

Resolution GA14-6e

Proposed Resolution to be adopted at the 14th General Assembly of the
Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)

30th November 2017

TITLE: ENHANCING CREDIBILITY OF THE “ANNUAL COMMUNICATIONS OF PROGRESS”

Submitted by: Kuchenmeister GmbH

Co-signed by: Agrarfrost GmbH & Co.KG, Börlind Gesellschaft für kosmetische Erzeugnisse mbH, CARE Naturkost GmbH & Co. KG, Evonik Dr. Straetmans GmbH, Ferrero, Griesson – de Beukelaer GmbH & Co. KG, Kaufland Stiftung & Co. KG, NÖLKEN Hygiene Products GmbH, Weleda AG

Background:

All Ordinary and Affiliate members of the RSPO are obliged to submit annually the “Annual Communications of Progress” to the RSPO, to gauge their progress towards 100% RSPO-certified sustainable palm oil. The RSPO Membership and the RSPO Secretariat have further improved the ACOP reporting process and quality in the last years. It is obvious that the majority of the RSPO members take this task very serious. However, there are still members, which hardly provide even the minimal required information.

The RSPO Code of Conduct – as endorsed by the RSPO General Assembly GA 12 – clearly states, how RSPO Members must report towards the RSPO. Members shall be committed towards open and transparent engagement with interested parties. The Code of Conduct describes, which information members need to provide also towards the ACOP reporting. It is stated that members must report progress, relevant to the scope of the member's operations (e.g. specifying volume or percentage targets).

While the production volumes of RSPO Grower Members are regularly checked in audits and communicated via the RSPO website, our impression is that not all RSPO supply chain members strictly adhere to the Code of Conduct. Some members do not report in a transparent manner and therefore undermine the requirements of the RSPO Code of Conduct. In order to further improve the reporting, to assure a high quality and consistent reporting of all ACOPs – especially of supply chain members –, further action is required. The proposed resolution is necessary, to further position and assure that RSPO is a transparent and high-quality certification system and with high quality reporting.

THIS RESOLUTION PROPOSES:

In order to assure that all RSPO Members report in the ACOP according to the requirements as set in the Code of Conduct, we propose:

- 1) **As obligatory part of the individual supply-chain audits of the RSPO members, the auditors on site for the supply-chain-audit check – if available – the ACOP of the previous year. Auditors conduct plausibility checks, whether all data on certified volumes, the supply-chain models reported (B&C, MB, SG and IP), percentages etc. are consistent with the operations of this specific member. If the data reported are not plausible, the auditor reports a non-compliance to the RSPO Secretariat. Those RSPO member which must not provide on ACOP report, must not follow this process.**

- 2) **The RSPO Secretariat together with the relevant working groups in the RSPO, develop within 24 months of time procedures and processes, how to deal with non-plausibilities as reported by the auditors, in order to make sure that all RSPO members adhere to the Code of Conduct and the same standard of reporting.**

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