



REPORT

ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM ON RSPO

Ghana National Interpretation Process of RSPO Principles & Criteria
on
Environment and Natural Resources



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) is a worldwide not-for-profit association that unites stakeholders from seven sectors of the palm oil industry e.g., oil palm producers, palm oil processors or traders, consumer goods manufacturers, retailers, banks and investors, environmental or nature conservation NGOs and social or developmental NGOs to develop and implement global standards for sustainable palm oil production

Sustainable palm oil production involves legal, economically viable, environmentally appropriate and socially beneficial management and operations. This is delivered through the application of eight (8no) set of principles and thirty-nine (39no) criteria. The principles are as follows:

- Principle 1: Commitment to transparency;
- Principle 2: Compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Principle 3: Commitment to long-term economic and financial viability;
- Principle 4: Use of appropriate best practices by growers and millers;
- Principle 5: Environmental responsibility and conservation of natural resources and biodiversity;
- Principle 6: Responsible consideration of employees and of individuals and communities affected by growers and mills;
- Principle 7: Responsible development of new plantings; and
- Principle 8: Commitment to continuous improvement in key areas of Activity.

GOPDC Limited is hosting the Ghana Chapter of RSPO. Since its inception, the Ghana RSPO has held several meetings in order to develop the Ghana National Interpretation Document for implementation of the RSPO principles and criteria. As part of the interpretation process, it has become necessary to organize another forum for the Ghana National Interpretation Working Group (GNIWG) to particularly develop the details for the Environment/ Natural Resources Conservation aspects of the RSPO principles and criteria as it relates to Ghana.

Messrs SAL Consult was thus given the opportunity by GOPDC to organize the forum. The following constitute our report on the forum held on 15th July 2010 at the Center for African Wetlands, University of Ghana, Legon.

1.1 *Purpose*

The purpose of the forum is to provide an opportunity for companies, organizations and governmental institutions involved in environment and conservation of natural resources to meet and develop the Ghana National Interpretation document in more detail.

1.2 *Scope of Work*

The scope of work included the following:

- securing the venue for the forum;
- inviting the participants and confirming their participation;
- providing photocopies of all relevant documents to the participants;
- coordinating the discussions and activities at the forum; and
- preparing the minutes and report.

2.0 ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

2.1 *Securing the Venue*

The meeting took place at the Center for African Wetlands, at the University of Ghana, Legon on 15th July 2010 between the hours of 0900hrs – 1500hrs GMT.

2.2 *Invitation of Participants*

The companies, organizations and governmental institutions involved in environmental policy development, environmental management, natural resource policy development or natural resource management were invited to participate in the forum. The following organizations in particular were given priority to attend and were invited:

- WWF Ghana;
- Ghana Wildlife Society;
- Conservation International;
- National Conservation Research Centre (NCRC);
- Technoserve Ghana;
- Water Resources Commission;
- Energy Commission;
- Ministry of Food and Agriculture (relevant departments: e.g. Plant Protection);
- Environmental Protection Agency (relevant departments: e.g. Chemicals Control & Management Centre);
- Department of Environmental Health, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development;
- National Fire Service;
- CropLife Ghana; and
- Ghana Irrigation Development Authority (GIDA).

In addition, all GNIWG members on an email list provided by the secretariat were invited in consultation by the consultants in conjunction with GOPDC.

CSIR- Water Research Institute, Wildlife Division and Forestry Commission were also identified for special invitation to participate in the forum.

2.3 *Attendance*

A total of thirty (30no) Participants including the four (4no) SAL Consult Staff and three (3no) GOPDC Staff attended the forum. The twenty three (23no) other participants were drawn from Government Institutions, Growers, NGOs, Private Institutions and Researchers.

The participants are categorized as follows:

- Growers 6no;
- Government Institutions: 10no;
- Oil Palm Researchers: 1no;
- Financial Institutions: 1no;
- NGOs/ CBOs: 5no;
- Trade Unionist: 1no;

- Development Cooperation: 3no; and
- Consultants: 3no.

The participants list is attached to the Minutes as **Annex 1**.

2.4 Documents for Participants

SAL Consult provided the participants with all the relevant documents to ensure effective deliberations. The documents included the relevant portions of the national interpretation document. In addition, all relevant laws and regulations were also collated for referencing by participants.

The following laws/ regulations and policy documents were provided:

1. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

National Wildlife Management Policy

National Water Policy

National Irrigation Policy

National Land Policy

National Action Programme to Combat Drought and Desertification

Ghana Gprs_2 (Nov-2005)

Ghana – Environmental Protection Agency –Guidelines Development – Volume 2 Report

Environmental Sanitation Policy

2. GHANA ENVIRONMENT RELATED ACTS

Water Management and Pollution

Water Resource Commission Act 1996

Rivers Act, 1903

Ghana Water And Sewage, 1965

Environmental Protection Agency Act 1994

Solid Waste Management

Local Government Act, 1993

Layout-Designs (Topographies) of Integrated Circuit Act 2004

Environmental Assessment Regulation, 1999

Abandoned Property (Disposal) Act, 1974

Land Management

Lands Statutory Wayleaves

Lands Miscellaneous (Provisions) Act, 1963

Lands Commission Act, 1994

Landed Properties Of Ghana Rubber Estates Limited And First Fire Stone Ghana Limited (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1977

Land Title Registration Act, 1986

Land Registry Act, 1962

Land Planning Soil Conservation Act, 1953

Irrigation Development Authority Act, 1977

Human Development and Settlement

Weights And Measures Act, 1975

Vaccination Act, 1919

Towns Act, 1982
 Town and Country Planning Act, 1945
 Telecommunications (Frequency Registration And Control) Act, 1977
 Standards Authority Act, 1973
 Seeds (Certification and Standards) Act, 1972
 Mercury Act, 1989
 Local Government Service Act, 2003
 Infectious Disease Act, 1908
 Ghana Tourist Control Authority Act, 1973
 Ghana Standards Board (Food, Drugs And Other Goods) General Labelling Rules, 1992
 Ghana Shipping Act, 2003
 Ghana Ports and Harbour Authority 1986
 Ghana National Fire Service Act, 1997
 Ghana Meteorological Agency Act, 2004
 Ghana Maritime Security Act, 2004
 Ghana Maritime Authority Act 2002
 Food and Drugs Board
 Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
 Copyright Act, 2005
 Confiscated Assets (Recovery And Disposal) Committee Act, 1979
 Concessions Act, 1962
 Concessions Act, 1939
 Centre for Scientific Research into Plant Medicine
 Administration of Lands Act, 1962

Flora and Fauna

Wild Animals Preservation Act, 1961
 Trees And Timber Act, 1974
 Timber Resource Management Regulation Act, 1998
 Timber Resource Management Act, 1998
 Timber Operations (Government Participation) Act, 1972
 Timber Industry and Ghana Timber Marketing Board (Amendment) Act, 1977
 Forest Plantation Development Fund Act, 2000
 Economic Plants Protection Act, 1979
 Control and Prevention of Bush Fires Act, 1990
 Animal Control of Importation Act, 1952
 Animal Artificial Insemination Act, 1955

Energy and Mineral Resources

West African Gas Pipeline Act, 2004_2
 Volta River Development Act 1961
 Small-Scale Gold Mining Act, 1989
 Mining Health Areas, 1925
 Minerals Export Duty
 Minerals Commission Act, 1993
 Ghana National Petroleum Corporation Act 1983
 Energy Commission Act, 1997
 Diamonds Act, 1972
 Atomic Energy Commission Act, 2000

Coastal and Marine Environment

Maritime Zone (Delimitation) 1986

Management Of Ozone Depleting Substances And Products Regulations, 2005

Fisheries Act 2002

Air pollution

Management of Ozone Depleting Substances and Products Regulations, 2005

Environmental Protection Agency Act 1994

2.5 *Coordinating Activities/ Discussions at the Forum*

SAL Consult consultants provided coordination support at the forum ensuring that all deliberations are captured appropriately especially those held during the plenary sessions.

Sessions held during the group meetings were captured by the groups appointed rapporteurs. In all, there were four (4no) groups and their chairmen/ rapporteurs were as follows:

- Mr Walter Atiako (Chairman)/ Mr Abdulai Nafeo (Rapporteur) for Group A;
- Mr Emmanuel Wiafe (Chairman)/ Mr Joseph Tusah (Rapporteur) for Group B;
- Mrs Rosemary Addico (rapporteur)/ Ms Anke Massart (Chairman) for Group C; and
- Mr Ruediger Behrens(Chairman)/ Mr Charles Ofori Addo (Rapporteur) for Group D.

The deliberations/ discussion have been provided in the Minutes already submitted to GOPDC.

It is expected that the outputs of the forum will be presented to the fourth GNIWG meeting by SAL Consult Ltd.

Plates 1 – 8 show scenes from the forum.

2.6 *Publicity*

SAL Consult invited two (2no) print media houses- Daily Graphic and The Ghanaian Times and one (1) electronic media house- Metro TV to cover the forum.

Metro TV has already broadcast the event on 15th July 2010 while The Ghanaian Times has also published a report on the event in their 22nd July 2010 edition of the paper. No publication has emanated from the Daily Graphic yet.

In all nine (9no) media persons covered the forum and were made up of the following:

- Metro TV: 4no
- Ghanaian Times: 2no; and
- Daily Graphic: 3no.

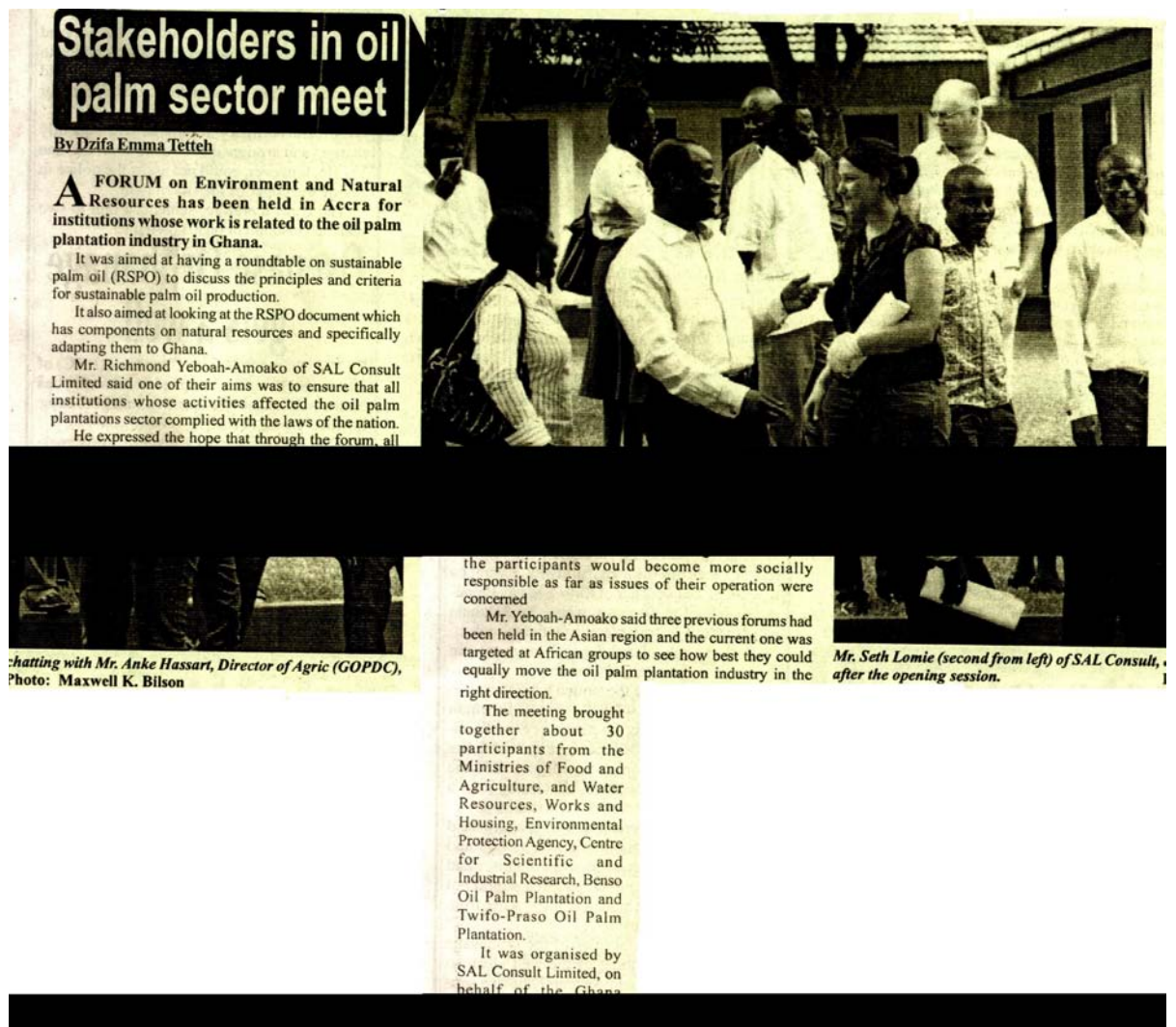


Figure 1: The Ghanaian Times Publication of 22nd July 2010 on the RSPO Forum



Plate 9: Mr Seth Larmie of SAL Consult Limited presenting the activities of the day



Plate 10: Pressmen covering the program



Plate 11: Group A engaged in deliberations



Plate 12: Group B engaged in deliberations



Plate 13: Group C engaged in deliberations



Plate 14: Group A presenting decisions at the closing plenary



Plate 15: Group B presenting decisions at the closing plenary



Plate 16: Group C presenting decisions at the closing plenary

The Tasks for the Day

General Tasks

Participants were taken through the tasks and were put into four groups (A – D). The following general tasks were brought to their attention for discussion:

- Review “National Indicators”, their Major or Minor status and provide guidance notes if any;
- Confirm if all the relevant environmental legislation is provided in the 3rd draft of the RSPO document; and
- Provide GNIWG with all Performance Standards of measurable indicators that can be found throughout the document like wastewater (i.e., discharge into rivers and also land application, drinking water, surface water, air emissions, ambient air quality, noise etc).

The following explanations were given on the General Tasks in reviewing the NI:

- Relevance of the national legislation to the NI;
Action: to put out any deficiency in the legislation given;
- Issue not fully addressed/ available for discussion to be followed up;
- The need to present all the guidelines and standards if available and to indicate whether they are available or not available was also stressed.

The specific tasks for group A, B and C apart from Group D were as follows:

- **Criteria 4.6** – Issues on pesticide containers and its improvement was brought forth for attention for discussion by group A.
- **Criteria 5.2/7.3** – issues to do with biodiversity was brought up for discussion by group A & B
- **Criteria 5.3** – issues to do with sanitation (National Sanitation Policy) was brought up for discussion by group B
- **Criteria 5.4 and 5.6** – on laws/ regulations on renewable energy and the use of fire in agriculture.

The Group Meetings/ Discussions

The meeting went straight into the group discussions and the reviews/ amendments made to the Ghana National Interpretation of RSPO document were brought forth by the groups for discussion led by their Rapporteurs and Chairpersons.

The various reviews/ amendments made to the Draft RSPO document have been indicated in the original document which has since been submitted as **Annex 4** of the Minutes.

3.0 FORUM OUTPUTS

At the end of the forum participants had reviewed the RSPO documents and the outcomes have been presented in the Minutes.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The forum to discuss the environment and natural resources aspect of the RSPO document as it relates to Ghana has been organized. Overall, the forum was very successful and the outputs will go a long way in enriching the RSPO document for Ghana.