

Title: Introducing the P & C Review and how stakeholders will be able to participate

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Abstract:

After 4 years of operation the Principles & Criteria of the RSPO have now been tested in the field – and it is time to review whether they are fit for purpose.

There are several elements to this review:

The first is that the RSPO undertook when the P&Cs were first agreed to review them within 5 years. The review will focus on both continued relevance of the P&Cs and their effectiveness in meeting their stated objectives of sustainable palm oil. In addition to these general aims the review is also specifically required by the General Assembly of the RSPO to incorporate Principles, Criteria, Indicators and Guidance relating to GHGs and alternatives to the use of pesticides.

For the review purpose, the RSPO Executive Board has established a Principle & Criteria Review Steering Group made up of selected RSPO EB members and RSPO Secretariat to oversee and guide the process.

This review is being planned to be split into two parts:

1. Phase 1 will be a pre-consultation review of the continuing relevance of the P&Cs which will run at least to the end of 2011. This Phase is an opportunity for all stakeholders to pose questions and to make suggestions for how the P&Cs could be made more relevant. It will also be an opportunity to draw on the lessons and suggestions from the various working groups of the RSPO;
2. Phase 2 is a more tightly focussed review process to look at the effectiveness of the current P&Cs and will run from January 2012 and be conducted by a P&C Review Task Force established with balanced representation of all RSPO members and drawing on external experts.

It is a standard practice that RSPO is keen to allow stakeholders some freedom to question the larger issues of the P&Cs but wants stakeholders to be aware that whilst this is an opportunity to substantially change the P&Cs this will only happen if consensus is reached.

Maximum time: 10 minutes.