Friday 9th March 2018

RSPO Complaints Panel
RSPO Secretariat SdnBhd
No. A-33A-2, Tower A, Level 33A, Menara UOA Bangsar
No 5, JalanBangsarUtama 1
59000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Dear Sir/Madam:

RE: RSPO Complaints Panel Decision 13th February 2018

On behalf of the Civil Society Organizations Oil Palm Working Group (CSO-OPWG), we would like to welcome the recent decision of the RSPO Complaint's Panel (CP) in relation to Golden Veroleum Liberia (GVL) and commit ourselves to ensuring that the recommendations in the decision are respected and implemented.

The CSO-OPWG is a coalition of civil society partners engaged in the Oil Palm sector in Liberia providing crucial services to oil palm affected communities. The CSO-OPWG contains several of the parties to the complaints presented to the RSPO CP including Green Advocates, Sustainable Development Institute, Save My Future (SAMFU) Foundation, and the Social Entrepreneurs for Sustainable Development and was created out of the NGO Network on GVL that was set up as a platform to engage and coordinate with GVL. This initial platform has now been expanded to include other partners in the sector working with other oil palm companies like Sime Darby and Equatorial Palm Oil.

The various members of the coalition have been engaged with both the RSPO and GVL for a number of years to ensure that the oil palm sector fully respects the rights of local communities and fulfills its promises of development with the full consent and participation of rural communities in Liberia.

After such an investment of time, it was with great relief that we received the recent CP's decision which we feel finally validates local communities' concerns and offers a chance for local communities to have the rights to their lands and livelihoods respected whilst benefitting from the economic development that the oil palm sector promises.

We would like to take this opportunity to commit ourselves to supporting the implementation of the CP's recommendations and lend ourselves to both the RSPO and GVL to that end. We have a number of suggestions as to how we can support this process and would welcome a discussion to

hear how best we can serve this process. With that in mind we will reach out to GVL and offer our support to the successful implementation of your recommendations in the coming days.

Please contact us on email at csopalmoilwgroup@gmail.com /gardeayouway@gmail.com and phone +231 770 001 456/+231 770 001 446.

Yours sincerely,

James G. Otto
On behalf - Liberian CSO-Oil Palm Working Group

Members
Rights and Rice Foundation
Natural Resource Women Platform
Sustainable Development Institute
Foundation for Community Initiatives
Alliance for Rural Democracy
Save My Future Foundation
Youth Focus Centre
Social Entrepreneurs for Sustainable Development
ERADRO
Green Advocates
Friends of Franbarnie International

Affiliate member
Forest Peoples Programme