

# ROUNDTABLE MEETING ON SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL



**A Shared Responsibility:  
Converting Commitments into Action**

# Quality Assurance is key to RSPO credibility



- RSPO has a great standard but is implementation as impressive?
- Two recent reports by NGOs (not RSPO members) suggest we are failing (Greenpeace and EIA/Grassroots)
- RSPO members have agreed that reliable assessments, high quality audits and careful monitoring are fundamental to the credibility of RSPO certification system;
- Otherwise certificates are no guarantee of good performance on the ground;
- Resolution 6h was adopted at the 12<sup>th</sup> RSPO General Assembly in 2015 on “ensuring quality, oversight and credibility of RSPO assessments”;
- The Assurance Task Force (ATF) was subsequently set up - supported by a ‘Reference Group’ with a multi-stakeholder composition including co-opted experts - with the main goal of implementing this Resolution 6h;
- **It should have fulfilled its obligations and reported by 2016**



# We need to raise our game: it's a shared responsibility

- ATF has made some progress. Eg ASI has instituted changes to manage and control audits; some improvements in quality assurance have been adopted such as additional guidance on FPIC at NPP, certification body training and performance monitoring;
- However, the last internal RSPO progress report on the ATF (December 2018) identified that **55% of agreed actions were still outstanding**;
- Yet ATF has not been convened since November 2018;
- The EIA/Grassroots report is damning: and we know that **we are three years behind with the job less than half done**.
- We may not like the tone but we need to admit we are falling short and find out why.
- FPP has therefore proposed, through a resolution at the GA, that a quick independent review is undertaken of what went wrong and why, so the new Assurance Standing Committee does not repeat the same mistakes.

**Thank You**