Pioneering the art of collaboration between NGO & the private sector.

On speaking terms, while going public

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Sandra.seeboldt@oxfamnovib.nl
www.oxfaminternational.org
2003-2011: eight years of pioneering collaboration of Oxfam and the private Sector in RSPO
This presentation..

- WHY and HOW Oxfam works in the RSPO?
  critically constructive

- Why our way of working will be shifting with the RSPO going more public.
  Entering a new era

- Why we think that conflicts need to be resolved soon:
  Delivery on the key issue
Who is Oxfam?

International confederation of 15 individual Oxfam organizations

- 98 countries
- Hundreds of partners and allies around the world

Oxfam seeks to ensure that poor people can improve their livelihoods and have a say in decisions that affect them. We do that by working with others, including the private sector.
Why does Oxfam work with the Private sector?

Companies are the engine behind the economy, and if done responsibly, hold the key to “green and fair” economic development:

- Benefit the livelihoods of people living in poverty,
- Not be at the expense of human rights or the environment
Art of collaborating with the Private sector: how does Oxfam work?

- Critically constructive: Engagement with international value chains such as RSPO → setting up the systems through dialogue

- Campaigning: holding companies accountable in the public domain
  - Sime Darby (oil palm, Indonesia)
  - New Forest Company (Timber, Uganda)
Why is Oxfam in the RSPO?

- Belief in feasibility of a sustainable palm oil sector
- Concerns regarding increasing commercial pressure on natural resources: land, water and forest in particular.
- Hundreds or possibly thousands of historical land conflicts need to be resolved and new ones prevented.
RSPO in 2011: progress on social issues
2011: (social) achievements

- Principles and criteria include social elements (legality of land, FPIC by communities) and have been tailored to smallholders.
- Systems of verification, trade and traceability are:
  - Inclusive of smallholders
  - Include compulsory time bound plans for producers and buyers
- Over 10% of palm oil is produced sustainably (of which only 50% is sold).
- Grievances Panel started to function.
- Dispute Settlement Facility has taken up its first case.
- RSPO trademark enables brands and consumers to buy responsibly.
- Increased visibility of the problems and the solutions.
RSPO in 2011: not yet achieved
RSPO in 2011: not yet achieved

- Still hundreds of land rights conflicts RSPO members are involved in
- Capacity challenges in handling grievances
- First independent smallholders to be certified early 2012- long process
- Lack of information regarding labour situation on plantations
- Challenges around the trace and traceability system, it is leaking
- Challenges around auditing. What does true social auditing mean?
- Is RSPO capable of showing real impact in the field?
- **Market transformation is not happening fast enough!**
RSPO
Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

2012: year of truth
the credibility of the RSPO is at stake!
- More visibility (a.o. trademark) leads to more vulnerability
- Issues that are not achieved yet put us all at risk.
- Especially stakeholders with visible brands: food manufacturers, retailers, banks and NGOs
- NGOs get increasingly criticized in Northern media
- *Visible* change is needed on the ground: we/RSPO need to show IMPACT to the outside world
2012 time is up....

- RSPO needs to go fully from paper work to field work
- RSPO cannot be "half sustainable".

- Role of RSPO is changing:
  - From compliance with a standard, to delivery of impacts
  - From traceability to responsibility, from claims to ownership

- We are in this together: accountability and responsibility
  - North- South
  - Producers- buyers
  - Traders are key-holders for mainstream market transformation
2012 changing the art of collaboration..

- Continuation of building the system through dialogue

- From only dialogue behind the scenes to holding stakeholders accountable in the public domain.. RSPO is no longer behind the scenes..

- New era: Oxfam will go public:
  - show the positive
  - show the negative
Land and Power

The growing scandal surrounding the new wave of investments in land
GROW: Sime Darby

- Sime Darby was one of the five cases and companies that featured in the report –Land Rights conflict in Sanggau- West Kalimantan.

- Conflict since 2007
  - Published about in several reports
  - Several meetings between communities and SD during RTs
  - Very little progress made according to Oxfam research (August 2011)
GROW: Sime Darby

Exemplary of many cases and with typical characteristics of land right conflicts

- Lack of clarity about land titles
- Communities are divided: representation problem
- No proper community engagement in earlier stages
Any RSPO company involved in a conflict should take ownership of the conflict and provide conflict resolution plans:

- Time bound
- Clearly defined milestones on progress
- Transparent
- Agreed upon by all stakeholders involved.
- Include a community engagement approach
GROW to come… from producers to buyers

Public rating of food and beverage companies, measuring:

- Policies and practises
- Commitments to sourcing sustainable commodities, (palm oil)

*Mobilizing traders through increased market pressure*
What does Oxfam want the RSPO to do?

- RSPO needs to urgently put structures in place to quickly solve land conflicts
- RSPO needs to show measurable positive impacts on the ground
- RSPO needs to put in place systems of independent monitoring and linking and learning
What does Oxfam want producers to focus on?

- New conflicts need to be prevented from happening

- Ensure new plantings comply to the RSPO planting procedures globally

- Conflicts over land need to be structurally addressed and resolved urgently
What does Oxfam want traders to do?

Market transformation needs to go faster!!!

- Also traders should deliver time-bound plans

- Traders should do more than follow demand and supply, and set their own 100% target
Pioneering the art of collaboration..

- We need to walk the talk. All stakeholder groups!

- Oxfam co-built the system: now we will hold stakeholders accountable and responsible
  - No more new land right conflicts and urgent solution of the existing ones
  - Urgent market uptake: set commitments for 2012

- We together build the RSPO: together we should now make it work and deliver on our promises. All of us.
TERIMA KASIH- THANK YOU- MERCI BEAUCOUP- MUCHAS GRACIAS.

FOR TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

Plantations

Smallholders

Mill

Storage, transport, shipping

Refiners & Blenders

Ingredient Manufacturers

Product Manufacturers

Retailers