Reflections on the P&C Review Process: Challenges to achieving consensus

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The first rule of making sausage...

Don’t talk about how it gets made!
Presentation Overview

• Review process chronology
• Initial stakeholder positions
• Highlights from physical meetings
• Complaints/concerns voiced
• Positive takeaways
• Next steps

P&C 5 year Review Task Force Chronology

• Physical Meeting 1: May 16-18 (Kuala Lumpur)
• Physical Meeting 2: June 27-28 (Kuala Lumpur)
• Physical Meeting 3: August 28-30 (Kuala Lumpur)
• 60 day Public Consultation: October 1-Nov 30
• Final Physical Meeting: expected January 2013
• GA vote on revised P&C: expected March/April 2013
Task Force Meeting #1
Member positions voiced

Environmental NGOs:

Highlights need to integrate carbon emission considerations (particularly from land-use change), strengthen HCV requirements, agrochemical controls and sustainable land management practices

Social NGOs

Focus on need to strengthen FPIC, customary land rights, conflict resolution, community food security, smallholder integration, agrochemical controls and labor rights
Task Force Meeting #1
Member positions voiced

Malaysian & Indonesia Growers:

Shared concern that strengthened P&C will detract those struggling with current standards (focus on national legislation)

Rest of World Growers:

Sees demand from market for action on carbon, recognizes current P&C not conducive to SHs, must balance need to strengthen P&C to avoid slowing uptake with practical solutions
Task Force Meeting #1
Member positions voiced

Supply Chain:

- focus on market perceptions and demand for carbon concerns, seek practical consensus

Task Force Meeting #1 cont’d

- Agreement on need to strengthen the perception of the RSPO P&C...... lack of consensus on how to do so effectively, practically and sustainably...

- TF1 focused on plenary discussion of the “hot-button” issues, (GHG, paraquat, fragile lands, NPP)

- Extended discussions on hot-button issues detract from less contentious issues

- TF1 concluded with little progress towards consensus
Task Force Meeting #2

- Modest achievements on less contentious issues
- Small breakout groups enabled open discussions and trust-building.
- Plenary overall less contentious, notwithstanding challenges
- Limited time to discuss 2-track (RSPO+)
  - Facilitator agrees to draft a concept for review and discussion at TF3
- Little progress on “hot button” issues – sustained objection without consensus-based solution limited progress

Task Force Meeting #3

- Discussion on RSPO+/Stepwise approach
  - Opposition focuses on potential dilution of RSPO standard
  - Supporters focus on varied market demands per end market uses
    - Reminded that P&C Task Force is not mandated to define different standards for varied end-market uses, but to amend the current P&C based on public comments, member views, etc
- Progress on integration of carbon considerations
  - Build on existing processes such as HCV, soil and topography assessments to qualitatively identify carbon stock and emissions from land use
  - Language does not require explicit calculation, but it initiates the recognition of importance of GHG, and provides a starting point for grower acceptance
Recurring Themes Through the P&C Review Process

The Perception of the RSPO
- P&C action vs. public relations

To Strengthen or to Expand?
- Varied opinions of TF members on best way to positively influence the PO market

Technical feasibility of recommendations
- RSPO members are responsible growers, and P&C revisions are encouraged to reflect reality of growers’ situation (ie; IPM and agrochemicals)

Concerns voiced
- Task Force reluctant to integrate WG recommendations
  - GHG WG (Palm GHG tool), Peatland WG
- Process seen as “too rushed” – little time for nuanced negotiation and constituency consultation
- Consensus-based decision making was questioned—absence of constructive solutions to disagreements
Positive Takeaways...

- Lack of consensus on all of the most contentious issues should not detract from the achievements of the Task Force
- Impressive progress was made, particularly given where we started and the timeframe we were provided, and we believe that the P&C are now stronger
- Introductory framework for integrating carbon considerations from land-use
- Commend the role of Proforest as facilitator and the contributions of all members/public through this challenging process

Next Steps to Finalize P&C Revision

- 60 day Public Consultation: October 1-Nov 30
- Final Physical Meeting: expected January 2013
- GA vote on revised P&C: expected April 2013?
Thank You