

RSPO NEW PLANTINGS PROCEDURE & REVISED PRINCIPLE 7 HIGHLIGHTS

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Introduction

This presentation provides detail description of the RSPO New Plantings Procedure (NPP) that is being enforced at the moment.

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.

This presentation will highlight these major changes in the hope to stimulate debate and get some immediate feedback from participants during the Q&A.

The second public consultation on the P&C review is currently underway and there are still opportunities to provide your comments on the proposed revised P&C (see: http://www.rspo.org/en/principles_and_criteria_review).



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RSPO NEW PLANTINGS PROCEDURE



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RSPO NPP

- The RSPO NPP was formalized in May 2009.
- Approved by the RSPO Board in September 2009.
- New oil palm plantings from 1st January 2010 are to be in accordance with the RSPO NPP.
- New oil palm plantings in the context of these procedures mean lands planned or proposed for oil palm plantings but upon which no work towards that end has commenced as at 1st January 2010.



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Procedures for New Plantings

RSPO Procedures for New Plantings (NPP)

New oil palm plantings from 1st January 2010 are to be in accordance with the RSPO Procedures for New Plantings (NPP). New oil palm plantings in the context of these procedures mean lands planned or proposed for oil palm plantings but upon which no work towards that end has commenced as at 1st January 2010. The new procedures are specified in the following documents and guidance. The guidance also provides for lands where work has commenced or where work has commenced on part of the land.

Attachments	
RSPO High Level Flow Chart for New Plantings Procedures.pdf	53 KB, PDF
RSPO Detailed Process Flow for New Plantings Procedures.pdf	97 KB, PDF
RSPO Procedures for New Plantings - guidance document.pdf	109 KB, PDF
RSPO-NPP: format for stakeholder notification.pdf	108 KB, PDF
RSPO-NPP:Template for Summary Report of Assessments.pdf	88 KB, PDF
RSPO-NPP:Template for Summary Report of Planning & Management.pdf	85 KB, PDF
RSPO Approved Assessors list July 2010.pdf	155 KB, PDF

http://www.rspo.org/en/procedures_for_new_plantings



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High Level Flow Chart

1. Impact Assessments



2. Implementation Plan



3. Verification



4. Public Notification



5. Grievance and Dispute Resolution



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Detail Process Flow Chart

1. Impact Assessments

Conduct a comprehensive and participatory independent social and environmental impact assessment of the area concerned and incorporate the results into relevant plans (see RSPO criteria 5.1, 6.1, 7.1 & 7.4).

The assessment must include the identification of:

- ◆ all primary forest
- ◆ any area required to maintain or enhance one or more HCVs
- ◆ all areas of peat soils
- ◆ local peoples' land



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Impact Assessments

■ RSPO accredited HCV / SEIA Assessors.

■ Participatory assessments carried out and made public (summary only).



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Impact Assessments

- Applicable to new plantings.
- Replanting if NI explicitly identifies 'replanting' as 'new planting'.
- Starting point is before any land preparation whatsoever (including associated development).
- Conversion from a previous crop will not be included in this process unless such conversion is also deemed 'new planting' by the NI.



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SEIA & HCV REPORT FORMAT

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RSPO NEW PLANTING PROCEDURES

Format for Summary Report of SEIA and HCV assessments

1. Executive Summary
As is mentioned in the document on "RSPO Detailed Process Flow for New Plantings Procedures" the summary must include reporting of the identification of:

- all primary forest
- any area required to maintain or enhance one or more High Conservation Values (HCVs)
- all areas of peat soils
- local peoples' lands

2. Scope of the SEIA and HCV Assessments:
Organizational information and contact persons
List of Legal documents, regulatory permits and property deeds related to the areas assessed
Location maps -- both at landscape level and property level
Area of new plantings; and time-plan for new plantings

3. Assessment process and procedures
Assessors and their credentials
Assessment methods (Data sources, data collection, dates, programme, places visited)
Stakeholder consultation (stakeholders contacted, consultation notices and dates)
List of Legal, regulatory and other guidance references

4a. Summary of assessment findings (for SEI assessments)
Summary of key findings in respect of socio-economic impacts to country, region and local communities
Summary of key findings in respect of socio-economic impact in respect of emergent communities (workers, suppliers, etc.)
Issues raised by stakeholders and assessors comments on each issue.

4b. Summary of assessment findings (For HCV assessments)
Overall HCV identification and proposed measures to maintain and enhance those identified
Documentation showing the Obtained Free, Prior and Informed Consent of any indigenous peoples affected by the development of the concession (part of RSPO requirements)
Data sources and quality
Which HCV tools/sets employed
Decisions on HCV status and related mapping

5. Internal responsibility
Formal signing off by assessors and company
Statement of acceptance of responsibility for assessments.

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Detail Process Flow Chart

2. Implementation Plan

Results from the SEIA (AMDAL, FPIC and SIA) and HCV are incorporated into planning and management for the new plantings and related development that:

- ◆ is based on free, prior and informed consent of any local peoples whose lands are affected (criteria 2.2, 2.3, 6.4, 7.5, 7.6)
- ◆ provides for the maintenance or enhancement of all identified HCVs (criteria 5.2 & 7.3)
- ◆ excludes all identified primary forests from clearance (criterion 7.3)
- ◆ provides for appropriate management of peat (criteria 4.3 & 7.4)



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Implementation Plan

- Collate the assessments on FPIC, EIA, HCV & peat.
- Map the findings of SEIA, HCV, FPIC & peat.
- Action plan describing operational actions, consequent to the above assessments, referencing to grower's relevant operational procedures.
- Identify management team in place to implement above.



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PLANNING & MANAGEMENT PLAN



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Detail Process Flow Chart

3. Verification

Obtain written confirmation from an approved RSPO certification body that the assessment process and the content of the plan are comprehensive, of professional quality and in compliance with relevant RSPO principles, criteria and indicators.

The grower has the option of seeking such verification based on either a documentation audit by the certification body, or a field audit by the certification body.



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Verification

- Undertake documentation audit or field audit.
- Written recommendation to RSPO.



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Detail Process Flow Chart

4. Public Notification

A minimum 30 days notification should be given before any land preparation (including associated development).

A summary of the assessments, a summary of the plan and the verification statement.

Growers shall not commence any land preparation, any new planting or infrastructure development, prior to the expiry of the minimum 30-day period.



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Public Notification

- Publication should be on the RSPO website and local on-site notice boards.
- Confidentiality considerations should be referred to Criterion 1.2 in the generic P&C (including commercial sensitivities).



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NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED NP

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RSPO NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED NEW PLANTING

This notification shall be on the RSPO website for 30 days as required by the RSPO procedures for new plantings (<http://www.rspo.org/04-04-page035>). It has also been posted on local on-site notice boards.

Date of notification:

Tick which ever is appropriate.

<input type="checkbox"/>	This is a completely new development and stakeholders may submit comments.
<input type="checkbox"/>	This is part of an ongoing planting and is meant for notification only.

COMPANY:

SUBSIDIARY (if any):

RSPO Membership No.:

Location of proposed new planting: description or maps and GPS coordinates.

SUMMARY FROM SEI ASSESSMENTS:
(use prescribed templates)

SUMMARY FROM HCV ASSESSMENT(S):
(use prescribed templates)

SUMMARY OF PLANS:
(Recommendations from SEIA and HCV assessments are taken into planning and management of the new plantings.)
(use prescribed templates)

VERIFICATION STATEMENT:
(Confirmation from an approved RSPO certification body that the assessment and plan are comprehensive, professional and compliant of RSPO principles, criteria and indicators.)



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Detail Process Flow Chart

5. Grievance and Dispute Resolution

Any party, aggrieved by the assessment or plan, or wishing to dispute the verification statement, may pursue this through the relevant RSPO complaints and disputes procedures. (Refer to the RSPO Grievance Process).



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Grievance and Dispute Resolution

- Land preparation (including associated development) cannot start until the grievance process is completed and the grievance resolved.
- Within two weeks of the RSPO secretariat providing notice providing notice to the grievance panel, the grievance panel either dismisses the grievance (following the existing procedure), or the grievance is accepted as legitimate and is then further deliberated on.



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Grievance and Dispute Resolution

- The two week period must be completed before the expiry of the 30 day notification period.
- The process must consider the terms of provisional permits for developing the land and there must be time limits in relation to this.



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REVISED PRINCIPLE 7 HIGHLIGHTS

Principle 7 : Responsible development of new plantings



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Criterion 7.1 A comprehensive and participatory independent social and environmental impact assessment is undertaken to establishing new plantings or operations, or expanding existing ones, and the results incorporated into planning, management and operations

Guidance on criterion 7.1

- Assessment of projected sequestration and GHG emissions associated with the planned activities.
- Plans and field operations should be developed and implemented to incorporate the results of the assessment. One potential outcome of the assessment process is that the development should not proceed, because of the magnitude of potential impacts.
- Examples of low emission strategies can include better management of Palm Oil Mill Effluents (POME), efficient boilers, composting etc (refer to “Guidance on operations” from GHGWG when available), avoidance of peatland and other high carbon habitats.
- For land areas greater than 500 ha, a full independent assessment is required. For land areas greater than 50 ha and less than 500 ha, an internal/simplified assessment using selected components of SEIA and HCV assessments can be used.



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Criterion 7.3 New plantings since November 2005, have not replaced primary forest or any area required to maintain or enhance one or more High Conservation Values.

7.3.1 No new plantings shall have replaced primary forest, or any area required to maintain or enhance one or more HCV, since November 2005.

7.3.2 A comprehensive HCV analysis, including stakeholder consultation, shall be conducted prior to any conversion or new planting. This shall include an HCV assessment to determine the HCV status of the area in November 2005.

Notes: criterion 7.3

- For 7.3.2: *Guidance to be provided by the HCV Compensation Taskforce*
- *In reference to HCV Compensation Mechanism: An update on the proposed compensation has been requested to be made available to Task Force members for consideration as part of the review of this criterion.*



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Criterion 7.4 Extensive planting on steep terrain, and/or on marginal and fragile soils, is avoided

7.4.1 Maps identifying marginal and fragile soils, including excessive gradients and peat soils, shall be available and used to identify areas to be avoided.

Guidance on criterion 7.4

This activity should be integrated with the SEIA required by 7.1. Planting on extensive areas of peat soils and other fragile soils should be avoided (see Criterion 4.3). Adverse impacts may include hydrological risks or significantly increased risks (e.g. fire risk) in areas outside the plantation (Criterion 5.5).



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New Criterion

Criterion 7.X New plantation developments are designed to minimise emissions and maximise sequestration, carbon stock conservation and emission avoidance.

7.X.1 Areas with potentially significant carbon stock and potential significant sources of emissions shall be identified and estimated using existing processes:

- The potential significant carbon stocks in the development areas shall be identified as part of the HCV and soil assessments (see criteria 7.2, 7.3)
- Potential significant emission sources, sequestration and/or avoidance options shall be identified as part of the SEIA (see criterion 7.1)

7.X.2 Management plans shall identify the planned measures for minimisation and/or avoidance of GHG emissions and maximisation of sequestration.



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New Criterion

Criterion 7.X New plantation developments are designed to minimise emissions and maximise sequestration, carbon stock conservation and emission avoidance.

Specific guidance for 7.X.1 :

This covers both plantations, mill operations, roads and other infrastructure.

It is recognised that there may be significant changes between the area initially identified for development and that which is finally developed, hence the assessment may need to be updated before the time of implementation. Therefore at this stage public reporting of this indicator is voluntary, but growers are strongly encouraged by the RSPO to make a public report.

It is recognised that there is need for improvement and fine tuning as well as development of practical methodologies (for growers) to measure and monitor GHG emissions, including development of conservative proxies using best available science as developed by the Greenhouse Gas Working Group 2 process.



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New Criterion

Criterion 7.X New plantation developments are designed to minimise emissions and maximise sequestration, carbon stock conservation and emission avoidance.

Specific guidance for 7.X.2 :

It is recognised that the area covered by the management plan may change, and cannot be finalised until the boundaries of the development are fixed. Information should be used to generate the plan using the best available measures to minimise carbon emissions and maximise sequestration. Responsible growers and millers commit to move forward by applying the precautionary approach.



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New Criterion

Criterion 7.X New plantation developments are designed to minimise emissions and maximise sequestration, carbon stock conservation and emission avoidance.

Guidance on criterion 7.X

There is a need to harmonise this process with national requirements.

The outcomes of the Greenhouse Gas Working Group 2 including the Peatland Working Group should be recognised.

Existing rigorous methods regarding carbon measuring and monitoring should be recognised.



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New Criterion

Criterion 7.X New plantation developments are designed to minimise emissions and maximise sequestration, carbon stock conservation and emission avoidance.

Notes:

Issues from 5.6 – ensure these will be included here:

- *Monitoring and reporting of plans*
- *Companies document measures taken by them to reduce or minimise GHG emissions*

Note to put reference to following in P&C Preamble:

- *Commitment to obtain a better understanding*
- *Commitment to the RSPO GHGWG2 and to work towards the ideal of carbon neutral expansion*

Note to use consultation document to ask for contributions on experience and methods to be shared by companies.

Note to Secretariat: Help compile methodologies produced by GHGWG2. Specific guidance required on how maps can be used to identify areas of significant carbon stock and GHG emissions (not for publication). Presentations on key 7x issues required at RT10.



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