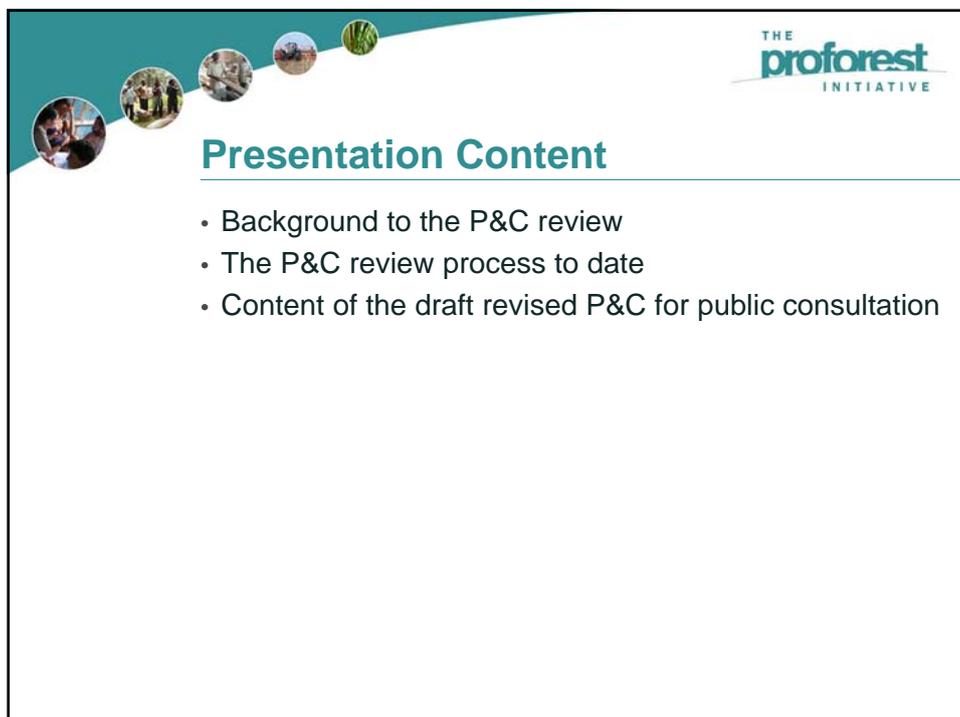


THE  
**proforest**  
INITIATIVE

**The RSPO P&C Review Process  
in 2012**

Neil Judd, October 2012

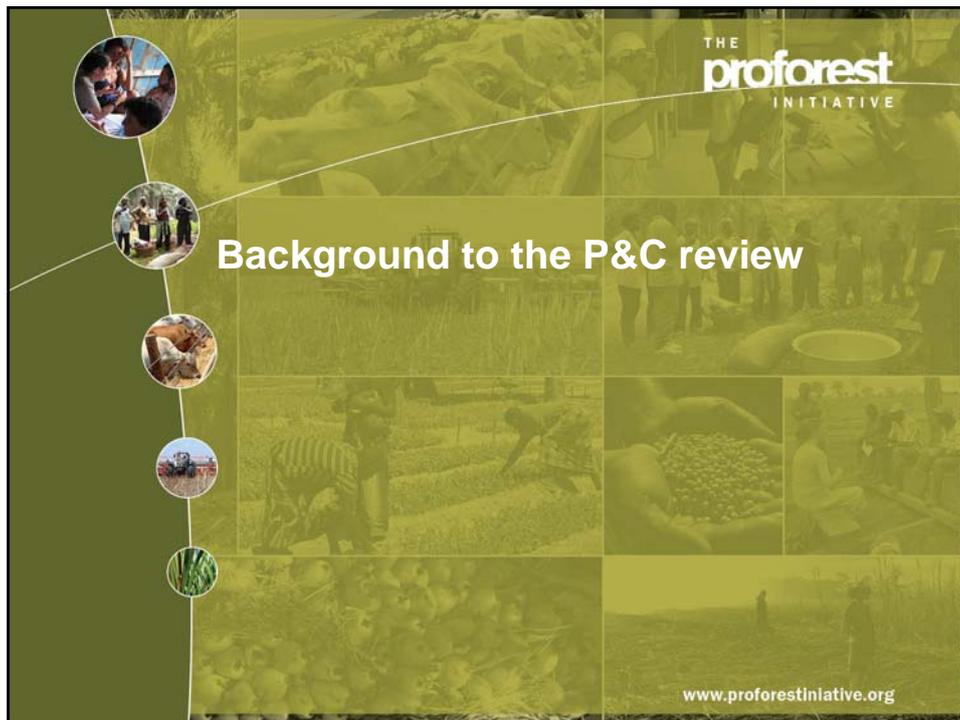
[www.proforestinitiative.org](http://www.proforestinitiative.org)



THE  
**proforest**  
INITIATIVE

**Presentation Content**

- Background to the P&C review
- The P&C review process to date
- Content of the draft revised P&C for public consultation



## Background to the P&C review

- The RSPO Principles and Criteria (P&C) are being reviewed in 2012, five years after their initial adoption, as originally planned.
- RSPO intend that the process will be consistent with ISEAL best practice (Code for Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards):
  - Standards shall be reviewed for continued relevance and for effectiveness in meeting their stated objectives and, if necessary, revised in a timely manner.
  - The review process shall consider whether a need continues to exist for the standard and whether external circumstances have changed to the point of requiring changes in the standard.



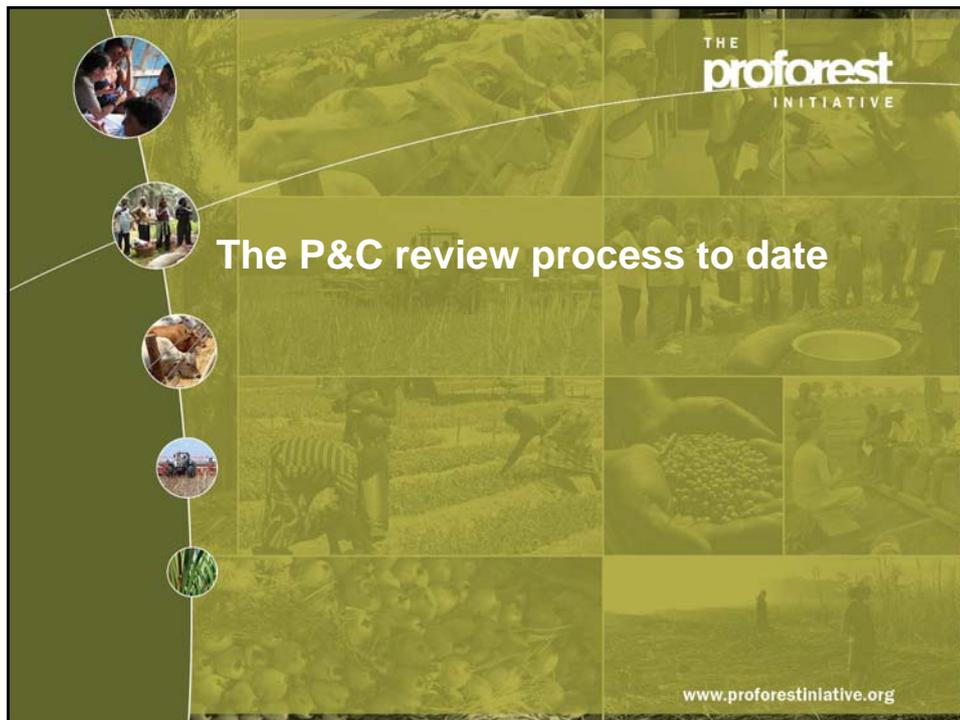
## Overview of the review process

- The P&C Review Steering Group, consisting of RSPO Executive Board (EB) members, decided to split the review into three parts:
  - Phase I - an initial broad review of the continued relevance of the P&C.
  - Phase II - a detailed process to look at the continued effectiveness of the P&C. For this purpose, a P&C Review Taskforce was established.
  - Phase III - the design of a workplan for any further actions.



## Objective of the process

- The overall objective of the P&C review process is to develop a revised set of P&Cs, by making amendments that:
  - draw on practical experience to improve the effectiveness of the P&C in meeting RSPO's objectives, and
  - reflect changes in external circumstances and understanding



### Phase 1 – reviewing the continuing relevance of the P&Cs

- This comprised two main elements:
  - An initial 60 day public consultation period during December 2011 – January 2012 (26 comments received)
  - A desk review by the facilitators of outputs from other RSPO taskforces/working groups that have to be incorporated into the P&C review, and a brief review of comparable certification standards to identify any possible gaps in the RSPO P&C.
- A report summarising the results of the phase 1 activities was produced.



## Standards comparison

- The RSPO P&C may be able to usefully draw on the content of other multistakeholder standards. Therefore the standards of some other relevant multistakeholder initiatives were briefly reviewed.
- Framework adapted from Sustainability Standards Transparency Initiative (SSTI)
- Those selected for review were: the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Roundtable for Responsible Soy (RTRS), Bonsucro, the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB), Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil (ISPO) standard and the Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) draft standard, in order to analyse what aspects of sustainability they cover and how these are defined.



## Review of RSPO documentation

- In order to draw together the existing relevant outputs from the various Working Groups and Taskforces of the RSPO that may have implications for the P&C Review, the relevant outputs were reviewed.
- The outputs from the following processes were considered:
  - New Plantings Procedure (NPP) Working Group
  - Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Working Group
  - Task Force for Smallholders (TFS)
  - Biodiversity and High Conservation Value Working Group (BHCVWG)
  - HCV Compensation Task Force
  - Trade & Traceability Standing Committee
  - EU Renewable Energy Directive (RED) Working Group
  - CABI report on pesticides



## Phase 2 – improving the effectiveness of the P&Cs.

- The SG decided to establish a P&C Review Taskforce (TF) to undertake the detailed standards review. The phase 1 report, all source documents, and all consultation comments received were made available to the TF.
- The main tasks of the TF are to:
  - Convert issues raised in Phase I inputs into agreement on revisions at level of Criteria, Indicators and/or Guidance. Draft revised Principles & Criteria for second public consultation period.
  - Consider input from second public consultation and finalise draft revised P&C document for submission to EB.



## P&C Review Taskforce

- The TF has 21 members divided between four interest groups:
  - **Palm oil producers** – 9 members, drawn from Malaysia (3), Indonesia (3) and Rest of the World (3).
  - **Supply chain and investors** – 4 members including representatives of processors, traders, retailers, financial institutions and related industries.
  - **Environmental interests** – 4 members including representatives of national and international NGOs, conservation practitioners, researchers and academics.
  - **Social interests** – 4 members including representatives communities impacted by the palm oil supply chain or NGOs representing them, research organisations and academics.



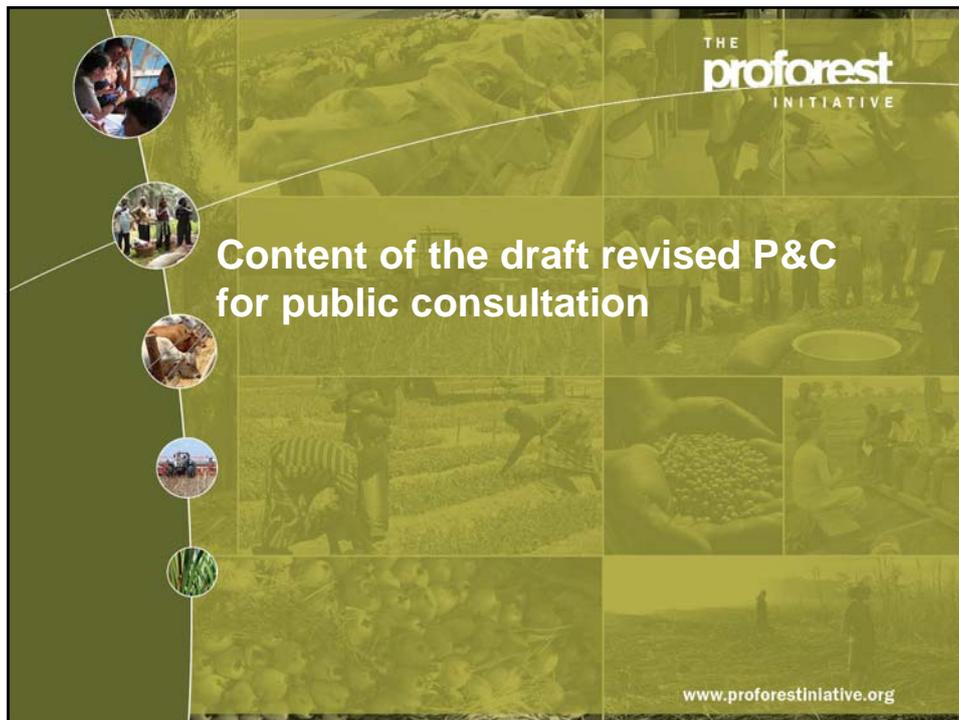
## Role of TF members

- WG members are expected to play an active role in representing their stakeholders' interests at the WG level, including ensuring that consultation with their stakeholders are carried out and putting forth the concerns, comments or ideas to the group.
- Consulting with interested parties not directly represented in the TF and ensuring that their views are expressed within the discussions. Members of the WG are there to represent an interest group within the RSPO, rather than just their own interests. TF members should not represent only the views or interests of their own organisation.
- Seeking to build consensus within the TF on how to address any issues which arise.



## Progress to date

- Three physical TF meetings have been held to date during the period May – August 2012, totalling 8 days of discussions
- The output of the process to date is the Draft Revised RSPO Principles and Criteria for Public Consultation
- This document is open for comments during the period 1 October – 30 November 2012
- The TF will reconvene for one further meeting in January 2013 to finalise the revised P&Cs, for submission to the EB




## General changes

- All indicators have now been numbered 'X.X.X' as follows: X(Principle number)X(Criterion number)X(Indicator number) to provide clarity and enable consistency between the generic P&Cs and national interpretations.
- Language used for indicators has now been harmonised to read 'shall', reflecting the fact that the required action is mandatory, and that certification bodies must assess whether there is compliance.
- Language used for guidance has been harmonised to read 'should', reflecting the fact that this is considered to represent best practice but is not mandatory. Where there are specific mandatory elements included in a guidance section, this has been harmonised to read 'will'; this applies in most cases to national interpretations. In some places specific guidance for particular indicators has been developed, and the relevant indicator is identified.
- In general, reference to interpretation of requirements for smallholders has been removed, for incorporation into the relevant specific RSPO smallholder documentation.



## **Principle 1: Commitment to transparency**

- Proposed new Criterion 1.X: Growers and millers commit to ethical conduct in all business operations and transactions
- Other adjustments to indicators and guidance in criteria



## **Principle 2: Compliance with applicable laws and regulations**

- Clarification to language in criteria (2.2/2.3) – legal, customary or user rights (also 6.4, 7.5, 7.6)
- One additional indicator for criterion 2.2 – participatory mapping of any disputed areas
- Two new indicators for criterion 2.3 - information has to be in appropriate languages and forms and affected stakeholders have the right to their own representation in disputes.



### Principle 3: Commitment to long-term economic and financial viability

- Adjustments to indicators and guidance, particularly to reflect desirability of longer-term planning for fragile soils



### Principle 4: Use of appropriate best practices by growers and millers

- New indicators:
  - 4.2 Soil fertility - evidence that good agriculture practices are followed to manage soil fertility
  - 4.3 Soil erosion and degradation - drainability assessments shall be required prior to replanting on peat
  - 4.5 IPM - IPM implementation shall be monitored
  - 4.6 Agrochemicals - knowledge and skills on pesticide handling shall be demonstrated
- Clarification of indicators e.g. *treatment of mill effluent to required levels* (instead of monitoring)
- Much enhanced guidance



**Principle 5: Environmental responsibility and conservation of natural resources & biodiversity**

- Revision to criteria:
  - 5.2 RTE species and HCVs – operations are managed to best ensure that they are maintained and/or enhanced
  - 5.4 efficiency is required for fossil energy use and renewable energy use is required to be optimised
- New indicators:
  - 5.1 EIA - comprehensive management plan
  - 5.4 Energy use - reduce the intensity of fossil fuel use (replaces 2 previous indicators on monitoring)
  - 5.5 Use of fire – indicators revised to ensure consistency with criterion 7.7
  - 5.6 Pollution & emissions (inc. GHGs) - now has separate indicators for identifying emissions and for reducing significant pollutants and GHG emissions



**Principle 6: Responsible consideration of employees and of individuals and communities affected by growers and mills**

- Proposed new Criteria 6.X:
  - No forms of forced or trafficked labour are used
  - Growers and millers respect human rights
- Adjustment to criterion 6.9 harassment and reproductive rights - reworded to make it outcome rather than process based
- New indicators:
  - 6.1 SIA - Plans for avoidance or mitigation, and monitoring of impacts
  - 6.5 Working conditions - workers' access to adequate, sufficient and affordable food
  - 6.8 Discrimination – demonstrate basis of recruitment selection, hiring and promotion
  - 6.9 Harassment and reproductive rights – policy to protect reproductive rights
  - 6.11 Sustainable development - efforts and/or resources in smallholder productivity shall be demonstrated



## **Principle 7: Responsible development of new plantings**

- Proposed new Criterion 7.X: New plantation developments are designed to minimise emissions and maximise sequestration, carbon stock conservation and emission avoidance
- New indicators:
  - 7.3 Primary forest and HCVs - extensively reworded to require an HCV assessment but also plans to make sure that HCVs are maintained and enhanced
  - 7.7 Use of fire – indicators revised to ensure consistency with criterion 5.5



## **Principle 8: Commitment to continuous improvement in key areas of activity**

- Adjustments to indicators and guidance



**THE**  
**proforest**  
INITIATIVE

**Please submit your comments!**

Thank you

[www.proforestinitiative.org](http://www.proforestinitiative.org)