

**MINUTES OF SECOND GHANA NATIONAL INTERPRETATION WORKING GROUP
MEETING ON ROUND TABLE ON SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL PRINCIPLES & CRITERIA
HELD AT THE CENTRE FOR AFRICAN WETLANDS-UNIVERSITY OF GHANA FROM
19TH TO 20TH JANUARY 2010**

ATTENDANCE

Annex 1.

INTRODUCTION

The workshop started at 9:40 am after the registration of the participants. Miss Anke Massart (Secretary for the GNIWG) welcomed the participants to the second meeting of the GNIWG.

Mr. Gert Vandersmissen (Chairman for GNIWG) urged the participants to contribute their quota to the discussions on the National Interpretation document because the RSPO has come to stay and stakeholders who want to be in business should be ready to comply with the Principles & Criteria enshrined in the document.

According to Miss Anke Massart, members would be taken again through a brief introduction to the RSPO Certification Scheme due to the fact that there were some new members present. This introduction would be followed by a presentation of Proforest (UK) on the similarities and differences between various National Interpretations processes. Mr. Abraham Baffoe of Proforest stated that the NI process of Ghana seems to be compliant with RSPO requirements for development of National Interpretations, however the NIWG should develop a strategy for field testing!

Afterwards, one of the NIWG members, COLANDEF, presented its approach towards sustainability and oil palm cultivation in Ghana.

The morning session ended with a presentation of Mr. Enoch Boateng of the Soil Research Institute (CSIR) concerning slope limits, fragile and marginal soils for oil palm cultivation in Ghana. The members learned that soil suitability maps for various crops are available and that the slope limit for oil palm is described in FAO Guidelines (i.e. 0-16: suitable; 17-30: management strategy needed; 30 – more: unsuitable). It was agreed that soil sampling should at least take place every 5 years, while leaf sampling should be done annually.

OBJECTIVES OF GNIWG 2

Miss Anke Massart explained that the main objective was to interpret the Principles & Criteria and to come out with INDICATORS and GUIDANCE to suite the national/local conditions. She said that the Ghana National Interpretation Working Group (GNIWG) comprises experts from “Agronomy, Milling and Research”, “Environment and Natural Resources”, “Legal, License and Social” as well as “Economics and Labour” in order to extract ideas from different perspectives.

It was said that the outcome of the second GNIWG meeting would result into the second draft of the Ghana National Interpretation document. The focus of the second meeting was therefore on the review of the national indicators, their importance (major or minor) and the guidance (including scheme smallholder guidance).

Miss Anke Massart said that the second draft would be made available for public consultation through the GNIWG website and the RSPO website. In addition, hard copies of the draft would also be available at vantage points.

RULES FOR THE GAME

It was said that each member of the GNIWG would be responsible to 1) attend three (maybe four) physical meetings, 2) actively participate in physical and electronic discussions and 3) seeks to build consensus within the GNIWG on how to address any issues arising. She said the PRINCIPLES and CRITERIA cannot be changed but INDICATORS and GUIDANCE can be modified. She stressed that members were to decide which indicator should be major or minor. Non-

conformance with a major indicator means, that the non-conformance must be addressed within 60 days of the surveillance assessment, or the certificate will be suspended. Non-conformance with a minor indicator means, that the indicator should be addressed by the next surveillance assessment or it will be raised to a major indicator.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION

This time round the members were divided into small groups in order to achieve more interaction. Group 1 discussed principle 4 (Good Agricultural Practices), group 2 discussed principle 5 and 7 (environment and natural resources) and group 3 discussed principle 6 and 7 (social issues). Group 4 started working on the scheme smallholder guidance.

A list and copies of national and international laws and regulations were available to all members throughout the sessions.

At the end of the meeting, on the second day, a representative from each group presented the outcome of its group discussions. The whole team participated in accepting and rejecting comments that resulted from the group discussions.

OUTCOME: THE SECOND DRAFT AND WAY FORWARD

The second draft would be developed based on the discussions held during the second GNIWG meeting. The draft will be available online (www.rspo-in-ghana.org) for public comments. In addition, the minutes of the meeting would be available online also. Furthermore, an updated document with "home work" for the GNIWG members would be distributed.

During the second consultation period, several forums will be organized:

- Labour forum to give feedback on: compliance to Labour Act, other relevant legislation, minimum wage and decent living wage, child labour (minimum age!), training, occupational health and safety of workers,....

- Environmental forum to give feedback on: impact assessments, relevant legislation, wildlife conservation and HCV assessment, pesticide registration, disposal of pesticide containers, disposal of obsolete chemicals, handling and storage of pesticides, performance standards (air, effluent, noise,).
- Two smallholder forums to give feedback on: scheme smallholder guidance (e.g. land titles, zero-burning, occupational health and safety, pricing mechanisms, ...) and guidance of independent smallholders.

The GNIWG proposed to develop a strategy for field testing. A team of experts should visit various companies and smallholder farms to test the Ghana National Interpretation.

It was suggested that a consultation with Lands Commission should be organized before the third meeting. Furthermore, both Lands Commission and Traditional Authorities should be present during the third meeting.

Prepared by Anke Massart

Annex 1: Attendants GNIWG 2

Agronomy, Milling and Research	
Ghana Oil Palm Development Company (GOPDC) Ltd.	Gert Vandersmissen
Ghana Oil Palm Development Company (GOPDC) Ltd.	Anke Massart
Ghana Oil Palm Development Company (GOPDC) Ltd.	Emmanuel K. Wiafe
Ghana Oil Palm Development Company (GOPDC) Ltd.	Bashir Manu
Agricultural Research Center (ARC) - Kade	Dr. G.O. Nkansah
Benso Oil Palm Plantations/Twifo Oil Palm Plantations Ltd.	Samuel Avaala Awonnea
Benso Oil Palm Plantations Ltd.	Victor Tetteh Zutah
Golden Star Oil Palm Plantations Ltd.	Isaac Darko Quarm
GOPDC Outgrower Association	B.K. Oppong
BOPP Outgrower/Smallholder Association	Fiiifi Ampong
BOPP Outgrower/Smallholder Association	Kweku Apaagya
Technoserve Ghana	Charles Ofori Addo
SG Sustainable Oils	Ransford Arthur
Ghana Sumatra Ltd.	John Chester
Agriserv	Raja A. Najjar
Environment & Natural Resources	
SAL Consult Ltd.	Seth A. Larmie
Ghana Wildlife Society	Anita Takura
WWF Ghana	Mustapha Seidu
Conservation International	Vincent Awotwe-Pratt
Environmental Protection Agency	Yaw Sarfo-Afriyie
National Conservation Research Center	Yelibora Martin
Soil Research Institute (CSIR)	Enoch Boateng
Legal, License and Social	
Community Land and Development Foundation COLANDEF	Simeon Nketsiah
West Africa Fair Fruit Company (Solidaridad)	Rob Moss
West Africa Fair Fruit Company (Solidaridad)	Rosemary Addo
Oxfam Ghana	Justin Morgan

Economics and Labour	
International Finance Corporation (IFC)	Peter White
International Finance Corporation (IFC)	Kwame Abrokwa
GTZ	Rudiger Behrens
Ghana Commercial Bank	Davis Kodjo Akorli
Ghana Agricultural Workers Union (GAWU)	Walter Atiako
Unilever Ghana Ltd.	Richard Laryea
Nestle Ghana Ltd.	Klutse Kudomor
Fantasy Foods Ltd.	Henry Danso
Ameen Sangari Ltd.	A.S. Alameddine
Private consultant - Labour and Human Resources	Cornelius Yawson

Secretary 1: Isaac A. Afrifa – GOPDC Ltd.

Proforest team: Neil Judd, Abraham Baffoe, Remi Duval and Joseph.

Media: Ghanaian Times