



Acknowledgements

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Content of the presentation

- Rationale for the RSPO Africa Roadshow: 'getting it right from the start'
- What has happened so far? Update on implementation
- Outcomes and future plans



Opportunities and risks

- Large scale oil palm expansions being planned in West and Central Africa (over a million ha concessions being allocated)
- **Opportunities**
 - Economic development at national level
 - Rural development and livelihood improvements at the local level
- **Risks**
 - Deforestation, destruction of high conservation values and increased GHG emissions
 - Conflicts resulting from land expropriations and rural impoverishment



Sustainable development through RSPO-compatible performance

- The RSPO has developed a set of tools and guidelines for the sustainable development of oil palm plantations.
- These are elaborated in the Principles & Criteria and the New Plantings Procedure
- Tools include:
 - Environmental and social impact assessment
 - Protection of High Conservation Values (HCVs)
 - Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), including participatory decision making



RSPO in Africa: current status

- RSPO is a relatively new initiative, and large scale oil palm investments in Africa yet to take off
- Consequently, the level of understanding about the RSPO is low among key stakeholders, but there is a major opportunity to 'embed' RSPO at this early stage
- Only one country has an RSPO National Interpretation of the P&C – Ghana
- Only one RSPO certificate for the region (issued for Agrivar: cooperatives of small growers in Cote D'Ivoire)
- Finalised NI for HCV toolkit- only Ghana. DRC, Cameroon, and Liberia now have draft toolkits

Programme objectives

- To create an enabling environment for the rapid uptake and implementation of sustainability requirements in the oil palm industry (RSPO best practice) through:
 - Awareness raising and capacity building
 - Facilitation of the development of support tools such as HCV national interpretations
 - Promote the development of workable and sustainable smallholder schemes in the region (collaboration with SHARP) - essential to ensure smallholder integration into sustainable oil palm development



Implementation and approach

- Since the beginning of 2012, the Roadshow has organised training and capacity building workshops for over 100 key stakeholders (including oil palm growers, government institutions, civil society organisations and local experts) in 3 priority countries for oil palm development in Africa: Liberia, Gabon and Ghana
- Roadshow events: a series of awareness raising, training and capacity building events (app one week in-country)
 - Bilateral meetings with key actors and stakeholders in the oil palm sector
 - Training and capacity-building workshops (2-3days) for key stakeholders
 - Dialogue platform: a multi-stakeholder workshop for defining local priorities for sustainable oil palm development in-country



Additional activities to date

- The programme has developed a series of briefing notes to raise awareness about Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) requirements for responsible oil palm and palm oil expansion, including the use of FPIC and the HCV concept
- The Roadshow has also supported the development of a national interpretation of the HCV toolkit for Liberia
 - Roadshow partnered with FFI to organise HCV NI workshops
 - Draft NI of HCV Toolkit circulated for consultation
 - To be validated and field-tested working with partners in the country



Outcomes

- Programme has been very successful in raising the profile of RSPO and associated concepts such as HCVs and FPIC in the region
- Culminated in the formation of RSPO National Interpretation Working Group in Gabon
- Informing follow-up activities under both the Roadshow and related programmes (such as SWAPP)
- Developing an HCV toolkit for Liberia and enabling smallholder mainstreaming under SHARP



Smallholder Acceleration and REDD Programme (SHARP)

- Programme aimed at promoting sustainable smallholder development through:
 - Development of effective smallholder models, adapted to specific regional dynamics and relationships
 - Improving livelihoods through inclusion in supply chains
 - Enhancing environmental performance such as deforestation
- SHARP partnership includes supply chain actors, financial institutions, governments, social and environmental NGOs, multilaterals and project managers
- SHARP workshop in Monrovia in November 2012: smallholder dynamics in the region are unique; need to develop workable smallholder models that are adapted to the realities of West and Central Africa



Sustainable West Africa Palm oil Programme (SWAPP)

- Programme led by Solidaridad, aimed at improving incomes and livelihoods from palm oil through increased farm productivity, improved mill efficiency and the promotion of best practice.
 - A. Developing good practice
 - B. Supporting investors and financial institutions
 - C. Regional information service
 - D. RSPO certification (partnership with Proforest)
 - E. Monitoring environmental and social performance
- Piloting in Ghana; scale up to Ivory Coast, Nigeria and Cameroon from 2013

Scale-up

- Identified need to expand the programme to other priority countries in the region, especially, Nigeria, Cote D'Ivoire, Cameroon, DRC etc
- Possible expansion to other regions, such as Latin America
- Available materials and programme can be easily adapted to new areas



Consolidation of gains

- First phase of work has included an initial round of awareness raising and capacity building
- Subsequent phases will build on this and will include
 - In-depth trainings for growers on practical implementation of RSPO requirements
 - RSPO Lead Auditor Training
 - Training for HCV specialists



www.proforestinitiative.org/roadshow

Thank you!

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