



Forest Peoples Programme

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SAWIT WATCH

Mr Robert B. Zoellick
President
The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20433 USA
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18 July 2007

Dear Mr Zoellick,

Violation of RSPO rules and procedural irregularities and standards violations in IFC support for Wilmar Trading

The undersigned in our capacity of membership of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) are writing to you to express concerns about the IFC's financing of the palm oil trading company Wilmar Trading / Wilmar International through a series of three investment projects, and a GEF grant. As explained in detail in our letter to the IFC CAO (please see attached), we believe the IFC is contravening its responsibilities as a member of RSPO, and is in violation of its own procedures and standards.

Detailed field assessments show that, through the operations of its wholly-owned subsidiaries, Wilmar is party to long-term negative social and environmental impacts which are at odds with the IFC's standards. These include the taking over of indigenous peoples' land without due process. We contend that the IFC is making these investments without full compliance with its own operating procedures and requirements for due diligence. IFC is also making false claims about Wilmar's compliance with the standards of RSPO, contrary to its responsibilities as an RSPO member. We ask that you look into these issues and take urgent remedial action.

With reference to the RSPO Code of Conduct for members (para 2.1.) we bring this matter urgently to your attention.

We will send a copy of this letter to the IFC CAO and the management of Wilmar Trading / Wilmar International, and we look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Marcus Colchester
Director, Forest Peoples Programme
(Ordinary member RSPO)

Johan Verburg
Policy Advisor, Novib and Oxfam
International (Ordinary member RSPO)

Rudy Lumuru
Executive Director, SawitWatch (Ordinary
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