

# BACP

BIODIVERSITY AND AGRICULTURAL  
COMMODITIES PROGRAM



## News

Issue 1, March 2009

### First Grants on Biodiversity-Friendly Palm Oil Awarded

BACP is proud to announce the award of its first palm oil sector grants:

**Increasing the effectiveness of Biodiversity-Related RSPO Principles and Criteria**

*submitted by Lead Partner, Zoological Society of London. Full project description [here](#).*

**RSPO Biodiversity Technical Committee and RSPO Biodiversity Coordinator**

*submitted by, Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). Full project description [here](#).*

**Pilot Study to undertake palm-oil cultivation according to RSPO-guidelines on fallow land, in the context of relocating palm-oil concessions threatening the last remaining high biodiversity coastal peat swamp rainforests of Aceh** *submitted by Lead Partner, PanEco Foundation. Full project description [here](#).*

BACP expects to release a 2nd palm oil RFA by April of this year. The 2<sup>nd</sup> palm oil RFA will target components of BACP not addressed by applicants involved in the first RFA. The four components of BACP include: removing policy barriers; supporting better production; increasing demand for biodiversity-friendly products; and encouraging financial services to support biodiversity-friendly practices.

Please see the BACP website at [www.bacp.net](http://www.bacp.net) for more information on the first palm oil sector grants awarded.

## In this issue

- **First Grants for Biodiversity-Friendly Palm Oil Awarded**
- **Guidance for the Market Transformation of Soy**
- **Commodity Roundtable updates**
- **BACP Newsletter – What you can expect**
- **About BACP**

## Guidance for Soy Market Transformation

BACP is charting its course for transforming the soy market. The BACP Steering Committee met on January 9<sup>th</sup> to review the Market Transformation Strategy for Soy (Soy MTS). This document sets the priority areas of funding for the Soy sector under the BACP program and sets the long-term strategy for the BACP program in relation to the soy sector.

BACP expects to finalize the Soy MTS in March, after which BACP will release a Request for Applications (RFA) for the soy sector.

The Soy MTS was developed in consultation with members of the Development Group (DG) and Executive Board of the Roundtable on Responsible Soy (RTRS), as well as the BACP Steering Committee. BACP also drew upon feedback provided by stakeholders involved with the development of the Market Transformation Strategy for Palm Oil (Palm Oil MTS) to improve our MTS development processes. By building upon lessons learned and consulting with market stakeholders, the soy MTS has been tailored to address the priority interventions needed most to ensure protection of biodiversity affected by the soy sector.

To read the MTS for Palm Oil, click [here](#). To read the MTS for Soy, please check back on the BACP website, [www.bacp.net](http://www.bacp.net), in the coming weeks.

## Commodity Roundtable updates

# RSPO

Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

On March 3 and 5th, the RSPO held half-day and full-day seminars in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Jakarta, Indonesia, respectively, to discuss research and strategies on biodiversity and conservation-related Principles & Criteria of the RSPO. Organized by the RSPO's new Biodiversity Coordinator, Mariam Jutta, the seminars were very well attended. RSPO's work related to biodiversity, including the formation of the new Biodiversity Technical Committee (BTC), is co-financed by the BACP program. RSPO's Secretary-General, Dr. Vengeta Rao commented, "...the BACP co-funding has allowed the RSPO to start work in this very difficult area." Under the coordination of Mariam Jutta, the BTC will assist RSPO in strengthening, expanding and refining biodiversity related criteria under Principles 4, 5 & 7 of the RSPO Certification System.

**Next RSPO Meeting:** 7th Roundtable Meeting (RT7) on Sustainable Palm Oil in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 2 – 4 November 2009

Find out more about the RSPO at their website: <http://www.rspo.org>

# RTRS

Round Table on Responsible Soy Association

The RTRS is gearing up for its 4th International Conference to be held in Campinas - São Paulo Brazil from the 26th to 27th of May. The conference will touch on topics including the definition of responsible soy, sustainability of the soy value chain and financial tools to promote responsible and sustainable soy production and commercialization. Additionally, during the conference, a Responsible Soy Countries Fair will be held. For more information on the conference, see the RTRS website [here](#).

**Next RTRS Meeting:** 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference in Campinas – São Paulo, Brazil from 26-27 May 2009.

Find out more about the RTRS at their website: <http://www.responsiblesoy.org/>

## BACP Newsletter – What you can expect

This is the first issues of the Biodiversity and Agricultural Commodities Program (BACP) newsletter, and we need your feedback! The purpose of this newsletter is to share with you updates about BACP, the activities of the commodity roundtables with which BACP works, and information on the transformation of the commodity markets being achieved through BACP-funded projects.

Please use the e-mail addresses listed at the bottom of this newsletter if you would like to subscribe, comment or unsubscribe from this newsletter.

## About BACP

Agricultural expansion is the leading cause of habitat loss around the world and poses one of the gravest threats to global biodiversity. Tropical export commodities have dramatically increased production in the last fifty years, resulting in the destruction of much tropical habitat. The Biodiversity and Agricultural Commodities Program (BACP) seeks to reduce the threats posed by agriculture to biodiversity of global significance by transforming markets for target agricultural commodities.

To transform the commodity markets, BACP supports projects that generate greater supply, demand and financing of biodiversity-friendly products. Projects must meet specific criteria and address one of the four following components:

- 1) Removing policy barriers
- 2) Supporting better production
- 3) Increasing demand for biodiversity-friendly products
- 4) Encouraging financial services to support biodiversity-friendly practices

For more information, see the BACP website at: [www.bacp.net](http://www.bacp.net)

To submit comments or suggestions, please email us at [commentsbacp@chemonics.com](mailto:commentsbacp@chemonics.com).

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