

RSPO New Plantings Procedure & Revised Principle 7 Highlights

Dr Gan Lian Tiong, Musim Mas Group Head of Sustainability

Alternate Executive Board Member representing the Indonesian Grower Members

The RSPO New Plantings Procedure (NPP) requires that any new oil palm planting after 1st January, 2010 must comply with its procedures. The NPP requires members to conduct a comprehensive and participatory impact assessment (SEIA) of the area and to use the results to construct relevant action plans. This plan must be based on free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of any local peoples whose lands are affected, it must provide for the maintenance or enhancement of all identified HCVs, it must exclude all identified primary forests from clearance and it must provide for appropriate management of peat. The management plan must be assessed by an approved RSPO certification body. A summary of the assessment, the plan and the verification statement shall be posted on the RSPO website for a period of 30 days. Growers shall not commence any land preparation, new planting or infrastructure development, prior to the expiry of this minimum 30-day period. Any party wishing to complain or to dispute the assessment, the plan or the verification statement, may do so through the RSPO Grievance Process.

The P&C Review Task Force has not proposed that the NPP be incorporated into the P&C. However, there are proposed changes to Principle 7 and introduction of new criterion 7.X on designing new developments to minimise emissions and maximise sequestration. The major changes in Principle 7 are highlighted in this presentation.

The second public consultation on the P&C review is currently underway (http://www.rspo.org/en/principles_and_criteria_review). Feedback from the participants during the Q&A will be forwarded to the RSPO P&C Review Task Force for consideration when finalising the revised P&C.