

RSPO

Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil



Principles and Criteria for the Production of Sustainable Palm Oil 2013

Accepted by the RSPO Executive Board for the Extraordinary
General Assembly on April 25th 2013

Preamble

Sustainable palm oil production is comprised of legal, economically viable, environmentally appropriate and socially beneficial management and operations. This is delivered through the application of the following set of Principles and Criteria, and the accompanying Indicators and Guidance.

The first set of Principles & Criteria, Indicators and Guidance (P&C 2007) have been applied since November 2007. These had been subject to trial implementation from November 2005 to November 2007 and in a number of countries to a subsequent process of National Interpretation. After five years of application by RSPO members, P&C 2007 were reviewed in 2012-2013 by the RSPO Principles and Criteria Review Taskforce.

The objective of the review was to improve the relevance and effectiveness of the Principles and Criteria for its members and in achieving the vision and mission of the RSPO. The review process followed ISEAL best practices, including two public consultations and four physical Taskforce meetings and resulted in the production of the revised RSPO Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Palm Oil Production (RSPO P&C 2013).

In line with ISEAL best practices, this document (RSPO P&C 2013) will be completely reviewed again after five years following ratification by the General Assembly of the RSPO. Within that period, any changes to the standards must be approved by the General Assembly of the RSPO and only after recommendations made by a duly appointed RSPO working group or taskforce.

One of the main issues addressed in the review was the recommendations of the RSPO greenhouse gas (GHG) working group. Acknowledging both the importance of the issue and the current challenges of determining emissions, the RSPO has revised an existing Criterion on monitoring and reporting GHG emissions from existing operations and developed a new Criterion on minimising net GHG emissions from new planting developments. However, it is recognised that these significant emissions cannot be monitored completely or measured accurately with current knowledge and methodologies. Therefore, growers and millers commit to an implementation period for promoting best practices in reporting to the RSPO,





and after December 31st 2016 to public reporting against both of these Criteria. During the implementation period the RSPO will further develop and improve the RSPO carbon assessment and reporting tools. Growers and millers make this commitment with the support of all other stakeholder groups of the RSPO. These revisions demonstrate the RSPO's commitment to developing credible requirements relating to GHG emissions.

Looking to the future, the RSPO Principles and Criteria Review Taskforce urges the Executive Board to engage with all grower country governments with the objective of addressing the problem of stateless persons (especially children and women) in the industry.

Also looking forward, the growers and millers within the RSPO commit to a process whereby they aim to source third party Fresh Fruit Bunches from identified, legal and responsible sources. The RSPO Principles and Criteria Review Taskforce strongly encourages the RSPO Executive Board to resource and support a process for developing tools and methodologies that can help them achieve these aims.

This document (RSPO P&C 2013) defines Indicators and Guidance for each Criterion. Indicators are specific pieces of objective evidence that shall (must) be in place to demonstrate or verify that the Criterion is being met. Guidance consists of useful information to help the grower/miller and auditor understand what the Criterion and/or Indicators mean in practice, to indicate good practice, and practices that should be followed. Specific Guidance has also been included for certain Indicators for clarity, as well as specific points to be addressed in National Interpretations. In most cases guidance for smallholder production has been removed to other documents that specify standards for that sector [*Guidance for Independent Smallholders under Group Certification*, June 2010, and *Guidance on Scheme Smallholders*, July 2009].

This document (RSPO P&C 2013) is effective after ratification by the RSPO General Assembly (May 2013). As stated under the RSPO Certification System, National Interpretations (NIs)



must be revised to be fully consistent with the RSPO P&C 2013 within 12 months after the date of ratification (April 2014). Certificate holders must be fully compliant with the new version of an NI within one year of it being completed (April 2015).

In countries without NIs and/or in cases where members have conducted a Local Interpretation applicable to their own operations, P&C 2013 is effective immediately after ratification (May 2013) and shall be used for any new certification activities after the ratification date. In cases where there is no NI the RSPO secretariat as requested by the P&C Review Taskforce has developed generic guidance in this document on issues identified as needing clarification in P&C 2013.

Already certified entities can continue to be certified after the date of ratification (May 2013) and before the completion of any relevant NI by conducting Annual Surveillance Assessments (ASA) against P&C 2007, but shall demonstrate compliance to the new RSPO P&C 2013 at the following ASA.

Necessary revision shall be made to other RSPO normative documents and guidance to ensure consistency with the wordings of RSPO P&C 2013.

Key international laws and conventions applicable to the production of palm oil are set out in Annex 1. Annex 2 provides the additional generic guidance and definitions on selected Criteria for countries where no National Interpretation exists.

The RSPO and its members recognize, support and commit to follow the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights [<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr>] and the International Labour Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work [<http://www.ilo.org/declaration/lang--en/index.htm>].



RSPO Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Palm Oil Production

Including Indicators and Guidance

April 2013

Text agreed by RSPO P&C Review Taskforce and Steering Group and endorsed by the Executive Board on 27th February 2013.

8 PRINCIPLES FOR GROWERS TO BE RSPO CERTIFIED



1 Commitment to transparency



5 Environmental responsibility and conservation of natural resources and biodiversity



2 Compliance with applicable laws and regulations



6 Responsible consideration of employees, and of individuals and communities affected by growers and mills



3 Commitment to long-term economic and financial viability



7 Responsible development of new plantings



4 Use of appropriate best practices by growers and millers



8 Commitment to continuous improvement in key areas of activity



PRINCIPLE 1: COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
1.1	<p>Growers and millers provide adequate information to relevant stakeholders on environmental, social and legal issues relevant to RSPO Criteria, in appropriate languages and forms to allow for effective participation in decision making.</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>1.1.1 There shall be evidence that growers and millers provide adequate information on (environmental, social and/or legal) issues relevant to RSPO Criteria to relevant stakeholders for effective participation in decision making.</p> <p>1.1.2 Records of requests for information and responses shall be maintained.</p> <p>Specific Guidance:</p> <p>For 1.1.1: Evidence should be provided that information is received in appropriate form(s) and language(s) by relevant stakeholders. Information will include information on the RSPO mechanisms for stakeholder involvement, including information on their rights and responsibilities.</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <p>Growers and millers should have a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to respond constructively to stakeholders, including a specific timeframe to respond to requests for information. Growers and millers should respond constructively and promptly to requests for information from stakeholders. Growers and millers should ensure that sufficient objective evidence exists to demonstrate that the response is timely and appropriate.</p> <p>See Criterion 1.2 for requirements relating to publicly available documentation.</p> <p>See Criterion 6.2 on consultation.</p> <p>See Criterion 4.1 on SOPs.</p>



PRINCIPLE 1: COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
1.2	<p>Management documents are publicly available, except where this is prevented by commercial confidentiality or where disclosure of information would result in negative environmental or social outcomes.</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>1.2.1 Publicly available documents shall include, but are not necessarily limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land titles/user rights (Criterion 2.2); • Occupational health and safety plans (Criterion 4.7); • Plans and impact assessments relating to environmental and social impacts (Criteria 5.1, 6.1, 7.1 and 7.8); • HCV documentation (Criteria 5.2 and 7.3); • Pollution prevention and reduction plans (Criterion 5.6); • Details of complaints and grievances (Criterion 6.3); • Negotiation procedures (Criterion 6.4); • Continual improvement plans (Criterion 8.1); • Public summary of certification assessment report; • Human Rights Policy (Criterion 6.13). <p>Guidance:</p> <p>This concerns management documents relating to environmental, social and legal issues that are relevant to compliance with RSPO Criteria.</p> <p>Management documents will include monitoring reports. The auditors will comment on the adequacy of each of the documents listed in the public summary of the assessment report.</p> <p>Examples of commercially confidential information include financial data such as costs and income, and details relating to customers and/or suppliers. Data that affects personal privacy should also be confidential.</p> <p>Ongoing disputes (within or outside of a legal mechanism) can be considered as confidential information where disclosure could result in potential negative outcomes for all parties involved. However, affected stakeholders and those seeking resolution to conflict should have access to relevant information. Examples of information where disclosure could result in potential negative environmental or social</p>



PRINCIPLE 1: COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
1.3	Growers and millers commit to ethical conduct in all business operations and transactions.	<p>outcomes include information on sites of rare species where disclosure could increase the risk of hunting or capture for trade, or sacred sites which a community wishes to maintain as private.</p> <p>Growers and millers should ensure that sufficient objective evidence exists to demonstrate that the level of measuring and monitoring of the management plan, and information, is appropriate and made available.</p> <p>For National Interpretation: Specific approaches to personal privacy safeguards, including any legal requirements, will be considered.</p> <p>Indicators: 1.3.1 There shall be a written policy committing to a code of ethical conduct and integrity in all operations and transactions, which shall be documented and communicated to all levels of the workforce and operations.</p> <p>Guidance: All levels of the operations will include contracted third parties (e.g those involved in security).</p> <p>The policy should include as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A respect for fair conduct of business; • A prohibition of all forms of corruption, bribery and fraudulent use of funds and resources; • A proper disclosure of information in accordance with applicable regulations and accepted industry practices. <p>The policy should be set within the framework of the UN Convention Against Corruption, in particular Article 12.</p>



PRINCIPLE 2: COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS AND REGULATIONS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
2.1	<p>There is compliance with all applicable local, national and ratified international laws and regulations.</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1.1 Evidence of compliance with relevant legal requirements shall be available. 2.1.2 A documented system, which includes written information on legal requirements, shall be maintained. 2.1.3 A mechanism for ensuring compliance shall be implemented. 2.1.4 A system for tracking any changes in the law shall be implemented. <p>Specific Guidance: For 2.1.4: The systems used for tracking any changes in laws and regulations should be appropriate to the scale of the organisation.</p> <p>Guidance: Implementing all legal requirements is an essential baseline requirement for all growers whatever their location or size. Relevant legislation includes, but is not limited to: regulations governing land tenure and land-use rights, labour, agricultural practices (e.g. chemical use), environment (e.g. wildlife laws, pollution, environmental management and forestry laws), storage, transportation and processing practices. It also includes laws made pursuant to a country's obligations under international laws or conventions (e.g. the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), ILO core Conventions, UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights). Furthermore, where countries have provisions to respect customary law, these will be taken into account.</p> <p>Key international laws and conventions are set out in Annex 1</p> <p>Contradictions and inconsistencies should be identified and solutions suggested.</p> <p>For National Interpretation: All relevant legislation will be identified, and any particularly important requirements identified.</p>



PRINCIPLE 2: COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS AND REGULATIONS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
2.2	<p>The right to use the land is demonstrated, and is not legitimately contested by local people who can demonstrate that they have legal, customary or user rights.</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>2.2.1 Documents showing legal ownership or lease, history of land tenure and the actual legal use of the land shall be available.</p> <p>2.2.2 Legal boundaries shall be clearly demarcated and visibly maintained.</p> <p>2.2.3 Where there are or have been disputes, additional proof of legal acquisition of title and evidence that fair compensation has been made to previous owners and occupants shall be available, and that these have been accepted with free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).</p> <p>2.2.4 There shall be an absence of significant land conflict, unless requirements for acceptable conflict resolution processes (see Criteria 6.3 and 6.4) are implemented and accepted by the parties involved.</p> <p>2.2.5 For any conflict or dispute over the land, the extent of the disputed area shall be mapped out in a participatory way with involvement of affected parties (including neighbouring communities where applicable).</p> <p>2.2.6 To avoid escalation of conflict, there shall be no evidence that palm oil operations have instigated violence in maintaining peace and order in their current and planned operations.</p> <p>Specific Guidance:</p> <p>For 2.2.2: Plantation operations should cease on land planted beyond the legally determined area and there should be specific plans in place to address such issues for associated smallholders.</p> <p>For 2.2.6: Company policy should prohibit the use of mercenaries and para-militaries in their operations. Company policy should prohibit extra-judicial intimidation and harassment by contracted security forces (see Criterion 6.13).</p>



PRINCIPLE 2: COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS AND REGULATIONS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
2.3	Use of the land for oil palm does not diminish the legal, customary or user rights of other users without their free, prior and informed consent.	<p>Guidance</p> <p>Where there is a conflict on the condition of land use as per land title, growers should show evidence that necessary action has been taken to resolve the conflict with relevant parties. A mechanism should be in place to resolve any conflict (Criteria 6.3 and 6.4). Where operations overlap with other rights holders, companies should resolve the issue with the appropriate authorities, consistent with Criteria 6.3 and 6.4.</p> <p>For National Interpretation:</p> <p>Any legal, customary or user rights to land, or disputes, which are likely to be relevant, will be identified.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>2.3.1 Maps of an appropriate scale showing the extent of recognised legal, customary or user rights (Criteria 2.2, 7.5 and 7.6) shall be developed through participatory mapping involving affected parties (including neighbouring communities where applicable, and relevant authorities).</p> <p>2.3.2 Copies of negotiated agreements detailing the process of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) (Criteria 2.2, 7.5 and 7.6) shall be available and shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Evidence that a plan has been developed through consultation and discussion with all affected groups in the communities, and that information has been provided to all affected groups, including information on the steps that shall be taken to involve them in decision making; b) Evidence that the company has respected communities' decisions to give or withhold their consent to the operation at the time that this decision was taken; c) Evidence that the legal, economic, environmental and social implications for permitting operations on their land have been understood and accepted by affected communities, including the implications for the legal status of their land at the expiry of the company's title, concession or lease on the land. <p>2.3.3 All relevant information shall be available in appropriate forms and languages, including assessments of impacts, proposed benefit sharing, and legal arrangements.</p> <p>2.3.4 Evidence shall be available to show that communities are represented through institutions or representatives of their own choosing, including legal counsel.</p>



PRINCIPLE 2: COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS AND REGULATIONS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
		<p>Specific Guidance: For 2.3.4: Evidence should be available from the companies, communities or other relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Guidance: All indicators will apply to current operations, but there are exceptions for long-established plantations which may not have records dating back to the time of the decision making, in particular for compliance with Indicators 2.3.1 and 2.3.2.</p> <p>Where there are legal or customary rights over land, the grower should demonstrate that these rights are understood and are not being threatened or reduced. This Criterion should be considered in conjunction with Criteria 6.4, 7.5 and 7.6. Where customary rights areas are unclear these should be established through participatory mapping exercises involving affected parties (including neighbouring communities and local authorities).</p> <p>This Criterion allows for sales and negotiated agreements to compensate other users for lost benefits and/or relinquished rights. Negotiated agreements should be non-coercive and entered into voluntarily, carried out prior to new investments or operations, and based on an open sharing of all relevant information. The representation of communities should be transparent and in open communication with other community members. Adequate time should be given for customary decision making and iterative negotiations allowed for, where requested. Negotiated agreements should be binding on all parties and enforceable in the courts. Establishing certainty in land negotiations is of long-term benefit for all parties.</p> <p>Companies should be especially careful where they are offered lands acquired from the State by its invoking the national interest (also known as ‘eminent domain’).</p> <p>Growers and millers should refer to the RSPO approved FPIC guidance (<i>‘FPIC and the RSPO: A Guide for Companies’, October 2008</i>)</p> <p>For National Interpretation: Any commonly encountered situations should be identified.</p>



PRINCIPLE 3: COMMITMENT TO LONG-TERM ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL VIABILITY

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
3.1	<p>There is an implemented management plan that aims to achieve long-term economic and financial viability.</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>3.1.1 A business or management plan (minimum three years) shall be documented that includes, where appropriate, a business case for scheme smallholders.</p> <p>3.1.2 An annual replanting programme projected for a minimum of five years (but longer where necessary to reflect the management of fragile soils, see Criterion 4.3), with yearly review, shall be available.</p> <p>Specific Guidance:</p> <p>For 3.1.1: The business or management plan should contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attention to quality of planting materials; • Crop projection = Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFB) yield trends; • Mill extraction rates = Oil Extraction Rate (OER) trends; • Cost of Production = cost per tonne of Crude Palm Oil (CPO) trends; • Forecast prices; • Financial indicators. <p>Suggested calculation: trends in 3-year running mean over the last decade (FFB trends may need to allow for low yield during major replanting programmes).</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <p>Whilst it is recognised that long-term profitability is also affected by factors outside their direct control, top management should be able to demonstrate attention to economic and financial viability through long-term management planning. There should be longer term planning for plantations on peat, particularly in regards to subsidence and flooding issues (see Indicator 4.3.5).</p> <p>Consideration of smallholders should be inherent in all management planning where applicable (see also Criteria 6.10 and 6.11). For scheme smallholders the content will vary from that suggested (refer to RSPO Guidance On Scheme Smallholders, July 2009).</p> <p>Growers should have a system to improve practices in line with new information and techniques. For smallholder schemes, the scheme management should be expected to provide their members with information on significant improvements.</p> <p>This Criterion is not applicable to independent smallholders (<i>refer to RSPO Guidance for Independent Smallholders under Group Certification, June 2010</i>)</p>



PRINCIPLE 4: USE OF APPROPRIATE BEST PRACTICES BY GROWERS AND MILLERS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
4.1	<p>Operating procedures are appropriately documented, consistently implemented and monitored.</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>4.1.1 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for estates and mills shall be documented.</p> <p>4.1.2 A mechanism to check consistent implementation of procedures shall be in place.</p> <p>4.1.3 Records of monitoring and any actions taken shall be maintained and available, as appropriate.</p> <p>4.1.4 The mill shall record the origins of all third-party sourced Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFB).</p> <p>Specific Guidance:</p> <p>For 4.1.1 and 4.1.4: SOP and documentation for mills should include relevant supply chain requirements (see RSPO Supply Chain Certification Standard, Nov 2011).</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <p>Mechanisms to check implementations could include documentation management systems and internal control procedures.</p> <p>For National Interpretation:</p> <p>National codes of practice or Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be referenced.</p>
4.2	<p>Practices maintain soil fertility at, or where possible improve soil fertility to, a level that ensures optimal and sustained yield.</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>4.2.1 There shall be evidence that good agriculture practices, as contained in Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), are followed to manage soil fertility to a level that ensures optimal and sustained yield, where possible.</p> <p>4.2.2 Records of fertiliser inputs shall be maintained.</p> <p>4.2.3 There shall be evidence of periodic tissue and soil sampling to monitor changes in nutrient status.</p> <p>4.2.4 A nutrient recycling strategy shall be in place, and may include use of Empty Fruit Bunches (EFB), Palm Oil Mill Effluent (POME), and palm residues after replanting.</p>



PRINCIPLE 4: USE OF APPROPRIATE BEST PRACTICES BY GROWERS AND MILLERS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
4.3	Practices minimise and control erosion and degradation of soils.	<p>Guidance: Long-term fertility depends on maintaining the structure, organic matter content, nutrient status and microbiological health of the soil. Nutrient efficiency should take account of the age of plantations and soil conditions. The nutrient recycling strategy should include any use of biomass for by-products or energy production.</p> <p>For National Interpretation: The range of appropriate techniques will be identified.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>4.3.1 Maps of any fragile soils shall be available.</p> <p>4.3.2 A management strategy shall be in place for plantings on slopes above a certain limit (this needs to be soil and climate specific).</p> <p>4.3.3 A road maintenance programme shall be in place.</p> <p>4.3.4 Subsidence of peat soils shall be minimised and monitored. A documented water and ground cover management programme shall be in place.</p> <p>4.3.5 Drainability assessments shall be required prior to replanting on peat to determine the long-term viability of the necessary drainage for oil palm growing.</p> <p>4.3.6 A management strategy shall be in place for other fragile and problem soils (e.g. sandy, low organic matter, acid sulphate soils).</p> <p>Specific Guidance: For 4.3.4: For existing plantings on peat, the water table should be maintained at an average of 50cm (between 40 - 60cm) below ground surface measured with groundwater piezometer readings, or an average of 60cm (between 50 - 70cm) below ground surface as measured in water collection drains, through a network of appropriate water control structures e.g. weirs, sandbags, etc. in fields, and watergates at the discharge points of main drains (Criteria 4.4 and 7.4).</p>



PRINCIPLE 4: USE OF APPROPRIATE BEST PRACTICES BY GROWERS AND MILLERS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
		<p>For 4.3.5: Where drainability assessments have identified areas unsuitable for oil palm replanting, plans should be in place for appropriate rehabilitation or alternative use of such areas. If the assessment indicates high risk of serious flooding and/or salt water intrusion within two crop cycles, growers and planters should consider ceasing replanting and implementing rehabilitation.</p> <p>Guidance: Plantations on peat should be managed at least to the standard set out in the <i>'RSPO Manual on Best Management Practices (BMPs) for existing oil palm cultivation on peat'</i>, June 2012 (especially water management, fire avoidance, fertiliser use, subsidence and vegetation cover).</p> <p>Techniques that minimise soil erosion are well known and should be adopted, where appropriate. These should include practices such as ground cover management, biomass recycling, terracing, and natural regeneration or restoration instead of replanting.</p> <p>For National Interpretation: National Interpretation (or an RSPO recognised parallel means) will refer to national guidance, and identify the best management practices and appropriate techniques for maintaining soil quality in local conditions, including guidance on soil types, and any appropriate performance thresholds such as maximum acceptable slope gradient for planting.</p>



PRINCIPLE 4: USE OF APPROPRIATE BEST PRACTICES BY GROWERS AND MILLERS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
4.4	Practices maintain the quality and availability of surface and ground water.	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>4.4.1 An implemented water management plan shall be in place.</p> <p>4.4.2 Protection of water courses and wetlands, including maintaining and restoring appropriate riparian and other buffer zones (refer to national best practice and national guidelines) shall be demonstrated.</p> <p>4.4.3 Appropriate treatment of mill effluent to required levels and regular monitoring of discharge quality, especially Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), shall be in compliance with national regulations (Criteria 2.1 and 5.6).</p> <p>4.4.4 Mill water use per tonne of Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFB) (see Criterion 5.6) shall be monitored.</p> <p>Specific Guidance:</p> <p>For 4.4.1: The water management plan will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take account of the efficiency of use and renewability of sources; • Ensure that the use and management of water by the operation does not result in adverse impacts on other users within the catchment area, including local communities and customary water users; • Aim to ensure local communities, workers and their families have access to adequate, clean water for drinking, cooking, bathing and cleaning purposes; • Avoid contamination of surface and ground water through run-off of soil, nutrients or chemicals, or as a result of inadequate disposal of waste including Palm Oil Mill Effluent (POME). <p>For 4.4.2: Refer to the <i>'RSPO Manual On Best Management Practices (BMP) for management and rehabilitation of natural vegetation associated with oil palm cultivation on peat'</i>, July 2012.</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <p>Growers and millers should address the effects of their use of water and the effects of their activities on local water resources.</p> <p>For National Interpretation:</p> <p>National Interpretation will refer to national guidelines or best practice and where appropriate include performance thresholds for requirements such as the size and location and methods of restoration of riparian strips or acceptable maximum run-off levels.</p>



PRINCIPLE 4: USE OF APPROPRIATE BEST PRACTICES BY GROWERS AND MILLERS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
4.5	<p>Pests, diseases, weeds and invasive introduced species are effectively managed using appropriate Integrated Pest Management techniques.</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>4.5.1 Implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plans shall be monitored.</p> <p>4.5.2 Training of those involved in IPM implementation shall be demonstrated.</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <p>Growers should apply recognised IPM techniques, incorporating cultural, biological, mechanical and physical methods to minimise the use of chemicals.</p> <p>Native species should be used in biological control where possible.</p> <p>For National Interpretation:</p> <p>National Interpretation will provide further guidance on what practices are most appropriate for a particular country, and where needed, on practices which are appropriate to smallholders.</p>
4.6	<p>Pesticides are used in ways that do not endanger health or the environment</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>4.6.1 Justification of all pesticides used shall be demonstrated. The use of selective products that are specific to the target pest, weed or disease and which have minimal effect on non-target species shall be used where available.</p> <p>4.6.2 Records of pesticides use (including active ingredients used and their LD50, area treated, amount of active ingredients applied per ha and number of applications) shall be provided.</p> <p>4.6.3 Any use of pesticides shall be minimised as part of a plan, and in accordance with Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plans. There shall be no prophylactic use of pesticides, except in specific situations identified in national Best Practice guidelines.</p> <p>4.6.4 Pesticides that are categorised as World Health Organisation Class 1A or 1B, or that are listed by the Stockholm or Rotterdam Conventions, and paraquat, are not used, except in specific situations identified in national Best Practice guidelines. The use of such pesticides shall be minimised and eliminated as part of a plan, and shall only be used in exceptional circumstances.</p>



PRINCIPLE 4: USE OF APPROPRIATE BEST PRACTICES BY GROWERS AND MILLERS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
		<p>4.6.5 Pesticides shall only be handled, used or applied by persons who have completed the necessary training and shall always be applied in accordance with the product label. Appropriate safety and application equipment shall be provided and used. All precautions attached to the products shall be properly observed, applied, and understood by workers (see Criterion 4.7).</p> <p>4.6.6 Storage of all pesticides shall be according to recognised best practices. All pesticide containers shall be properly disposed of and not used for other purposes (see Criterion 5.3).</p> <p>4.6.7 Application of pesticides shall be by proven methods that minimise risk and impacts.</p> <p>4.6.8 Pesticides shall be applied aurally only where there is documented justification. Communities shall be informed of impending aerial pesticide applications with all relevant information within reasonable time prior to application.</p> <p>4.6.9 Maintenance of employee and associated smallholder knowledge and skills on pesticide handling shall be demonstrated, including provision of appropriate information materials (see Criterion 4.8).</p> <p>4.6.10 Proper disposal of waste material, according to procedures that are fully understood by workers and managers shall be demonstrated (see Criterion 5.3).</p> <p>4.6.11 Specific annual medical surveillance for pesticide operators, and documented action to treat related health conditions, shall be demonstrated.</p> <p>4.6.12 No work with pesticides shall be undertaken by pregnant or breast-feeding women.</p> <p>Specific Guidance: For 4.6.1: Measures to avoid the development of resistance (such as pesticide rotations) should be applied. The justification should consider less harmful alternatives and IPM.</p> <p>Specific guidance for 4.6.3: Justification of the use of such pesticides will be included in the public summary report.</p>



PRINCIPLE 4: USE OF APPROPRIATE BEST PRACTICES BY GROWERS AND MILLERS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
4.7	An occupational health and safety plan is documented, effectively communicated and implemented.	<p>Specific guidance for 4.6.6: Recognised best practice includes: Storage of all pesticides as prescribed in the FAO International Code of Conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides and its guidelines, and supplemented by relevant industry guidelines in support of the International Code (see Annex 1).</p> <p>Guidance: The RSPO has identified some examples of alternatives to pesticide use, which include those listed in the ‘Research project on Integrated Weed Management Strategies for Oil Palm; CABI, April 2011’. Due to problems in the accuracy of measurement, monitoring of pesticide toxicity is not applicable to independent smallholders (refer to ‘Guidance for Independent Smallholders under Group Certification’, June 2010).</p> <p>For National Interpretation: National Interpretation will consider: statutory requirements concerning pesticide use, lists of legally prohibited pesticides, pesticide residues that should be tested for and the appropriate levels of residues, and best management practices for pesticide use or sources of information on these. National Interpretation will develop best practice guidelines on the exceptional circumstances that would allow the use of pesticides categorised as World Health Organisation Class 1A or 1B, or those listed by the Stockholm or Rotterdam Conventions, and paraquat as well as how they will be used in ways that do not endanger health or the environment.</p> <p>Indicators: The health and safety plan shall cover the following:</p> <p>4.7.1 A health and safety policy shall be in place. A health and safety plan covering all activities shall be documented and implemented, and its effectiveness monitored.</p> <p>4.7.2 All operations where health and safety is an issue shall be risk assessed, and procedures and actions shall be documented and implemented to address the identified issues. All precautions attached to products shall be properly observed and applied to the workers.</p> <p>4.7.3 All workers involved in the operation shall be adequately trained in safe working practices (see Criterion 4.8). Adequate and appropriate protective equipment shall be available to all workers at the place of work to cover all potentially hazardous operations, such as pesticide application, machine operations, and land preparation, harvesting and, if it is used, burning.</p>



PRINCIPLE 4: USE OF APPROPRIATE BEST PRACTICES BY GROWERS AND MILLERS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
		<p>4.7.4 The responsible person/persons shall be identified. There shall be records of regular meetings between the responsible person/s and workers. Concerns of all parties about health, safety and welfare shall be discussed at these meetings, and any issues raised shall be recorded.</p> <p>4.7.5 Accident and emergency procedures shall exist and instructions shall be clearly understood by all workers. Accident procedures shall be available in the appropriate language of the workforce. Assigned operatives trained in First Aid should be present in both field and other operations, and first aid equipment shall be available at worksites. Records of all accidents shall be kept and periodically reviewed.</p> <p>4.7.6 All workers shall be provided with medical care, and covered by accident insurance.</p> <p>4.7.7 Occupational injuries shall be recorded using Lost Time Accident (LTA) metrics</p> <p>Specific Guidance for 4.7.7: The National Interpretation will define the metrics for LTA. For countries where there are no national interpretations, the growers will determine their own metrics.</p> <p>Guidance: Growers and millers should ensure that the workplace, machinery, equipment, transport and processes under their control are safe and without undue risk to health. Growers and millers should ensure that the chemical, physical and biological substances and agents under their control are without undue risk to health when appropriate measures are taken. All indicators apply to all workers regardless of status. The health and safety plan should also reflect guidance in ILO Convention 184 (see Annex 1).</p> <p>For National Interpretation: National Interpretation will define the metrics for LTA. All legal requirements together with any local or national guidance on safe working practice in agriculture will be identified and used. It will also be important to identify what constitutes a 'hazardous' operation in the local context.</p>



PRINCIPLE 4: USE OF APPROPRIATE BEST PRACTICES BY GROWERS AND MILLERS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
4.8	All staff, workers, smallholders and contract workers are appropriately trained.	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>4.8.1 A formal training programme shall be in place that covers all aspects of the RSPO Principles and Criteria, and that includes regular assessments of training needs and documentation of the programme.</p> <p>4.8.2 Records of training for each employee shall be maintained.</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <p>Workers should be adequately trained on: the health and environmental risks of pesticide exposure; recognition of acute and long-term exposure symptoms including the most vulnerable groups (e.g. young workers, pregnant women); ways to minimise exposure to workers and their families; and international and national instruments or regulations that protect workers' health.</p> <p>The training programme should include productivity and best management practice, and be appropriate to the scale of the organisation.</p> <p>Training should be given to all staff and workers by growers and millers to enable them to fulfil their jobs and responsibilities in accordance with documented procedures, and in compliance with the requirements of these Principles, Criteria, Indicators and Guidance.</p> <p>Contract workers should be selected for their ability to fulfil their jobs and responsibilities in accordance with documented procedures, and in compliance with the requirements of the RSPO Principles, Criteria, Indicators and Guidance.</p> <p>Growers and millers should demonstrate training activities for schemes smallholders who provide Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFB) on a contracted basis.</p>



PRINCIPLE 4: USE OF APPROPRIATE BEST PRACTICES BY GROWERS AND MILLERS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
		<p>Workers on smallholder plots also need adequate training and skills, and this can be achieved through extension activities of growers or millers that purchase fruit from them, by smallholders' organisations, or through collaboration with other institutions and organisations (<i>refer to 'Guidance for Independent Smallholders under Group Certification', June 2010, and 'Guidance on Scheme Smallholders', July 2009</i>) For individual smallholder operations, training records should not be required for their workers, but anyone working on the farm should be adequately trained for the job they are doing (<i>refer to 'Guidance for Independent Smallholders under Group Certification', June 2010, and 'Guidance on Scheme Smallholders', July 2009</i>)</p> <p>For National Interpretation: Appropriate occupational training qualifications will be identified.</p>



PRINCIPLE 5: ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AND CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND BIODIVERSITY

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
5.1	<p>Aspects of plantation and mill management, including replanting, that have environmental impacts are identified, and plans to mitigate the negative impacts and promote the positive ones are made, implemented and monitored, to demonstrate continual improvement.</p>	<p>Indicator:</p> <p>5.1.1 An environmental impact assessment (EIA) shall be documented.</p> <p>5.1.2 Where the identification of impacts requires changes in current practices, in order to mitigate negative effects, a timetable for change shall be developed and implemented within a comprehensive management plan. The management plan shall identify the responsible person/persons.</p> <p>5.1.3 This plan shall incorporate a monitoring protocol, adaptive to operational changes, which shall be implemented to monitor the effectiveness of the mitigation measures. The plan shall be reviewed as a minimum every two years to reflect the results of monitoring and where there are operational changes that may have positive and negative environmental impacts.</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <p>The EIA should cover the following activities, where they are undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building new roads, processing mills or other infrastructure; • Putting in drainage or irrigation systems; • Replanting and/or expansion of planting areas; • Management of mill effluents (Criterion 4.4); • Clearing of remaining natural vegetation; • Management of pests and diseased palms by controlled burning (Criteria 5.5 and 7.7).



PRINCIPLE 5: ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AND CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND BIODIVERSITY

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
		<p>Impact assessment can be a non-restrictive format e.g. ISO 14001 EMS and/or EIA report incorporating elements spelt out in this Criterion and raised through stakeholder consultation.</p> <p>Environmental impacts should be identified on soil and water resources (Criteria 4.3 and 4.4), air quality, greenhouse gases (Criterion 5.6), biodiversity and ecosystems, and people's amenity (Criterion 6.1), both on and off-site.</p> <p>Stakeholder consultation has a key role in identifying environmental impacts. The inclusion of consultation should result in improved processes to identify impacts and to develop any required mitigation measures.</p> <p>For smallholder schemes, the scheme management has the responsibility to undertake impact assessment and to plan and operate in accordance with the results (refer to '<i>Guidance for Independent Smallholders under Group Certification</i>', June 2010, and '<i>Guidance on Scheme Smallholders</i>', July 2009).</p> <p>For National Interpretation: National Interpretation will consider any national legal requirements together with any other issues that are not required by law but are nevertheless important, e.g. independent social and environmental impact assessment (SEIA) for replanting may be desirable under specific situations.</p>



PRINCIPLE 5: ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AND CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND BIODIVERSITY

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
5.2	<p>The status of rare, threatened or endangered species and other High Conservation Value habitats, if any, that exist in the plantation or that could be affected by plantation or mill management, shall be identified and operations managed to best ensure that they are maintained and/or enhanced.</p>	<p>Indicator:</p> <p>5.2.1 Information shall be collated in a High Conservation Value (HCV) assessment that includes both the planted area itself and relevant wider landscape-level considerations (such as wildlife corridors).</p> <p>5.2.2 Where rare, threatened or endangered (RTE) species, or HCVs, are present or are affected by plantation or mill operations, appropriate measures that are expected to maintain and/or enhance them shall be implemented through a management plan.</p> <p>5.2.3 There shall be a programme to regularly educate the workforce about the status of these RTE species, and appropriate disciplinary measures shall be instigated in accordance with company rules and national law if any individual working for the company is found to capture, harm, collect or kill these species.</p> <p>5.2.4 Where a management plan has been created there shall be ongoing monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The status of HCV and RTE species that are affected by plantation or mill operations shall be documented and reported; • Outcomes of monitoring shall be fed back into the management plan. <p>5.2.5 Where HCV set-asides with existing rights of local communities have been identified, there shall be evidence of a negotiated agreement that optimally safeguards both the HCVs and these rights.</p> <p>Specific Guidance:</p> <p>For 5.2.1: This information will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of protected areas that could be significantly affected by the grower or miller; • Conservation status (e.g. IUCN status), legal protection, population status and habitat requirements of rare, threatened, or endangered (RTE) species that could be significantly affected by the grower or miller; • Identification of HCV habitats, such as rare and threatened ecosystems, that could be significantly affected by the grower or miller; <p>For 5.2.2: These measures will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that any legal requirements relating to the protection of the species or habitat are met; • Avoiding damage to and deterioration of HCV habitats such as by ensuring that HCV areas are connected, corridors are conserved, and buffer zones around HCV areas are created;



PRINCIPLE 5: ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AND CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND BIODIVERSITY

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controlling any illegal or inappropriate hunting, fishing or collecting activities, and developing responsible measures to resolve human-wildlife conflicts (e.g. incursions by elephants). <p>For 5.2.5: If a negotiated agreement cannot be reached, there should be evidence of sustained efforts to achieve such an agreement. These could include third party arbitration (see Criteria 2.3, 6.3 and 6.4).</p> <p>Guidance: This information gathering should include checking available biological records and consultation with relevant government departments, research institutes and interested NGOs if appropriate. Depending on the biodiversity values that are present, and the level of available information, some additional field survey work may be required.</p> <p>Wherever HCV benefits can be realised outside of the management unit, collaboration and cooperation between other growers, governments and organisations should be considered.</p> <p>For National Interpretation: Appropriate sources of information can include government or international lists of threatened species ('red data lists'), national wildlife protection legislation, authorities responsible for protected areas and species, or relevant NGOs.</p> <p>Note: Operators need to consider a variety of land management and tenure options to secure HCV management areas in ways that also secure local peoples' rights and livelihoods. Some areas are best allocated to community management and secured through customary or legal tenures, in other cases co-management options can be considered. Where communities are asked to relinquish rights so that HCVs can be maintained or enhanced by the companies or State agencies, then great care needs to be taken to ensure that communities retain access to adequate land and resources to secure their basic needs; all such relinquishment of rights must be subjected to their free, prior, and informed consent (see Criteria 2.2 and 2.3).</p>



PRINCIPLE 5: ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AND CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND BIODIVERSITY

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
5.3	Waste is reduced, recycled, re-used and disposed of in an environmentally and socially responsible manner.	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>5.3.1 All waste products and sources of pollution shall be identified and documented.</p> <p>5.3.2 All chemicals and their containers shall be disposed of responsibly.</p> <p>5.3.3 A waste management and disposal plan to avoid or reduce pollution shall be documented and implemented.</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <p>The waste management and disposal plan should include measures for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and monitoring sources of waste and pollution. • Improving the efficiency of resource utilisation and recycling potential wastes as nutrients or converting them into value-added products (e.g. through animal feeding programmes). • Appropriate management and disposal of hazardous chemicals and their containers. Surplus chemical containers should be reused, recycled or disposed of in an environmentally and socially responsible way using best available practices (e.g. returned to the vendor or cleaned using a triple rinse method), such that there is no risk of contamination of water sources or risk to human health. The disposal instructions on the manufacturers' labels should be adhered to. Use of open fire for waste disposal should be avoided. <p>For National Interpretation:</p> <p>National Interpretation (or an RSPO recognised parallel means) should include, as appropriate: details of relevant national laws or policies, a list of waste types (hazardous, non-hazardous, domestic, etc.) which must be considered, any types of disposal which are not acceptable (e.g. untreated waste water may not be discharged directly into streams or rivers (see Criterion 4.4), existing best practice guidelines on recycling and re-use of nutrients, managing effluent ponds, increasing mill extraction efficiency and appropriate disposal of wastes.</p>



PRINCIPLE 5: ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AND CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND BIODIVERSITY

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
5.4	Efficiency of fossil fuel use and the use of renewable energy is optimised.	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>5.4.1 A plan for improving efficiency of the use of fossil fuels and to optimise renewable energy shall be in place and monitored.</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <p>Renewable energy use per tonne of Crude Palm Oil (CPO) or palm product in the mill should be monitored.</p> <p>Direct fossil fuel use per tonne of CPO or Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFB) should be monitored.</p> <p>Energy efficiency should be taken into account in the construction or upgrading of all operations.</p> <p>Growers and millers should assess the direct energy use of their operations, including fuel and electricity, and energy efficiency of their operations. This should include estimation of fuel use by on-site contract workers, including all transport and machinery operations.</p> <p>The feasibility of collecting and using biogas should be studied if possible.</p>



PRINCIPLE 5: ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AND CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND BIODIVERSITY

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
5.5	Use of fire for preparing land or replanting is avoided, except in specific situations as identified in the ASEAN guidelines or other regional best practice.	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>5.5.1 There shall be no land preparation by burning, other than in specific situations as identified in the 'Guidelines for the Implementation of the ASEAN Policy on Zero Burning' 2003, or comparable guidelines in other regions.</p> <p>5.5.2 Where fire has been used for preparing land for replanting, there shall be evidence of prior approval of the controlled burning as specified in 'Guidelines for the Implementation of the ASEAN Policy on Zero Burning' 2003, or comparable guidelines in other regions.</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <p>Fire should be used only where an assessment has demonstrated that it is the most effective and least environmentally damaging option for minimising the risk of severe pest and disease outbreaks, and exceptional levels of caution should be required for use of fire on peat. This should be subject to regulatory provisions under respective national environmental legislation. Extension/training programmes for associated smallholders may be necessary.</p> <p>For National Interpretation:</p> <p>National Interpretation will identify any specific situations where such use of fire may be acceptable, for example through reference to 'Guidelines for the Implementation of the ASEAN Policy on Zero Burning' 2003, or comparable guidelines in other regions.</p>



PRINCIPLE 5: ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AND CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND BIODIVERSITY

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
5.6	<i>Preamble</i>	<p><i>Growers and millers commit to reporting on operational greenhouse gas emissions. However, it is recognised that these significant emissions cannot be monitored completely or measured accurately with current knowledge and methodology. It is also recognised that it is not always feasible or practical to reduce or minimise these emissions.</i></p> <p><i>Growers and millers commit to an implementation period until the end of December 2016 for promoting best practices in reporting to the RSPO, and thereafter to public reporting. Growers and millers make this commitment with the support of all other stakeholder groups of the RSPO.</i></p>
5.6	Plans to reduce pollution and emissions, including greenhouse gases, are developed, implemented and monitored.	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>5.6.1 An assessment of all polluting activities shall be conducted, including gaseous emissions, particulate/soot emissions and effluent (see Criterion 4.4).</p> <p>5.6.2 Significant pollutants and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions shall be identified, and plans to reduce or minimise them implemented.</p> <p>5.6.3 A monitoring system shall be in place, with regular reporting on progress for these significant pollutants and emissions from estate and mill operations, using appropriate tools.</p> <p>Specific Guidance:</p> <p>For 5.6.2: Plans will include objectives, targets and timelines. These should be responsive to context and any changes should be justified.</p> <p>For 5.6.2 and 5.6.3: The treatment methodology for POME will be recorded.</p> <p>For 5.6.3 (GHG): For the implementation period until December 31st 2016, an RSPO-endorsed modified version of PalmGHG which only includes emissions from operations (including land use practices) can be used as a monitoring tool.</p>



PRINCIPLE 5: ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AND CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND BIODIVERSITY

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
		<p>For 5.6.3: In addition, during the implementation period, growers will start to assess, monitor and report emissions arising from changes in carbon stocks within their operations, using the land use in November 2005 as the baseline. The implementation period for Indicator 5.6.3 is the same implementation period for Criterion 7.8.</p> <p>During the implementation period, reporting on GHG will be to a relevant RSPO working group (composed of all membership categories) which will use the information reported to review and fine tune the tools, emission factors and methodologies, and provide additional guidance for the process. Public reporting is desirable, but remains voluntary until the end of the implementation period.</p> <p>During the implementation period the RSPO working group will seek to continually improve PalmGHG, recognising the challenges associated with measuring GHG and carbon stock.</p> <p>PalmGHG or RSPO-endorsed equivalent will be used to assess, monitor and report GHG emissions. Parties seeking to use an alternative to PalmGHG will have to demonstrate its equivalence to the RSPO for endorsement.</p> <p>Guidance: Where practically feasible, operations should follow best management practices to measure and reduce emissions. Advice on this is available from the RSPO.</p>



PRINCIPLE 6: RESPONSIBLE CONSIDERATION OF EMPLOYEES AND OF INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY GROWERS AND MILLERS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
6.1	<p>Aspects of plantation and mill management that have social impacts, including replanting, are identified in a participatory way, and plans to mitigate the negative impacts and promote the positive ones are made, implemented and monitored, to demonstrate continual improvement.</p>	<p>Indicators</p> <p>6.1.1 A social impact assessment (SIA) including records of meetings shall be documented.</p> <p>6.1.2 There shall be evidence that the assessment has been done with the participation of affected parties.</p> <p>6.1.3 Plans for avoidance or mitigation of negative impacts and promotion of the positive ones, and monitoring of impacts identified, shall be developed in consultation with the affected parties, documented and timetabled, including responsibilities for implementation.</p> <p>6.1.4 The plans shall be reviewed as a minimum once every two years and updated as necessary, in those cases where the review has concluded that changes should be made to current practices. There shall be evidence that the review includes the participation of affected parties.</p> <p>6.1.5 Particular attention shall be paid to the impacts of smallholder schemes (where the plantation includes such a scheme).</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <p>Identification of social impacts should be carried out by the grower with the participation of affected parties, including women and migrant workers as appropriate to the situation. The involvement of independent experts should be sought where this is considered necessary to ensure that all impacts (both positive and negative) are identified.</p> <p>Participation in this context means that affected parties are able to express their views through their own representative institutions, or freely chosen spokespersons, during the identification of impacts, reviewing findings and plans for mitigation, and monitoring the success of implemented plans.</p> <p>Potential social impacts may result from activities such as: building new roads, processing mills or other infrastructure; replanting with different crops or expansion of planting area; disposal of mill effluents; clearing of remaining natural vegetation; changes in employee numbers or employment terms; smallholder schemes.</p>



PRINCIPLE 6: RESPONSIBLE CONSIDERATION OF EMPLOYEES AND OF INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY GROWERS AND MILLERS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
		<p>Plantation and mill management may have social impacts (positive or negative) on factors such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and use rights; • Economic livelihoods (e.g. paid employment) and working conditions; • Subsistence activities; • Cultural and religious values; • Health and education facilities; • Other community values, resulting from changes such as improved transport /communication or arrival of substantial migrant labour force. <p>The review can be done (once every two years) internally or externally.</p> <p>For National Interpretation: As social impacts are particularly dependent on local social conditions, National Interpretation will identify the important issues, and methodologies for collecting data and using the results. This should include adequate consideration of the impacts on the customary or traditional rights of local communities and indigenous people, where these exist (Criteria 2.3 and 6.4).</p>



PRINCIPLE 6: RESPONSIBLE CONSIDERATION OF EMPLOYEES AND OF INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY GROWERS AND MILLERS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
6.2	<p>There are open and transparent methods for communication and consultation between growers and/or millers, local communities and other affected or interested parties.</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>6.2.1 Consultation and communication procedures shall be documented.</p> <p>6.2.2 A management official responsible for these issues shall be nominated.</p> <p>6.2.3 A list of stakeholders, records of all communication, including confirmation of receipt and that efforts are made to ensure understanding by affected parties, and records of actions taken in response to input from stakeholders, shall be maintained.</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <p>Decisions that the growers or mills are planning to make should be made clear, so that local communities and other interested parties understand the purpose of the communication and/or consultation. Communication and consultation mechanisms should be designed in collaboration with local communities and other affected or interested parties. These should consider the use of appropriate existing local mechanisms and languages. Consideration should be given to the existence/formation of a multi-stakeholder forum. Communications should take into account differential access to information by women as compared to men, village leaders as compared to day labourers, new versus established community groups, and different ethnic groups.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to involving third parties, such as disinterested community groups, NGOs, or government (or a combination of these), to facilitate smallholder schemes and communities, and others as appropriate, in these communications.</p> <p>For National Interpretation:</p> <p>National Interpretation will consider issues such as appropriate levels of consultation and the types of organisation or individuals that should be included.</p>



PRINCIPLE 6: RESPONSIBLE CONSIDERATION OF EMPLOYEES AND OF INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY GROWERS AND MILLERS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
6.3	<p>There is a mutually agreed and documented system for dealing with complaints and grievances, which is implemented and accepted by all affected parties.</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>6.3.1 The system, open to all affected parties, shall resolve disputes in an effective, timely and appropriate manner, ensuring anonymity of complainants and whistleblowers, where requested.</p> <p>6.3.2 Documentation of both the process by which a dispute was resolved and the outcome shall be available.</p> <p>Specific Guidance: For 6.3.1: The system should aim to reduce the risks of reprisal.</p> <p>Guidance: See also to Criterion 1.2. Dispute resolution mechanisms should be established through open and consensual agreements with relevant affected parties.</p> <p>Complaints should be dealt with by mechanisms such as Joint Consultative Committees (JCC), with gender representation as necessary. Grievances may be internal (employees) or external.</p> <p>For scheme and independent smallholders, refer to <i>'Guidance for Independent Smallholders under Group Certification', June 2010</i>, and <i>'Guidance on Scheme Smallholders', July 2009</i>.</p> <p>Where a resolution is not found mutually, complaints can be brought to the attention of the RSPO Complaints System.</p> <p>Refer to helpful texts for guidance, such as the Human Rights Commission (HRC) endorsed <i>'Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the UN "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework'</i>, 2011.</p>



PRINCIPLE 6: RESPONSIBLE CONSIDERATION OF EMPLOYEES AND OF INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY GROWERS AND MILLERS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
6.4	<p>Any negotiations concerning compensation for loss of legal, customary or user rights are dealt with through a documented system that enables indigenous peoples, local communities and other stakeholders to express their views through their own representative institutions.</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>6.4.1 A procedure for identifying legal, customary or user rights, and a procedure for identifying people entitled to compensation, shall be in place.</p> <p>6.4.2 A procedure for calculating and distributing fair compensation (monetary or otherwise) shall be established and implemented, monitored and evaluated in a participatory way, and corrective actions taken as a result of this evaluation. This procedure shall take into account: gender differences in the power to claim rights, ownership and access to land; differences of transmigrants and long-established communities; and differences in ethnic groups' proof of legal versus communal ownership of land.</p> <p>6.4.3 The process and outcome of any negotiated agreements and compensation claims shall be documented, with evidence of the participation of affected parties, and made publicly available.</p> <p>Specific Guidance: For 6.4.2: Companies should make best efforts to ensure that equal opportunities have been provided to both female and male heads of households to hold land titles in smallholder schemes.</p> <p>Guidance: This criterion should be considered in conjunction with Criteria 2.2 and 2.3, and the associated Guidance.</p>



PRINCIPLE 6: RESPONSIBLE CONSIDERATION OF EMPLOYEES AND OF INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY GROWERS AND MILLERS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
6.5	<p>Pay and conditions for employees and for contract workers always meet at least legal or industry minimum standards and are sufficient to provide decent living wages.</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>6.5.1 Documentation of pay and conditions shall be available.</p> <p>6.5.2 Labour laws, union agreements or direct contracts of employment detailing payments and conditions of employment (e.g. working hours, deductions, overtime, sickness, holiday entitlement, maternity leave, reasons for dismissal, period of notice, etc.) shall be available in the languages understood by the workers or explained carefully to them by a management official.</p> <p>6.5.3 Growers and millers shall provide adequate housing, water supplies, medical, educational and welfare amenities to national standards or above, where no such public facilities are available or accessible.</p> <p>6.5.4 Growers and millers shall make demonstrable efforts to monitor and improve workers' access to adequate, sufficient and affordable food.</p> <p>For National Interpretation: National Interpretation will define a Decent Living Wage. Where there is no National Interpretation, the legal minimum wage will be used.</p>



PRINCIPLE 6: RESPONSIBLE CONSIDERATION OF EMPLOYEES AND OF INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY GROWERS AND MILLERS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
6.6	<p>The employer respects the rights of all personnel to form and join trade unions of their choice and to bargain collectively. Where the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining are restricted under law, the employer facilitates parallel means of independent and free association and bargaining for all such personnel.</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>6.6.1 A published statement in local languages recognising freedom of association shall be available.</p> <p>6.6.2 Minutes of meetings with main trade unions or workers representatives shall be documented.</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <p>The right of employees, including migrant and transmigrant workers and contract workers, to form associations and bargain collectively with their employer should be respected, in accordance with Conventions 87 and 98 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).</p> <p>Labour laws and union agreements, or in their absence direct contracts of employment detailing payments and other conditions, should be available in the languages understood by the workers or explained carefully to them by a management official.</p> <p>For National Interpretation:</p> <p>National Interpretation will define migrant and transmigrant workers. ILO definitions and other international protocols, instruments and explanations should be used throughout.</p>
6.7	<p>Children are not employed or exploited.</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>6.7.1 There shall be documentary evidence that minimum age requirements are met.</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <p>Growers and millers should clearly define the minimum working age, together with working hours. Only workers above the minimum school leaving age in the country or who are at least 15 years old may be employed. The minimum age of workers will not be less than stated under national regulations. Any hazardous work should not be done by those under 18, as per International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 138.</p> <p>Please refer to <i>'Guidance for Independent Smallholders under Group Certification'</i>, June 2010, and <i>'Guidance on Scheme Smallholders'</i>, July 2009 for additional guidance on family farms.</p>



PRINCIPLE 6: RESPONSIBLE CONSIDERATION OF EMPLOYEES AND OF INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY GROWERS AND MILLERS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
6.8	<p>Any form of discrimination based on race, caste, national origin, religion, disability, gender, sexual orientation, union membership, political affiliation, or age, is prohibited.</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>6.8.1 A publicly available equal opportunities policy including identification of relevant/affected groups in the local environment shall be documented.</p> <p>6.8.2 Evidence shall be provided that employees and groups including local communities, women, and migrant workers have not been discriminated against.</p> <p>6.8.3 It shall be demonstrated that recruitment selection, hiring and promotion are based on skills, capabilities, qualities, and medical fitness necessary for the jobs available.</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <p>Examples of compliance can be appropriate documentation (e.g. job advertisements, job descriptions, appraisals, etc.), and/or information obtained via interviews with relevant stakeholders such as affected groups which may include women, local communities, foreign workers, and migrant workers, etc.</p> <p>Notwithstanding national legislation and regulation, medical conditions should not be used in a discriminatory way.</p> <p>The grievance procedures detailed in Criterion 6.3 apply. Positive discrimination to provide employment and benefits to specific communities is acceptable as part of negotiated agreements.</p>



PRINCIPLE 6: RESPONSIBLE CONSIDERATION OF EMPLOYEES AND OF INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY GROWERS AND MILLERS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
6.9	There is no harassment or abuse in the work place, and reproductive rights are protected.	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>6.9.1 A policy to prevent sexual and all other forms of harassment and violence shall be implemented and communicated to all levels of the workforce.</p> <p>6.9.2 A policy to protect the reproductive rights of all, especially of women, shall be implemented and communicated to all levels of the workforce.</p> <p>6.9.3 A specific grievance mechanism which respects anonymity and protects complainants where requested shall be established, implemented, and communicated to all levels of the workforce.</p> <p>Specific Guidance:</p> <p>For 6.9.1 and 6.9.2: These policies should include education for women and awareness of the workforce. There should be programmes provided for particular issues faced by women, such as violence and sexual harassment in the workplace. A gender committee specifically to address areas of concern to women will be used to comply with this Criterion. This committee, which should include representatives from all areas of work, will consider matters such as: training on women's rights; counselling for women affected by violence; child care facilities to be provided by the growers and millers; women to be allowed to breastfeed up to nine months before resuming chemical spraying or usage tasks; and women to be given specific break times to enable effective breastfeeding.</p> <p>For 6.9.2: see Indicator 4.6.12.</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <p>There should be a clear policy developed in consultation with employees, contract workers and other relevant stakeholders, and the policy should be publicly available. Progress in implementing the policy should be regularly monitored, and the results of monitoring activities should be recorded. Notwithstanding national legislation and regulation, reproductive rights are respected.</p>



PRINCIPLE 6: RESPONSIBLE CONSIDERATION OF EMPLOYEES AND OF INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY GROWERS AND MILLERS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
6.10	<p>Growers and millers deal fairly and transparently with smallholders and other local businesses.</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>6.10.1 Current and past prices paid for Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFB) shall be publicly available.</p> <p>6.10.2 Evidence shall be available that growers/millers have explained FFB pricing, and pricing mechanisms for FFB and inputs/services shall be documented (where these are under the control of the mill or plantation).</p> <p>6.10.3 Evidence shall be available that all parties understand the contractual agreements they enter into, and that contracts are fair, legal and transparent.</p> <p>6.10.4 Agreed payments shall be made in a timely manner.</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <p>Transactions with smallholders should consider issues such as the role of middle men, transport and storage of FFB, quality and grading. The need to recycle the nutrients in FFB (see Criterion 4.2) should also be considered; where it is not practicable to recycle wastes to smallholders, compensation for the value of the nutrients exported can be made through the FFB price.</p> <p>Smallholders should have access to the grievance procedure under Criterion 6.3 if they consider that they are not receiving a fair price for FFB, whether or not middle men are involved.</p> <p>The need for a fair and transparent pricing mechanism is particularly important for outgrowers who are contractually obliged to sell all FFB to a particular mill.</p> <p>If mills require smallholders to change practices to meet the RSPO Principles and Criteria, consideration should be given to the costs of such changes, and the possibility of advance payments for FFB can be considered.</p>



PRINCIPLE 6: RESPONSIBLE CONSIDERATION OF EMPLOYEES AND OF INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY GROWERS AND MILLERS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
6.11	Growers and millers contribute to local sustainable development where appropriate.	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>6.11.1 Contributions to local development that are based on the results of consultation with local communities shall be demonstrated.</p> <p>6.11.2 Where there are scheme smallholders, there shall be evidence that efforts and/or resources have been allocated to improve smallholder productivity.</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <p>Contributions to local development should be based on the results of consultation with local communities. See also Criterion 6.2. Such consultation should be based on the principles of transparency, openness and participation, and should encourage communities to identify their own priorities and needs, including the different needs of men and women.</p> <p>Where candidates for employment are of equal merit, preference should always be given to members of local communities. Positive discrimination should not be recognised as conflicting with Criterion 6.8. Efforts should be made to identify independent smallholders in the supply base.</p> <p>Where sourcing of fruit is from identified independent smallholders, efforts should be made to contribute to the improvement of their farming practices.</p> <p>For National Interpretation:</p> <p>National Interpretation will consider specific parameters or thresholds such as use of local and national goods and services where possible, whether a certain percentage of the plantation's profit/turnover should be used for social development projects, and minimum quotas for local employment.</p>



PRINCIPLE 6: RESPONSIBLE CONSIDERATION OF EMPLOYEES AND OF INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY GROWERS AND MILLERS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
6.12	No forms of forced or trafficked labour are used.	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>6.12.1 There shall be evidence that no forms of forced or trafficked labour are used.</p> <p>6.12.2 Where applicable, it shall be demonstrated that no contract substitution has occurred.</p> <p>6.12.3 Where temporary or migrant workers are employed, a special labour policy and procedures shall be established and implemented.</p> <p>Specific Guidance:</p> <p>For 6.12.1: Workers should enter into employment voluntarily and freely, without the threat of a penalty, and should have the freedom to terminate employment without penalty given reasonable notice or as per agreement.</p> <p>For 6.12.3: The special labour policy should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement of the non-discriminatory practices; • No contract substitution; • Post-arrival orientation programme to focus especially on language, safety, labour laws, cultural practices etc.; • Decent living conditions to be provided. <p>Guidance</p> <p>Migrant workers should be legalised, and a separate employment agreement should be drawn up to meet immigration requirements for foreign workers and international standards. Any deductions made should not jeopardise a decent living wage.</p> <p>Passports should only be voluntarily surrendered.</p> <p>There should be evidence of due diligence in applying this to all sub-contract workers and suppliers. National guidance should be used on contract substitution.</p> <p>For National Interpretation:</p> <p>National Interpretation will define the following: temporary workers; migrant workers; special labour policy; contract substitution; and decent living wage. International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions (ILO Convention 29 and 105) and other international protocols, instruments and explanations should be used throughout. See Criterion 6.5 for further guidance.</p>



PRINCIPLE 6: RESPONSIBLE CONSIDERATION OF EMPLOYEES AND OF INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY GROWERS AND MILLERS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
6.13	Growers and millers respect human rights.	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>6.13.1 A policy to respect human rights shall be documented and communicated to all levels of the workforce and operations (see Criteria 1.2 and 2.1).</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <p>See also Criterion 6.3. All levels of operations will include contracted third parties (e.g those involved in security).</p> <p>Note:</p> <p>From the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: <i>“The responsibility of business enterprises to respect human rights refers to internationally recognised human rights – understood, at a minimum, as those expressed in the International Bill of Human Rights and the principles concerning fundamental rights set out in the International Labour Organization’s Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work” (“The corporate responsibility to respect human rights” in Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights).</i></p> <p>The RSPO WG on Human Rights will provide a mechanism to identify, prevent, mitigate and address human rights issues and impacts. The resulting Guidance will identify the relevant issues on human rights to all RSPO Members.</p>



PRINCIPLE 7: RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PLANTINGS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
7.1	<p>A comprehensive and participatory independent social and environmental impact assessment is undertaken prior to establishing new plantings or operations, or expanding existing ones, and the results incorporated into planning, management and operations.</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>7.1.1 An independent social and environmental impact assessment (SEIA), undertaken through a participatory methodology including the relevant affected stakeholders, shall be documented.</p> <p>7.1.2 Appropriate management planning and operational procedures shall be developed and implemented to avoid or mitigate identified potential negative impacts.</p> <p>7.1.3 Where the development includes an outgrower scheme, the impacts of the scheme and the implications of the way it is managed shall be given particular attention.</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <p>See also Criteria 5.1 and 6.1.</p> <p>The terms of reference should be defined and impact assessment should be carried out by accredited independent experts, in order to ensure an objective process. Both should not be done by the same body. A participatory methodology including external stakeholder groups is essential to the identification of impacts, particularly social impacts. Stakeholders such as local communities, government departments and NGOs should be involved through the use of interviews and meetings, and by reviewing findings and plans for mitigation.</p> <p>It is recognised that oil palm development can cause both positive and negative impacts. These developments can lead to some indirect/secondary impacts which are not under the control of individual growers and millers. To this end, growers and millers should seek to identify the indirect/secondary impacts within the SEIA, and where possible work with partners to explore mechanisms to mitigate the negative indirect impacts and enhance the positive impacts.</p> <p>The potential impacts of all major proposed activities should be assessed in a participatory way prior to development. The assessment should include, in no order of preference and as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of the impacts of all major planned activities, including planting, mill operations, roads and other infrastructure; • Assessment, including stakeholder consultation, of High Conservation Values (see Criterion 7.3) that could be negatively affected; • Assessment of potential effects on adjacent natural ecosystems of planned developments, including whether development or expansion will increase pressure on nearby natural ecosystems;



PRINCIPLE 7: RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PLANTINGS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of watercourses and wetlands and assessment of potential effects on hydrology and land subsidence of planned developments. Measures should be planned and implemented to maintain the quantity, quality and access to water and land resources; • Baseline soil surveys and topographic information, including the identification of steep slopes, marginal and fragile soils, areas prone to erosion, degradation, subsidence, and flooding; • Analysis of type of land to be used (forest, degraded forest, cleared land); • Analysis of land ownership and user rights; • Analysis of current land use patterns; • Assessment of potential social impacts on surrounding communities of a plantation, including an analysis of potential effects on livelihoods, and differential effects on women versus men, ethnic communities, and migrant versus long-term residents; • Identification of activities which may generate significant GHG emissions. <p>Plans and field operations should be developed and implemented to incorporate the results of the assessment. One potential outcome of the assessment process is that the development may not proceed because of the magnitude of potential impacts.</p> <p>For smallholder schemes, the scheme management should address this Criterion. For individual smallholders, this Criterion does not apply.</p> <p>Where there is no National Interpretation, for land areas greater than 500ha, a full independent assessment will be required. For land areas less than 500ha, an internal assessment using selected components of SEIA and HCV assessments can be used. Where such internal assessments identify significant environmentally or socially sensitive areas or issues, an independent assessment will be undertaken.</p> <p>For National Interpretation: National Interpretation will identify the relevant accreditations for independent experts. National Interpretation will consider setting an appropriate threshold for the size of new plantings, below which an internal assessment is allowed, and above which an independent SEIA is required. This will list negative social impacts (e.g. displacement, loss of the livelihoods of local peoples, etc.) in the national context.</p>



PRINCIPLE 7: RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PLANTINGS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
7.2	<p>Soil surveys and topographic information are used for site planning in the establishment of new plantings, and the results are incorporated into plans and operations.</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>7.2.1 Soil suitability maps or soil surveys adequate to establish the long-term suitability of land for oil palm cultivation shall be available and taken into account in plans and operations.</p> <p>7.2.2 Topographic information adequate to guide the planning of drainage and irrigation systems, roads and other infrastructure shall be available and taken into account in plans and operations.</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <p>These activities can be linked to the Social and Environmental Impact Assessment (SEIA) (see Criterion 7.1) but need not be done by independent experts.</p> <p>Soil suitability maps or soil surveys should be appropriate to the scale of operation and should include information on soil types, topography, hydrology, rooting depth, moisture availability, stoniness and fertility to ensure long-term sustainability of the development. Soils requiring appropriate practices should be identified (see Criteria 4.3 and 7.4). This information should be used to plan planting programmes, etc. Measures should be planned to minimise erosion through appropriate use of heavy machinery, terracing on slopes, appropriate road construction, rapid establishment of cover, protection of riverbanks, etc. Areas located within the plantation perimeters that are considered unsuitable for long-term oil palm cultivation will be delineated in plans and included in operations for conservation or rehabilitation as appropriate (see Criterion 7.4).</p> <p>Assessing soil suitability is also important for smallholders, particularly where there are significant numbers operating in a particular location. Information should be collected on soil suitability by companies planning to purchase Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFB) from potential developments of independent smallholders in a particular location. Companies should assess this information and provide information to independent smallholders on soil suitability, and/or in conjunction with relevant government/public institutions and other organisations (including NGOs) provide information in order to assist independent smallholders to grow oil palm sustainably.</p> <p>For National Interpretation:</p> <p>National Interpretation will specify the local or national code of practice or other guidelines that should be followed, or set out what 'good practice' constitutes within the local and national context.</p>



PRINCIPLE 7: RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PLANTINGS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
7.3	<p>New plantings since November 2005 have not replaced primary forest or any area required to maintain or enhance one or more High Conservation Values.</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>7.3.1 There shall be evidence that no new plantings have replaced primary forest, or any area required to maintain or enhance one or more High Conservation Values (HCVs), since November 2005. New plantings shall be planned and managed to best ensure the HCVs identified are maintained and/or enhanced (see Criterion 5.2).</p> <p>7.3.2 A comprehensive HCV assessment, including stakeholder consultation, shall be conducted prior to any conversion or new planting. This shall include a land use change analysis to determine changes to the vegetation since November 2005. This analysis shall be used, with proxies, to indicate changes to HCV status.</p> <p>7.3.3 Dates of land preparation and commencement shall be recorded.</p> <p>7.3.4 An action plan shall be developed that describes operational actions consequent to the findings of the HCV assessment, and that references the grower's relevant operational procedures (see Criterion 5.2).</p> <p>7.3.5 Areas required by affected communities to meet their basic needs, taking into account potential positive and negative changes in livelihood resulting from proposed operations, shall be identified in consultation with the communities and incorporated into HCV assessments and management plans (see Criterion 5.2).</p> <p>Specific Guidance:</p> <p>For 7.3.1: Evidence should include historical remote sensing imagery which demonstrates that there has been no conversion of primary forest or any area required to maintain or enhance one or more HCV. Satellite or aerial photographs, land use maps and vegetation maps should be used to inform the HCV assessment.</p> <p>Where land has been cleared since November 2005, and without a prior and adequate HCV assessment, it will be excluded from the RSPO certification programme until an adequate HCV compensation plan has been developed and accepted by the RSPO.</p> <p>For 7.3.5: The management plan will be adaptive to changes in HCV 5 and 6. Decisions will be made in consultation with the affected communities.</p>



PRINCIPLE 7: RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PLANTINGS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
		<p>Guidance:</p> <p>This Criterion applies to forests and other vegetation types. This applies irrespective of any changes in land ownership or farm management that have taken place since November 2005. HCVs may be identified in restricted areas of a landholding, and in such cases new plantings can be planned to allow the HCVs to be maintained or enhanced.</p> <p>The HCV assessment process requires appropriate training and expertise, and will include consultation with local communities, particularly for identifying social HCVs. HCV assessments should be conducted according to the National Interpretation of the HCV criteria or according to the Global HCV Toolkit if a National Interpretation is not available (see Definitions).</p> <p>Developments should actively seek to utilise previously cleared and/or degraded land on mineral soil. Plantation development should not put indirect pressure on forests through the use of all available agricultural land in an area.</p> <p>Where landscape level HCV maps have been developed, these should be taken into account in project planning, whether or not such maps form part of government land use plans.</p> <p>In case of small areas located either in hydrologically sensitive landscapes or in HCV areas where conversion can jeopardise large areas or species, an independent assessment will be required. HCV areas can be very small.</p> <p>Once established, new developments should comply with Criterion 5.2.</p> <p>For National Interpretation:</p> <p>National Interpretation should refer to existing national definitions of HCVs (or where these do not exist refer to definitions in this document), or equivalent land-use/conservation plans or consider how growers and the audit team can identify High Conservation Values. This may involve collaboration with other bodies.</p>



PRINCIPLE 7: RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PLANTINGS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
7.4	Extensive planting on steep terrain, and/or marginal and fragile soils, including peat, is avoided.	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>7.4.1 Maps identifying marginal and fragile soils, including excessive gradients and peat soils, shall be available and used to identify areas to be avoided</p> <p>7.4.2 Where limited planting on fragile and marginal soils, including peat, is proposed, plans shall be developed and implemented to protect them without incurring adverse impacts.</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <p>This activity should be integrated with the social and environmental impact assessment (SEIA) required by Criterion 7.1.</p> <p>Planting on extensive areas of peat soils and other fragile soils should be avoided (see Criterion 4.3). Adverse impacts may include hydrological risks or significantly increased risks (e.g. fire risk) in areas outside the plantation (see Criterion 5.5).</p> <p>For National Interpretation:</p> <p>National Interpretation will determine specific controls and thresholds, such as slope limits, listing soil types on which planting should be avoided (especially peat soils), the proportion of plantation area that can include marginal/fragile soils, and definitions of 'extensive', 'marginal', 'fragile', and 'excessive'.</p>



PRINCIPLE 7: RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PLANTINGS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
7.5	<p>No new plantings are established on local peoples' land where it can be demonstrated that there are legal, customary or user rights, without their free, prior and informed consent. This is dealt with through a documented system that enables these and other stakeholders to express their views through their own representative institutions.</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>7.5.1 Evidence shall be available that affected local peoples understand they have the right to say 'no' to operations planned on their lands before and during initial discussions, during the stage of information gathering and associated consultations, during negotiations, and up until an agreement with the grower/miller is signed and ratified by these local peoples.</p> <p>Refer also to criteria 2.2, 2.3, 6.2, 6.4 and 7.6 for Indicators and Guidance on compliance.</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <p>This activity should be integrated with the Social and Environmental Impact Assessment (SEIA) required by Criterion 7.1.</p> <p>Where new plantings are considered to be acceptable, management plans and operations should maintain sacred sites. Agreements with indigenous peoples, local communities and other stakeholders should be made without coercion or other undue influence (see Guidance for Criterion 2.3).</p> <p>Relevant stakeholders include those affected by or concerned with the new plantings.</p> <p>Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) is a guiding principle and should be applied to all RSPO members throughout the supply chain. Refer to RSPO approved FPIC guidance (<i>'FPIC and the RSPO; A Guide for Companies'</i>, October 2008).</p> <p>Customary and user rights will be demonstrated through participatory user mapping as part of the FPIC process.</p>



PRINCIPLE 7: RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PLANTINGS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
7.6	<p>Where it can be demonstrated that local peoples have legal, customary or user rights, they are compensated for any agreed land acquisitions and relinquishment of rights, subject to their free, prior and informed consent and negotiated agreements.</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>7.6.1 Documented identification and assessment of demonstrable legal, customary and user rights shall be available.</p> <p>7.6.2 A system for identifying people entitled to compensation shall be in place.</p> <p>7.6.3 A system for calculating and distributing fair compensation (monetary or otherwise) shall be in place.</p> <p>7.6.4 Communities that have lost access and rights to land for plantation expansion shall be given opportunities to benefit from plantation development.</p> <p>7.6.5 The process and outcome of any compensation claims shall be documented and made publicly available.</p> <p>7.6.6 Evidence shall be available that the affected communities and rights holders have access to information and advice, that is independent of the project proponent, concerning the legal, economic, environmental and social implications of the proposed operations on their lands.</p> <p>Specific Guidance:</p> <p>For 7.6.1: This activity shall be integrated with the social and environmental impact assessment (SEIA) required by Criterion 7.1.</p> <p>For 7.6.6: Growers and millers will confirm that the communities (or their representatives) gave consent to the initial planning phases of the operations prior to the new issuance of a concession or land title to the operator.</p> <p>Guidance:</p> <p>Refer to Criteria 2.2, 2.3 and 6.4 and associated Guidance.</p> <p>This requirement includes indigenous peoples (see Annex 1).</p> <p>Refer to RSPO approved FPIC guidance (<i>'FPIC and the RSPO; A Guide for Companies'</i>, October 2008)</p>



PRINCIPLE 7: RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PLANTINGS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
7.7	<p>No use of fire in the preparation of new plantings other than in specific situations, as identified in the ASEAN guidelines or other regional best practice.</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>7.7.1 There shall be no land preparation by burning, other than in specific situations, as identified in the ‘Guidelines for the Implementation of the ASEAN Policy on Zero Burning’ 2003, or comparable guidelines in other regions.</p> <p>7.7.2 In exceptional cases where fire has to be used for preparing land for planting, there shall be evidence of prior approval of the controlled burning as specified in ‘Guidelines for the Implementation of the ASEAN Policy on Zero Burning’ 2003, or comparable guidelines in other regions.</p> <p>Specific Guidance: For 7.7.2: This activity shall be integrated with the social and environmental impact assessment (SEIA) required by Criterion 7.1.</p> <p>Guidance: Fire should be used only where an assessment has demonstrated that it is the most effective and least environmentally damaging option for minimising the risk of severe pest and disease outbreaks, and exceptional levels of caution are required for use of fire on peat. This should be subject to regulatory provisions under respective national environmental legislation. Extension/training programmes for smallholders may be necessary.</p> <p>For National Interpretation: National Interpretation will identify any specific situations where such use of fire may be acceptable, for example through reference to ‘Guidelines for the Implementation of the ASEAN Policy on Zero Burning’ 2003, or comparable guidelines in other regions.</p>



PRINCIPLE 7: RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PLANTINGS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
7.8	<i>Preamble</i>	<p><i>It is noted that oil palm and all other agricultural crops emit and sequester greenhouse gases (GHG). There has already been significant progress by the oil palm sector, especially in relation to reducing GHG emissions relating to operations. Acknowledging both the importance of GHGs, and the current difficulties of determining emissions, the following new Criterion is introduced to demonstrate RSPO's commitment to establishing a credible basis for the Principles and Criteria on GHGs.</i></p> <p><i>Growers and millers commit to reporting on projected GHG emissions associated with new developments. However, it is recognised that these emissions cannot be projected with accuracy with current knowledge and methodology.</i></p> <p><i>Growers and millers commit to plan development in such a way to minimise net GHG emissions towards a goal of low carbon development (noting the recommendations agreed by consensus of the RSPO GHG WG2).</i></p> <p><i>Growers and millers commit to an implementation period for promoting best practices in reporting to the RSPO, and after December 31st 2016 to public reporting. Growers and millers make these commitments with the support of all other stakeholder groups of the RSPO.</i></p>
7.8	New plantation developments are designed to minimise net greenhouse gas emissions.	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>7.8.1: The carbon stock of the proposed development area and major potential sources of emissions that may result directly from the development shall be identified and estimated.</p> <p>7.8.2: There shall be a plan to minimise net GHG emissions which takes into account avoidance of land areas with high carbon stocks and/or sequestration options.</p> <p>Specific Guidance:</p> <p>For 7.8.1: GHG identification and estimates can be integrated into existing processes such as HCV and soil assessments.</p> <p>The RSPO carbon assessment tool for new plantings will be available to identify and estimate the carbon stocks. It is acknowledged that there are other tools and methodologies currently in use; the RSPO working group will not exclude these, and will include these in the review process.</p> <p>The RSPO PalmGHG tool or an RSPO-endorsed equivalent will be used to estimate future GHG emissions from new developments using, amongst others, the data from the RSPO carbon assessment tool for new plantings.</p>



PRINCIPLE 7: RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PLANTINGS

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
		<p>Parties seeking to use an alternative tool for new plantings will have to demonstrate its equivalence to the RSPO for endorsement.</p> <p>For 7.8.2: Growers are strongly encouraged to establish new plantings on mineral soils, in low carbon stock areas, and cultivated areas, which the current users are willing to develop into oil palm. Millers are encouraged to adopt low-emission management practices (e.g. better management of palm oil mill effluent (POME), efficient boilers etc.) in new developments.</p> <p>Growers and millers should plan to implement RSPO best management practices for the minimisation of emissions during the development of new plantations.</p> <p>Guidance This Criterion covers plantations, mill operations, roads and other infrastructure. It is recognised that there may be significant changes between the planned and final development area, hence the assessment may need to be updated before the time of implementation.</p> <p>Public reporting is desirable, but remains voluntary until the end of the implementation period. During the implementation period until December 31st 2016 (as specified in Criterion 5.6), reporting on GHG will be to a relevant RSPO working group (composed of all membership categories) which will use the information reported to review and fine tune the tools, emission factors and methodologies, and provide additional guidance on the process. During the implementation period the RSPO working group will seek to further develop and continually improve the RSPO carbon assessment tool for new plantings, recognising the challenges associated with estimating carbon stocks and projecting GHG emissions from new developments.</p> <p>Thereafter growers and millers will ensure that new plantation developments are designed to minimise net GHG emissions and commit to reporting publicly on this.</p> <p>Once established, new developments should report on-going operational, land use and land use change emissions under Criterion 5.6.</p> <p>For National Interpretation: National Interpretation will provide guidance within the national context for national requirements (e.g. high and low carbon stock lands or emission reduction requirements).</p>



PRINCIPLE 8: COMMITMENT TO CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT IN KEY AREAS OF ACTIVITY

NO.	PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA	INDICATORS/GUIDANCE
8.1	<p>Growers and millers regularly monitor and review their activities, and develop and implement action plans that allow demonstrable continual improvement in key operations.</p>	<p>Indicators:</p> <p>8.1.1 The action plan for continual improvement shall be implemented, based on a consideration of the main social and environmental impacts and opportunities of the grower/mill, and shall include a range of Indicators covered by these Principles and Criteria.</p> <p>As a minimum, these shall include, but are not necessarily be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in use of pesticides(Criterion 4.6); • Environmental impacts (Criteria 4.3, 5.1 and 5.2); • Waste reduction (Criterion 5.3); • Pollution and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (Criteria 5.6 and 7.8); • Social impacts (Criterion 6.1); • Optimising the yield of the supply base. <p>Guidance:</p> <p>Growers should have a system to improve practices in line with new information and techniques, and a mechanism for disseminating this information throughout the workforce. For smallholders, there should be systematic guidance and training for continual improvement.</p> <p>For National Interpretation:</p> <p>National Interpretation will include specific minimum performance thresholds for key indicators (Criteria 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, and 4.5).</p>