

Terms of Reference

Formation of the RSPO New Planting Procedure Revision Subgroup

1. Background and Rationale

Since the adoption of the RSPO New Planting Procedure (NPP) in 2009, the procedure has been a critical requirement for the RSPO Principles and Criteria (P&C) for compliance with responsible new plantings by growers. The NPP consists of a set of assessments and verification activities to be conducted by growers, and verified by certification bodies (CBs), prior to any new oil palm development, to ensure growers plant responsibly. The intention is that new oil palm planting will not negatively impact primary forest, High Conservation Value (HCV) areas, High Carbon Stock (HCS) forests, fragile and marginal soils, or local/indigenous people's lands. The current document is also where RSPO officially recognised the Assessor Licensing Scheme (ALS) into the system, through its 2015 revision.

With the adoption of the 2018 P&C by RSPO members, adjustments to the NPP document are now required. As such, the RSPO Secretariat has produced a new draft of the NPP to reflect the necessary changes, which also incorporate lessons learned. The draft has been put out for public consultation and stakeholders have provided many inputs and suggestions. There are a number of elements highlighted from the exercise that require further discussion, hence the formation of this subgroup.

Furthermore, the draft that was put out for public consultation received a sustained objection from the Malaysian Palm Oil Association (MPOA), hence the RSPO Secretariat believes the voice of its members is important in developing a document such as this that affects their operations.

The rationale for the formation of this subgroup is to ensure all technicalities on the revision of the NPP document reflect the practicality and have a pragmatic approach that upholds the spirit of responsible new planting by RSPO oil palm growers.

2. Current Challenges

The RSPO Secretariat face the following challenges in the development of this NPP revision:

- It was felt that the language does not meet the expectations of the readers
- The growers' sector are now seeing the NPP as a hindrance to further expand their plantation(s), which impacts their ability to achieve the 'Prosperity' element of the P&C
- Scheme smallholders are in limbo with regard to their NPP submission, as the Independent Smallholder (ISH) Standard has its own elements for new planting
- Integration between the High Carbon Stock Approach (HCSA) Assessment and the NPP
- The NPP should clearly discourage green land development and encourage brown land development.

3. Objectives and Tasks of the NPP Revision Subgroup:

a. Objectives:

- To ensure a documented process for finalising the NPP document in a consultative manner
- To revisit some of the scenarios in the draft NPP after public consultation
- To discuss the applicability of scheme smallholders in the context of NPP.

b. Tasks

No	Task(s)	PIC
1	To call for the formation of the NPP Revision Subgroup	RSPO Secretariat
2	To discuss the current gaps in the draft and plan a constructive way forward	NPP Rev. Subgroup
3	To draft input on scenarios for new planting	NPP Rev. Subgroup
4	To discuss the applicability of the NPP towards scheme smallholders with the RSPO Smallholder Standing Committee (SHSC)	NPP Rev. Subgroup and SHSC
5	Other recommendations to be incorporated in the revised NPP draft	NPP Rev. Subgroup
6	Second public consultation on the NPP draft	RSPO Secretariat

4. Composition of the Subgroup

The composition of this subgroup will comprise the seven (7) sectors of RSPO membership. However, acknowledging the participation might be limited, at certain sectors, we will accept from other membership categories to fill the maximum seat available with the agreement of the subgroup members. Ideally, the composition is as follows:

Membership Sector	No. of representation
Growers (Indonesia)	2
Growers (Malaysia)	2
Growers RoW	2
Social and Env. NGO	3
Supply Chain	2
Financial Institution	1

Experts (e.g. auditors, assessors, scientists, etc.) may be invited to participate as observers when needed.

Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

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London, United Kingdom

Bogota, Colombia

New York, USA



There will be no alternates in this group and each membership sector representative ideally needs to communicate the issues to their respective constituent. The RSPO Secretariat will assist in the facilitation and management of the group.

5. Governance and Management of the Subgroup

The subgroup will report to the Standard Setting Committee (SSC) who will submit the final draft documents to the Board of Governors (BoG) for endorsement. Consultation with the Assurance Standing Committee is expected and progress reports will be prepared for every Standing Committee meeting.

Should a conflict of interest exist on any matter on the agenda and/or matters arising, each member must declare this at the beginning of, or during the course of the meeting. Furthermore, members with a conflict of interest must recuse themselves from the decision-making process and/or sensitive discussions.

Members and invited experts who have been privy to the discussions shall not use their position on the NPP Subgroup and/or from the information obtained to pursue monetary gain or bid for any projects commissioned by the NPP Subgroup, directly or indirectly, through an organisation with whom they are associated.

6. Active Period

The expected active period for this subgroup to deliver tasks 1 - 5 of section 3 above is within two (2) months. The period of the second public consultation will be determined as per the recommendations by [ISEAL Alliance](#). The subgroup will be disbanded once the NPP document is endorsed by the RSPO BoG.

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