlife Federation

Julia Majail

Standard Development Associate Director, RSPO

Moderator Johan Verburg started the session by informing the audience that the focus would be on independent smallholders.

Panellist Rukaiyah Rafik explained the lack of organisation and knowledge when it came to the independent smallholders;

"There is no support from companies and government. The main concern is lack of legality. Land rights are not a priority, and the documentation is felt unnecessary because they feel they own the land already. Under the P&C, there are 68 documents to be completed. The burden of all this documentation is high, as most of them have not been to school. However, they still want to get certification.

"They believe that RSPO is a bridge for them to gain support from companies and government in terms of financial aids and grants. They are convinced that RSPO cares and has put in place good practices. They are now not only monetarily driven but also morally for the ecosystem.

It is easy to get independent smallholders involved and educate them about sustainability. They are from the local community. They are only thinking about expansion, they know where they

SIMPLIFICATION OF SMALLHOLDER CERTIFICATION - MYTH OR REALITY? (CONTINUED)

can plant. We have to take responsibility in making them sustainable," she added.

Ashwin Selvaraj interjected to explain that the new Smallholder Strategy calls for a simpler approach for smallholder certification. "Certification creates capacity, awareness and change in behaviour throughout the supply chain. What we are proposing is a continuous stepwise approach for smallholder certification. The RSPO Independent Smallholder Standard is applicable to independent smallholder farmers only. Anybody who is not a scheme smallholder can use the standard scheme, the size limit is 50ha. There is a lot at stake in defining our standard, the system needs to work for everyone. That has been the guideline for us when we developed the smallholder certification."

The panellists went on to discuss the development of the Smallholder Strategy and livelihood improvement.

SUSTAINABILITY: WHAT DRIVES THE INDUSTRY AND CONSUMERS?

PLENARY SESSION 3



HE 16TH ANNUAL ROUNDTABLE ONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL



MODERATOR

Wathshlah Naidu

Senior Manager - Grievance, RSPO

SPEAKERS

Lukita Setiyarso

Partnership Officer (CSR) Child Rights and Business, UNICEF

Denise Westerhout

Lead for Sustainable Markets Programme, WWF Malaysia

Danny Chua

Manager (Operations Controller Department) & Group Sustainability Team Lead, Mewah Oils & Fats Pte Ltd

Tulio Dias

Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility Manager, Agropalma Group A highly engaging plenary that looked into the crux of the palm industry and its interest in sustainability. Moderator, Wathshlah Naidu took the audience through an in depth explanation of what is expected and required in terms of accountability and environmental commitments.

Panellist, Denise Westerhout believes that despite the current palm oil narrative, continuity of development will happen.

"However, we have grave concerns along the supply chains. The growing numbers of companies that tell us there is no need for CSPO is alarming. We are not seeing the responsibility being shared among all parties. There's a growing trend of applying the spotlight on the growers. The other issue is there is no sustainable palm pride among buyers. Buyers cannot do without palm oil but very few are saying that they are using it as an ingredient, instead keeping it a secret. Buyer groups need to understand that they have the responsibility to educate consumers on palm oil use and the industry."

The intense discussion revolved around many thought-provoking issues, including influence in the supply chain, stringent standards, certification schemes and whistleblowing. This culminated in a heated debate on changing the narrative on certified sustainable palm oil.

"A lot of effort has been made on the ground, but no one talks about it. Communication needs to change – we need to move

SUSTAINABILITY: WHAT DRIVES THE INDUSTRY AND CONSUMERS? (CONTINUED)

from a negative narrative to a positive narrative. We really think that buyers need to step up and communicate with the consumers," Westerhout said.

Expanding on positive narratives, Tulio Dias felt there were huge challenges from the beginning when RSPO started delivering certified palm oil in 2008.

"We have some very important brands that are performing poorly in the uptake of CSPO. The ones who are performing better are not the ones that claim more about what they are doing. The worse ones have strong narratives that generally they are going beyond the certification. It's strange because yes, they are going beyond the certification without passing through the certification stage. This misleads the consumer who believes they use CSPO and comply even more."

Lukita Setiyarso felt the reason organisations work with the RSPO is because they trusted that RSPO represents the entire supply chain.

"In our history working with the private sector, we've realised that more can be done with businesses instead of just providing funding and sponsorship. They can push the industry to change. Agriculture is one of the economic backbone of the country. Because of the nature of the business, it is labour intensive. More positive narratives are required because if the private sector takes on this responsibility, the story can change. The RSPO brand requires a shared responsibility.

"At some point we need to settle our differences and work together. Ask yourself what are your values and principles, and how do you want to move this forward as a business that will live through time? When experts identify your challenges and issues, you need to open your heart and mind to accept the problem and work on it."

Danny Chua argued that from a downstream perspective, it is true that they want to make CSPO a norm, however the uptake is slow because it is expensive.

"We need to create an image for RSPO certified sustainable palm oil. People queue for hours for the new iPhone even though it's one of the most expensive phones. It is all about the image. I feel if RSPO improves its CSPO image, then people will queue up for it."

BUILDING SUPPORT FOR JURISDICTIONAL APPROACHES

PLENARY SESSION 4



TH ANNUAL ROUNDTABLE RENCE ON SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL



MODERATOR

Professor Kai Chan

Professor at the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability, University of British Columbia

SPEAKERS

Dr Keith Lee

Sustainable Finance Engagement Manager, WWF-Malaysia

Dr Petra Meekers

Director Sustainable Sourcing, Unilever

Peter van der Werf

Senior Engagement Specialist, Active Ownership, Robeco

Increasingly, governments, companies, finance institutions, and NGOs are looking to 'jurisdictional approaches' to scale up efforts to de-link deforestation from agro-commodity production. Broadly speaking, jurisdictional approaches are integrated landscape planning initiatives aligned with sub-national or national political jurisdictions to facilitate government leadership in advancing green economic development.

The session discussed the increasing pressure on governments and corporations to meet their climate and "deforestation-free" commitments, and how interest in jurisdictional approaches continues to grow, including expectation for their potential to address deforestation at scale.

But as these approaches move past the early stages of design and testing, stakeholders are increasingly confronted by several key implementation questions. Even the most developed jurisdictional models are confronted with similar challenges.

WWF aims to inspire deeper thinking and understanding of jurisdictional approaches regarding enabling conditions and potential contribution to deforestation solutions.

"WWF-Malaysia sustainable finance team engages with large local banks in 7 ASEAN countries. We work with them to help them

BUILDING SUPPORT FOR JURISDICTIONAL APPROACHES (CONTINUED)

understand how environmental issues increase risks," said Keith Lee.

"If they aren't thinking about addressing these issues, potential companies who value actions on climate change and environmental practices will look away, affecting the evaluation of the bank. The goal really is to work in ASEAN to ensure the sustainable guidelines are streamlined.

We found that there are different levels of progress, we would still like to see more disclosure from the banks on their palm policies. In general, there is a lot more progress that needs to be made. We see some effort from the Malaysian and Thai banks, but not much from the Indonesian banks yet. Banks should really look at how they are transitioning their business models."

Together with the other panelists, Kai Chan explored the challenges and opportunities to unlock the full potential of jurisdictional approaches, and ultimately, to achieve deforestation-free and sustainable production landscapes.

UPSCALING THE COMPLAINTS SYSTEM

PLENARY SESSION 5





MODERATOR

Bakhtiar Talhah

Chief Operating Officer, RSPO

COMPLAINTS PANEL

Frazier Lanier

CitiBank

Priya Gopalan

UBS

Suzanne Hall

San Diego Zoo

Lanash Thanda

SEPA (Sabah Environmental Protection Association)

Henry Barlow

Sime Darby Plantation

Lim Sian Choo

Bumitama Agri Ltd

Michelle Desilets

Orangutan Land Trust

Marieke Leegwater

Solidaridad

Melizel Asuncion

Verite

Matthias Diemer

WWF-Switzerland

Well represented and moderated, the session cleared the air in many ways as Bakhtiar Talhah steered the discussion progressively.

Since its inception, the Complaints Panel has received 122 complaints, out of which 70 complaints were closed. 10 complaints have reached a final decision and 5 complaints are pending state-led processing. Having reduced the timeline to 80 working days, they are left with 37 cases.

According to Suzanne Hall, the Complaints Panel consists of people from various industries, making it cohesive group of different perspectives, examining each case.

"We are required to back out from any particular case if there is a conflict of interest to ensure that the judicial process is partial," she adds.

Henry Barlow revealed that there was an increase in the number of complaints from Indonesia and a reduction from Africa.

"We feel to some extent it is due to the legal frameworks in these countries. We hope to identify the issues and rectify them soon," he promised.

Marieke Leegwater explained that handling complaints can take a long time, because they need to understand each case fully.

UPSCALING THE COMPLAINTS SYSTEM (CONTINUED)

"Sometimes we ask for an independent investigation procedure to get a better understanding on the matter. We are really trying to speed up our act with the new procedures, but the reasons for delay are legitimate and I think everyone needs to respect that."

Michelle Desilets chimed in, saying "the panel is now very confident in addressing basic complaints, however if it requires a more detailed approach, we will need a longer time frame."

The panel updated delegates on the revamped case tracker, stating that the progress bar indicates which status the complaint is at. A case reference number is provided at the start of every complaint with initials of the case manager. If either party wants confidentiality and the CP has agreed to it, then certain documents will be kept confidential as well.

"We are a fantastic team, and we enjoy working together but we need more help. There is no retail, trader and consumer representation. In general, we just need more people to accelerate the cases and have more working groups," Frazier Lanier confessed.

Lim Sian Choo went on to convey that the job scope is not difficult but is a wonderful learning experience.

"We are not confined to the Complaints Panel, we reach out to other groups for input and output as well. There is a lot of interaction with other working groups," Melizel Asuncion said.

Barlow speculated that in the next 12 to 18 months, the issues that the panel will face would be related to labour and migrant workers." I believe we will also be grappling with shadow companies."

It was made clear during this session that the main aim of RSPO is to remain as inclusive as possible, while the approach of the Complaints Panel is backed by their determination to see non-compliance corrected.



MINISTERIAL ADDRESS

DATUK SERI PANGLIMA WILFRED MADIUS TANGAU

Sabah's Deputy Chief Minister and StateMinister of Trade and Industry





The Sabah state government reaffirmed its pledge that the whole state will produce palm oil that will be compliant with RSPO standards by year 2025.

Speaking at the closing of RT16, Deputy Chief Minister and State Minister of Trade and Industry, Sabah, Datuk Seri Panglima Wilfred Madius Tangau said the decision was arrived at, after the state cabinet's deliberations.

"We recognise that this is not enough and we have a long way to go. In 2015, Sabah made a 10-year commitment for all oil palm product produced in the state to be 100% RSPO certified by 2025," he said.

Tangau stressed that the decision to adopt the RSPO standards will not be contradictory to the federal government's Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) certification scheme.

"We realise there are a lot of merits and strengths in the RSPO and that is why the [Sabah] cabinet has agreed and has decided to go along this path. This does not mean we will forgo our own standard, the MSPO. In fact, the federal government is putting money into MSPO and we will do this concurrently," he explained.

According to Tangau, in 2017, Sabah produced more than 5.2 million tonnes of crude palm oil (CPO), contributing some 30% of Malaysia's total production, or roughly 12% of the global supply.

The state is also Malaysia's largest producer of RSPO certified sustainable palm oil, at 1.55 million tonnes from the months of January to October this year.

This means 28% of palm oil production in Sabah, or about 400,000ha (25%) of the total oil palm plantation in Sabah, is RSPO certified. Of this, about 623 smallholders covering a total area of 3,960ha have achieved the RSPO certification, Tangau said.

We realise there are a lot of merits and strengths in the RSPO and that is why the [Sabah] cabinet has agreed and has decided to go along this path.

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CLOSING ADDRESS

DATO' CARL BEK-NIELSEN

Co-Chairman, RSP0





RSPO must be cautious in retaining its relevance and must continue to innovate and evolve to achieve market transformation.

This can only be achieved if the organisation works towards increasing the uptake of RSPO certified sustainable palm oil and be more inclusive, whilst continuously pushing for improvements in all aspects.

Co-Chairman Dato' Carl Bek-Nielsen reminded all those present at RT16 to have the best interest of all stakeholders in mind when forming principles and criteria that will help the industry achieve market transformation.

In his closing address, Bek-Nielsen said there must be shared responsibility in narrowing the huge gap between the supply and demand of RSPO certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO) and increasing the uptake of certified palm oil, which currently stands at 65%.

Bek-Nielsen explained that while growers have shown willingness to change their growing practices, halt deforestation and planting on peat soil, they also expect the NGO fraternity, consumer goods manufacturers, retailers, banks and RSPO to direct their attention towards improving uptake instead of merely pursuing prior standards.

On the subject of standard, Bek-Nielsen said RSPO risks eliminating up to 70% of the world's palm growers from attaining certification if the new standard didn't adequately address the plight of the growers and smallholders who find the environmental and social standards set too demanding, costly, and difficult to meet.

"Locally, smallholders take up about 40% of Malaysia's, slightly below 50% of Indonesia's and 80% of Thailand's palm oil productions. Less than 3.5% of the world's smallholders have been RSPO certified and in Malaysia, the figure is less than 1%. We must ensure that the smallholder fraternity is not left behind," said Bek-Nielsen adding that he was proud to note that RSPO's Smallholders Interim Group (SHIG) is doing a phenomenal job in developing new smallholders' standard.

He also explained that RSPO has an obligation to meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While he noted the importance of setting the right industry standard, it was important for RSPO to not have an elitist mentality as they pursue their goals.

"RSPO risks becoming a niche certification body. There is no doubt that our certification today is beyond the gold standard, but it will not become a norm at this trajectory. We need to wake up to this reality and address this," said Bek-Nielsen as he quoted the late Edwards Deming on how one has to first know what needs to be done before giving their best in getting it done.

"The RSPO, like the SDGs, is all about partnership. We therefore need to see more smallholder inclusion, a considerable increase in CSPO uptake and stakeholders doing their part well. If these points are addressed and combined with a concerted effort of all links of the supply chain, we can adjust our course. It's all about listening and not just wanting to be heard," concluded Bek-Nielsen.







Michelle Desilets
Orangutan Land Trust



Grant Rosoman
HCS Approach Steering
Group



Dr. Gan Lian Tiong RSPO Emission Reduction Working Group



Benjamin Loh WWF-Malaysia



Denise Westerhout *WWF-Malaysia*



Prof. Kai Chan University of British Columbia



Felicia Liu PM Haze





COUNTRY	MEDIA TITLE	HEADLINE
Malaysia	Sme.org.my	RSPO: Certification cost remains main issue for smallholders
Malaysia	theSun Daily	RSPO: Certification cost remains main issue for smallholders
Malaysia	theSun Daily	RSPO to enhance existing elements, more specific provisions added
Malaysia	Bernama	RSPO to welcome more smallholders with new standard
Malaysia	Bernama	Put facts ahead of perception, United Plantations tells EU consumers
Malaysia	The Edge	Put facts ahead of perception, United Plantations tells EU consumers
Malaysia	The Edge	RSPO proposes new standard for greater smallholder inclusion
Malaysia	The Edge	RSPO seeks new certification standard for smallholders
Malaysia	Sinchew	棕油有害无医学根据·rspo批欧盟打压出口国
Malaysia	Borneo Post	RSPO to welcome more smallholders with new standard
Malaysia	Sme.org.my	Sabah state government committed to increasing number of certified palm oil produce
Malaysia	The Edge	RSPO seeks new certification standard for smallholders
Malaysia	The Star	Bad press on CPO as EU wants to protect own seed oil market
Malaysia	The Edge	Sabah reaffirms pledge for full RSPO-certification by 2025
Malaysia	Sme.org.my	Sabah reaffirms pledge for full RSPO-certification by 2025
Malaysia	Malay Mail	RSPO members agree on new palm oil standard
Malaysia	Bernama	RSPO members agree on new palm oil standard
Malaysia	Daily Express	How Sabah's palm oil can compete
Malaysia	The Edge	Sabah all out to get smallholders MSPO certified

COUNTRY	MEDIA TITLE	HEADLINE
Malaysia	The Edge	Viral orangutan ad on deforestation slammed by palm industry
Malaysia	Bloomberg Malaysia	Viral Orangutan Ad on Deforestation Slammed by Palm Industry
Malaysia	Free Malaysia Today	UK supermarket's viral orangutan ad slammed by palm oil body
Malaysia	Malay Mail	UK supermarket's viral orangutan ad slammed by palm oil giant
Malaysia	Borneo Post	RSPO members agree on new palm oil standard to halt deforestation, improve human rights protection
Malaysia	The Star	RSPO should not become 'elitist certification'
Malaysia	Bernama	RSPO's update on principles and criteria has no impact on Sime Darby, IOI - Moody's
Malaysia	Malay Mail	RSPO's update on principles and criteria has no impact on Sime Darby, IOI, says Moody's
Malaysia	Sme.com.my	RSPO's update on principles and criteria has no impact on Sime Darby, IOI — Moody's
Malaysia	The Edge	RSPO's update on principles and criteria has no impact on Sime Darby, IOI — Moody's
Malaysia	EOG Asia	RSPO brings together palm oil industry leaders to discuss its environmental impact and future
Malaysia	Daily Express	'Sustainable palm oil revolution' call
Malaysia	Borneo Post	RSPO's update has no impact on Sime Darby, IOI Corp
Malaysia	The Edge	Buy green palm oil or forests will suffer, industry warns
Malaysia	Free Malaysia Today	Buy green palm oil or forests will suffer, industry warns
Malaysia	The Edge	Looking into RSPO's future
Malaysia	theSun	Govt can play greater role in palm smallholders' certification: RSPO
Malaysia	theSun	Palm oil used in biofuel should be certified as sustainable
Indonesia	Antara News	Enam kelompok tani Indonesia terima sertifikasi RSPO
Indonesia	Antara News	Asosiasi industri sawit perkuat perlindungan HAM dan hak pekerja

COUNTRY	MEDIA TITLE	HEADLINE
Indonesia	Antara News	RSPO strengthens protection of palm oil workers`rights
Indonesia	Antara News	Standar baru industri sawit berkelanjutan siap diterapkan
Indonesia	Antara News	Industri sawit berkelanjutan bertumpu pada petani kecil
Indonesia	Antara News	RSPO segera sahkan larangan sawit lahan gambut
Indonesia	Berita Satu	RSPO Segera Sahkan Larangan Sawit Lahan Gambut
Indonesia	Bisnis Indonesia	LAPORAN DARI MALAYSIA : RSPO Pertimbangkan Isu Perlindungan Gambut
Indonesia	Borneonews.co.id	RSPO Bakal Larang Penanaman Sawit di Lahan Gambut
Indonesia	Breaking News	Standar Baru RSPO Industri Sawit Siap Diimplementasikan
Indonesia	Industri Bisnis	KELAPA SAWIT BERKELANJUTAN: Perlindungan Gambut Jadi Pertimbangan Syarat RSPO
Indonesia	Industry.co.id	Standar Baru RSPO untuk Siap Diterapkan
Indonesia	InfoSAWIT	Ini Catatan Penting P&C RSPO Sawit 2018
Indonesia	InfoSAWIT	P&C RSPO Sawit 2018 Adopsi 4 Kesepakatan Baru
Indonesia	InfoSAWIT	Perkebunan Kelapa Sawit Sisihkan Setara 350 Ribu Lapangan Bola Untuk Lahan Konservasi
Indonesia	IPOTGO	Premier Insight: Positive sentiment for palm oil sector as Roundtable of Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) released the revised standard and criteria for its members
Indonesia	lvoox.id	RSPO Terapkan Larangan Tanam Sawit di Lahan Gambut Per November 2018
Brunei	Media Permata	Kemas kini RSPO tidak jejas Sime Darby, IOI
China	企业家在线	RSPO第16届可持续棕榈油圆桌会议召开
China	Youth.cn	RSPO第16届可持续棕榈油圆桌会议召开
China	东方头条	RSPO第16届可持续棕榈油圆桌会议召开
China	Qihoo	RSPO第16届可持续棕榈油圆桌会议召开

COUNTRY	MEDIA TITLE	HEADLINE
China	Caijing.com.cn	RSPO第16届可持续棕榈油圆桌会议召开
China	China Economic Herald	RSPO第16届可持续棕榈油圆桌会议召开
China	Huanqiu	RSPO第16届可持续棕榈油圆桌会议召开
France	Confectionerynews.com	RSPO adopts 'transformative' new sustainable palm oil standard
France	LesEchos.fr	Un nouveau standard mondial pour l'huile de palme durable
France	Romandie	Nouvelle norme pour l'huile de palme durable
France	100% Nancy	Nouvelle norme pour l'huile de palme durable
France	Connaissance des Energies	Nouvelle norme pour l'huile de palme durable
France	LeFigaro.fr	Nouvelle norme pour l'huile de palme durable
France	LaPresse.ca	Nouvelle norme pour l'huile de palme durable
France	LaDepeche.fr	Nouvelle norme pour l'huile de palme durable
France	TVA Nouvelles	Nouvelle norme pour l'huile de palme durable
France	100% Vosges	Nouvelle norme pour l'huile de palme durable
France	L'independent	Nouvelle norme pour l'huile de palme durable
France	Actualites-du-jour.eu	Un nouveau standard mondial pour l'huile de palme durable
France	RTL	Huile de palme : la Malaisie prend des mesures pour sauver la biodiversité
France	La France Agricole	Une nouvelle norme pour l'huile de palme durable
France	20 Minutes	Huile de palme «durable»: Une nouvelle norme proposée pour protéger l'environnement et les travailleurs
France	Process Alimentaire	Huile de palme, la RSPO durcit ses critères de développement durable
Great Britain	Greenpeace	New standards for 'sustainable' palm oil must be enforced immediately

COUNTRY	MEDIA TITLE	HEADLINE
Great Britain	FoodNavigator.com	RSPO adopts 'transformative' new sustainable palm oil standard
Great Britain	FoodNavigator.com	Are new RSPO criteria too little too late?
Great Britain	Just-food	RSPO palm-oil certification unveils changes
Great Britain	IEG Policy	Palm oil producers given one year to transition to new RSPO standard
Great Britain	Confectionery Production	Roundtable on sustainable palm oil agrees enhanced standards
Great Britain	Confectionery Production	Roundtable standards agreement on palm oil offers a major milestone
Great Britain	Mongabay	RSPO adopts total ban on deforestation under sweeping new standards
Great Britain	Thomson Reuters Foundation News	Stricter standards for sustainable palm oil will bump up costs for producers, and more effort is needed to boost demand, they say
Hong Kong	Retail News	Sabah to produce more sustainable palm oil
India	Investment Gurulndia.com	Analysis: Buy green palm oil or forests will suffer, industry warns
India	Business Standard	Analysis: Buy green palm oil or forests will suffer, industry warns
Ireland	European Supermarket Magazine	RSPO Endorses New Palm Oil Certification Standard
Italy	Adnkronos	Olio di palma, approvati nuovi standard di sostenibilità
Italy	GreenCity	Olio di palma, approvati i nuovi standard di sostenibilità
Italy	GreenPlanet.net	Olio di palma sostenibile e sicuro. Conferenza in Malaysia
Japan	The Japan Times	Buy green palm oil or forests will suffer, industry warns
Qatar	Al-Jazeera	Tougher palm oil rules agreed amid polarising debate over crop
Singapore	FoodNavigator-asia.com	Unilever implements jurisdictional palm oil approach in Malaysia and Indonesia
Singapore	FoodNavigator-asia.com	Rewarding brands who do good': Tapping on supply chains and consumer engagement to transform the palm oil sector
Singapore	Eco-business	RSPO adopts total ban on deforestation under new standards

COUNTRY	MEDIA TITLE	HEADLINE
Singapore	Eco-business	Buy green palm oil or forests will suffer, industry warns
South Africa	South Africa Today	RSPO adopts total ban on deforestation under sweeping new standards
Switzerland	Nachhaltig Leben	Palmöl-Standard verschärft – warum wir trotzdem verzichten
ИК	The Grocer	Palm oil: 'Historic' day for sustainability as RSPO adopts 'zero deforestation' standard
ИК	Oils & Fats International	RSPO members agree on new palm oil standard
ИК	Daily Mail	Buy green palm oil or forests will suffer, industry warns
UK	Mail on Sunday	Buy green palm oil or forests will suffer, industry warns
ИК	This is Money Wires	Buy green palm oil or forests will suffer, industry warns
US	Business Breaking News	RSPO strengthens protection of palm oil workers`rights
US	Epeak	Tougher palm oil rules agreed amid polarising debate over crop Malaysia News
US	Global Food Mate	New palm oil standard safeguards workers and forests
US	Bioenergy International	RSPO members approve new palm oil standard to halt deforestation
US	Bioenergy International	RSPO and HCSA to jointly implement no deforestation in high cover landscapes









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#RT16 had a reach of over 455,000 with more that 11,800 users engaged during the campaign period. There was also a gain of 1000 new followers.





FACEBOOK

#RT16 had a reach of over 239,000 with more that 6000 users engaged during the campaign period. There was also a gain of 3000 new followers.





LINKEDIN

#RT16 had a reach of over 68,000 with more that 481 users engaged during the campaign period. There was also a gain of 477 new followers.



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The RSPO is an international non-profit organization formed in 2004 with the objective to promote the growth and use of sustainable oil palm products through credible global standards and engagement of stakeholders.

www.rspo.org

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