

# CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE

## General Provisions of the RSPO



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First Latin American Meeting of  
the Roundtable on Sustainable  
Palm Oil, RSPO

Cartagena, October 16 -17, 2008.

Thanks once again to Fedepalma to having organized this marvelous event. I much enjoyed Cartagena; we have had very good presentations and excellent discussions. It was a meeting with representations from other oil palm- producing countries in the region and I could see their appetite to form part of the RSPO.

I suggest that, once the national accreditation has been completed, it is used as the basis for a regional interpretation, as long as all are satisfied with the guidelines laid down in the Colombian text. I would recommend that you develop a specific annex with the legal requirements for each country, but that you maintain keep what Colombia has agreed as it will save you time and public consultations.

Given the interest that exists throughout the region in participating in and joining the RSPO, the idea is to open an office here in South America or in Central America. We are looking at the possibility of doing this together with the producers associations, so that we can share a staff member who works on the commercial side of the RSPO.

As things stand, the RSPO website will be redesigned. We have contacted a communications manager in Kuala Lumpur who will be responsible for the whole process. The site will have a part in Spanish where all relevant documents



will be published and the steps for RSPO membership will be found.

Finally, I have a note for small cultivators. One of the organizations involved in coffee certification created the possibility of working with farmers through solidarity. We have received a great donation from the Dutch government which will be used to support certification, not just for oil palm but also for soy and sugarcane.

In total, there are 12 million euros in the program. 5 million are for subsidies and the other 7 million have

to be sponsored by associations; these contributions can be in kind.

The idea is to create a number of regional centers which coordinate the support programs for small producers and obtain more than the 5 million euros in subsidies, taking advantage of the fact that there is a certified policy in the market and some specific trade resolutions. All the money received will be for small cultivators.

Many thanks.