

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

27 January 2009 – 10 February 2009

Project Name: Pilot Study Increasing the effectiveness of biodiversity-related RSPO Principles and Criteria

Proponents: Zoological Society of London (Lead Partner) in partnership with Wilmar International, Wildlife Conservation Society and the Indonesian Institute of Sciences

Location: Indonesia: Sumatra and Kalimantan

Project period: January 2009 – December 2010

Project budget: Total Project Budget: USD \$772,590; BACP Grant Requested: USD \$216,189; Co-financing: USD \$556,402

Project summary: This project aims to improve the effectiveness of biodiversity-related Principles and Criteria (P&C) of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), including:

P&C 2.1: There is compliance with all applicable local, national and ratified international laws and regulations;

P&C 5.2: The status of rare, threatened or endangered species and 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 their conservation taken into account in management plans and operations; and

P&C 7.3: New plantings do not replace any area containing one or more High Conservation Values (HCV).

The project will design and test guidelines and best management practices for implementing RSPO P&C related to biodiversity. Long-term research stations will be established to collect and provide biodiversity data for decision-makers. The project will collect information about key species and test how the data are used in conjunction with HCV assessments. These data will be applied in demonstration projects that assess the options for plantation managers to use biodiversity information in planning and operations management. This part of the project will result in better access to critical information, an analysis of the options for using this information in plantation management, and technical guidelines for action by the RSPO and workshops in Sumatra and Kalimantan to disseminate the results. A second part of the project seeks to reduce or remove policy-related barriers to implementation of the RSPO biodiversity related P&C. The project will identify the policy barriers and then provide recommendations for reducing these barriers and policy makers with training on potential solutions. The two components will work in tandem, demonstrating in two places how RSPO P&C, government policy, biodiversity information, and plantation management can contribute to conservation of HCV habitats.