

Annex 5

Local Interpretation - RSPO Independent Smallholder Standard 2019

The Standard Standing Committee in its meeting on 6th March 2020 has decided on the following:

1. The Committee recommended the generic RISS be adopted, and that local interpretation to be developed by the stakeholders in the country on the following items only:
 - a) Definition of smallholders (including size threshold);
 - b) Applicable local laws, and regulations pertaining to land and land-use rights and legality; and
 - c) Any other matters relevant to the local context of Independent Smallholders.
2. The Committee has decided that no national interpretation for RISS will be allowed considering that the RISS standard and stepwise approach is new to all, hence by allowing further interpretation to the RISS may lead to misinterpretation and perhaps create more confusion for the users and CBs. As such,
3. The Committee agreed that a Taskforce (TF) can be established to produce local interpretation as per Item 1 above. The RSPO Secretariat must be informed in writing (through letter or email) about the TF establishment.

The main purpose of the TF shall be to represent a balance of relevant stakeholders at TF meetings and shall include self-selected representatives, i.e. each membership category selecting their own representatives, from the seven RSPO membership categories below:

- *Independent Smallholders* – including representation for smallholder groups and associations
- *Processors and traders* - including representation for processors, refiners, traders, and research
- *Banks and investors* – including representation for banks, investors, financial institutions, researchers and academics
- *Environmental interests* – including representation for national and international NGOs, conservation practitioners, researchers and academics
- *Social interests* – including representation for people affected by the palm oil supply chain and elected representatives of communities impacted by the palm oil supply chain, or NGOs representing them, research organizations and academics
- *Retailers* – including retail companies, supermarkets and research
- *Consumer goods manufacturers* – including consumer goods manufacturers and research.

At least one representative of each membership category shall be an RSPO Member, while other representatives (and their organization) may not necessarily be members of the RSPO, but all members of the TF do need to abide by the Code of Conduct (CoC) for standard development activity (Annex 2).

As a guidance, the TF may comprise of 13 substantive representatives, or in a similar ratio by membership category, as shown in the following table:

Smallholders and oil palm growers acting as group managers	5
Supply Chain Representatives (including Processor/Trader, Consumer Good Manufacturers, Retailers and Banks and Investors)	4
Environmental NGOs and Social NGOs	4

The committee does recognize the limitation to maintain the balance ratio for the TF, at times. In case the TF has limited representation from a certain category, RSPO Secretariat may provide the necessary support to recommend an alternative to fill the gaps.

The composition of the TF will be considered final if even after active consultation and engagement there are no available candidates from the list above.

Public consultation and endorsement of the RISS Local Interpretation shall be subject to review and approval by the Standard Standing Committee.

