

POCG

Palm Oil Collaboration Group

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Q1 Quarterly Update

April 2022

Public version



Introduction

This document presents the updates on the different POCG activities and workstreams for the first quarter of 2023.

During the POCG in-person meetings in December 2022, the Group agreed to change the format of the quarterly updates so it can better capture progress made against the outputs agreed in the 2023 workplan for each workstream.

To highlight how each workstream contributes to the wider areas of focus in the POCG, this update is structured around the following two topics of interest to POCG participants:

1. Deforestation and Peat



2. Land and Labour



Highlights from Quarter 1

Revised and updated IRF Deforestation and Peat template for own operations

Methodology-related

1 **FFB supply base classification**

2 **Alignment with DF best practice and methodology**

Template-related

3 **EUDR alignment and gaps**

4 **Underlying data & formula**

5 **Template structure and presentation**

POCG participants invited to review the new template before it is released in Q2

Online course on IRF available to Certification Bodies and Q&A session held on IRF data verification protocol

IRF refinery list now available on the [IRF website!](#)

REFINERY LIST WITH IRF PROFILES

NOTE: This document is live and will be updated quarterly. This provides a list of refineries created based on public information as well as contributions.

This list indicates also the availability of IRF profiles at refinery level (either and has been based on publicly available information).

Instructions:

- i. Press the download button to download the Excel file.
- ii. To look for a company's IRF D&P profile, go to "Column 1" to find the hyperlink.
- iii. The hyperlink will bring you to the website where the companies' IRF D&P template is documented/found e.g. online reports, traceability webpages, etc.

428 Refineries
238 Origin Refineries
30 Countries
165 With IRF Profiles
*available publicly
Not accounting B2B availability

Land and Labour IRF template for own operations ready to be rolled out in Q2

NDPE IRF - Labour rights questions and guidance - for piloting - April 2023

Section	Question	Guidance (incorporated in the template)	Evidence
Mill Information	Mill parent company	Mill parent/group name	Mill parent company
	Mill name	Mill name	Mill name
	UMI ID	Provide ID number of mill as listed in the Universal Mill List. If mill is not in UML, leave blank (will be reviewed and added to UML)	ID numbers
	Latitude	Latitude of the mill	Coordinates
	Longitude	Longitude of the mill	Coordinates
	Country	Country where the mill is located	Coordinates
Certification	Are 100% of volumes sourced from the mill MSPO certified? Indicate if MS or IP	Indicate if 100% of the volumes you are sourcing from the mill are MSPO certified and under which scheme - Mass Balance or Identity Preserved?	
	Are 100% of volumes sourced from the mill MSPO certified?	Indicate if 100% of the volumes you are sourcing from the mill are MSPO certified.	

NDPE IRF - Land rights questions and guidance - for own operations (including owned plantations and schemed smallholders) - March 2023

Section	Question	Guidance	Evidence
Mill Information	Mill parent company	Mill parent/group name	Mill parent company
	Mill name	Mill name	Mill name
	UMI ID	Provide ID number of mill as listed in the Universal Mill List. If mill is not in UML, leave blank (will be reviewed and added to UML)	ID numbers
	Latitude	Latitude of the mill	Coordinates
	Longitude	Longitude of the mill	Coordinates
	Country	Country where the mill is located	Coordinates
Certification	Are 100% of volumes sourced from mill (MS) by refinery (MS&R & 100% not on the official)?	Please indicate how the volumes MS&R you source from the mill (in tons) in the reporting period. If you don't add anything the default entry is 0 and it is assumed that you source the same volume from each mill.	
	Are 100% of volumes sourced from the mill MSPO certified? Indicate if MS or IP	Indicate if 100% of the volumes you are sourcing from the mill are MSPO certified and under which scheme - Mass Balance or Identity Preserved?	
Certification	Are 100% of volumes sourced from the mill MSPO certified?	Indicate if 100% of the volumes you are sourcing from the mill are MSPO certified.	
	Are 100% of volumes sourced from the mill MSPO certified?	Indicate if 100% of the volumes you are sourcing from the mill are MSPO certified.	

An aerial photograph showing a dense palm oil plantation in the lower-left foreground, which gradually transitions into a lush, multi-layered natural forest in the upper-right background. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Update on Deforestation and Peat

What are POCG's D&P objectives for 2023?



This objective for this year is to ensure that the methodology for DCF reporting used by the **Implementation and Reporting Framework (IRF)**, particularly for the 'delivering' category, is aligned with sector best practice and is understood by key stakeholders and credible.

The key outputs therefore are:

- Fully updated D&P IRF methodology and template by the end of 2023 for greater alignment with existing DCF methodologies, Scope 3 reporting methodologies and the requirements under the EUDR
- Inclusion of third-party volumes in the IRF D&P methodology and template, including the introduction of a negligible risk layer and aligned with the work done under the PPBC WG
- Refinery list published on the IRF website to facilitate sharing of IRF profiles among companies

The **Production and Protection Beyond Concessions (PPBC)** group's priority for this year is to scale up forest and livelihood positive action beyond concessions through the operationalisation of the framework to deliver D-free for the palm ISH supply-base as well through the scaling up of individual & collective action in high priority areas.

The key outputs therefore are:

- Integration of PPBC actions into Deforestation IRF template
- ISH negligible risk layer
- monitoring protocols for low and high priority areas
- External engagement to promote support for high priority areas & reduce smallholder exclusion



The **Independent Verification Working Group's (IVWG)** priority for 2023 is to pilot and test the draft guidance and tools which have been developed by the group in order to refine them and produce final guidance for Independent Verification (IV) of No Deforestation and Peat conversion (NDP).

The key outputs therefore are:

- NDP IV guidance piloted with upstream companies
- NDP IV guidance reviewed and revised following the piloting phase
- Greater alignment of guidance with the IRF methodology

Below is an overview of the work done during the first quarter of 2023 by the POCG workstreams working towards addressing deforestation and peat conversion in palm oil supply chains



NDPE Implementation Reporting Framework (IRF)

- Update of the own operations D&P template – greater alignment with DCF generic methodology
- Negligible risk areas – under development by PPBC
- Refinery list with identified available IRF profiles per refinery – [published on IRF website](#)
- Conducted D&P IRF data verification protocol Q&A session for certification bodies
- Publicly available introductory course on the IRF



Production and Protection Beyond Concessions (PPBC)

- Negligible risk areas – technical subgroup created – methodology under development and external engagement planned
- Update of the smallholders D&P template – DCF generic methodology adapted for smallholders and landscapes – questions under development
- Continued engagement with local/national governments on aligning implementation of action in high priority areas and promote support for high priority areas to reduce smallholder exclusion



Independent Verification Working Group (IVWG)

The bulk of the workplan for deforestation and peat IVWG topics will take place starting next quarter (Q2) as follows:

- May/June: Refine NDP IV guidance based on feedback from upstream companies
- Q3: After guidance is updated, pilot guidance with upstream companies
- Q3/Q4: NDP IV guidance review and revision following pilots + link to IRF

A tractor is shown from a rear perspective, driving on a dirt path through a dense palm oil plantation. The tractor's bed is heavily loaded with numerous palm oil bunches. A person wearing a light-colored shirt and a cap is seated at the controls of the tractor. The surrounding environment is filled with tall palm trees and lush green undergrowth.

Update on Land and Labour

What are POCG's L&L objectives for 2023?



After several rounds of piloting and reviews with a strong participation from upstream companies, this year the **Implementation and Reporting Framework (IRF)** will introduce the new Land and Labour IRF methodology and template for own operations. In parallel, AWG agreed to initiate a 1-2 year process to develop and test an approach which works to address land and labour risks for independent smallholders in the supply base

The key outputs therefore are:

- Own operations and scheme smallholders IRF template V1
- Development of an IRF independent smallholder Land & Labour approach

SOCIAL ISSUES WORKING GROUP

The **Social Issues Working Group (SIWG)** is divided into three subgroups, namely the Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) subgroup, the Responsible Recruitment (RR) subgroup and the subgroup on Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC). The 2023 objectives of the SIWG is to a. reduce reporting burden for suppliers through mutual recognition of tools used by buyers to assess refineries HRDD systems; b. collaboratively support refineries to improve their HRDD systems; c. develop a common checklist for reporting on implementation responsible recruitment/employer pays principle; and d. foster collaboration on supporting resolution of land conflicts and grievances in the palm oil supply chain exclusion

The key outputs therefore are:

- HRDD subgroup: Core elements/questions to assess refineries HRDD systems maturity & specific outputs on how to collaborate to support refineries improve their HRDD systems
- RR subgroup: Development of a common reporting checklist for responsible recruitment practices
- IPLC subgroup: Independent investigation of grievances around smallholder plasma schemes in Indonesia & series of webinars to share approaches to land rights grievance resolution and remediation

The **Independent Verification Working Group's (IVWG)** priority for 2023 is to pilot and test the draft guidance and tools which have been developed by the group in order to refine them and produce final guidance for Independent Verification (IV) of No Deforestation and Peat conversion (NDP).

The key outputs therefore are:

- Piloting of the Land & Labour components of the IV approach (tools to prioritize IV) with upstream companies
- Publication of a Land and Labour IV guidance



Below is an overview of the work done during the first quarter of 2023 by the POCG workstreams working towards addressing issues around land and labour rights in palm oil supply chains



NDPE Implementation Reporting Framework (IRF)

- Land and labour IRF for own operations – updating of template according to changes agreed at the end of last year
- Land and labour IRF for own operations – consultation with stakeholders
- Land and labour IRF approach for smallholders – two focus regions to be identified ahead of June meetings, initial scoping and engagement

SOCIAL ISSUES WORKING GROUP

Social Issues Working Group (Q1 HRDD focus)

- Developed HRDD Core Elements which have been submitted to the Core Group of the HRDD sub-group
- Revised Core Elements incorporating Core Group comments and shared with all companies of the HRDD sub-group, as well as Verite and Earthworm
- Finalization of the Core Elements and presentation to the HRDD sub-group

IVWG

Independent Verification Working Group (IVWG)

In Q1 the focus of the IVWG was on collecting feedback on draft 1 of the IV land rights guidance. The bulk of the workplan for land and labour IVWG topics will therefore take place starting next quarter (Q2) as follows:

- Q2: Refine Land IV guidance based on participant feedback and address key issues
- Q4: Full draft of Land IV guidance socialised, tested and refined
- Q4: Full first draft of Labour IV guidance compiled (to follow same structure/approach as adopted for guidance on IV of Land Rights)