

Biodiversity and Agricultural Commodities Program (BACP)

Notice of anticipated award of grant

Disclosure of the project information summary for 10 business days before final approval

9 February 2009 – 23 February 2009

Project Name: RSPO Biodiversity Technical Committee and RSPO Biodiversity Coordinator

Proponents: Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil – RSPO

Location: Indonesia and Malaysia

Project period: February 2009 – January 2011

Project budget: Total Project Budget: USD \$279,223.30; BACP Grant Requested: USD \$93,074.43; Co-financing: USD \$186,148.87

Project summary: The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO/www.rspo.org) is a pioneering initiative promoting the production and use of sustainably produced palm oil, the world's leading edible oil. The RSPO definition of sustainability includes emphasis on biodiversity conservation and protection, the obligations appearing in three out of eight principles of sustainability. The need for such emphasis is obvious as most of the world's palm oil is produced in areas rich in mega biodiversity. The translation of the emphasis into clear definitions, practical best management practices and meaningful criteria and indicators are significant challenges to the RSPO. The challenge escalates when the biodiversity conservation agenda is also to be applied to the 40% world palm oil production that comes from small farmers. BACP support for the appointment and functioning of a biodiversity coordinator and a biodiversity technical committee is the kick start to address these challenges.