



Forest Peoples Programme

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Ravin Krishnan
Complaints Coordinator
Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil
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Malaysia

31st March 2015

Dear Ravin and Complaints Panel members,

We refer to your email of 26th March 2015 requesting us to respond to the letter from Golden Agri-Resources (GAR) of 25th March 2015, by 7th April 2015. We note that the letter from GAR is itself a response to your letter to them of 4th March.

We welcome the fact that the Complaints Panel has now made an interim determination on our complaint and has concluded that there are reasonable grounds to find that GAR is in violation of the RSPO Principles & Criteria and the New Plantings Procedure. We also welcome the fact that GAR has responded to these conclusions and is proposing measures to resolve (some of) them.

In sum, our conclusion (as substantiated in the attached table and field report which are integral parts of this response) is that GAR remains in violation of the P&C, even though it is making some progress to correct some of the non-compliances. We believe additional actions are still necessary before we can conclude the company has 'closed off' its non-compliances and provided remedy for past violations. These proposed actions are also summarised in the attached table.

We also conclude that GAR did violate the New Plantings Procedure. Although the company withdrew all 18 of its submissions after our complaint, has provided assurances that it then halted all land clearance after 3rd November and has now offered to re-submit all NPP submissions before restarting land clearance, in our view GAR should be sanctioned by the Complaints Panel for its initial violation. There is also a need to check what land clearance has been carried out by GAR between 1st January 2010 and 3rd November 2014 without NPP notifications.

We were informed that the RSPO complaints process has asked ASI to look into the third part of our complaint that the assessors (who reviewed and approved GAR's HCV assessments, ESIA's and social engagement actions for the NPP submissions) are in violation of their responsibility to provide impartial assessments of company compliance with RSPO P&C. We request clarification of: ASI's findings; where these findings will be posted and; what sanctions of the assessors are contemplated.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Marcus Colchester
Senior Policy Advisor