

Forest Policy

Environmentally and Socially Responsible Oil Palm Development that prevents Deforestation, achieves Landscape Level Forest Conservation and addresses Community Needs

Explanatory note

Papua New Guinea is ranked 158 out of 187 countries in the United Nations Human Development Index (2014)¹. The three oil palm producing giants, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, are ranked 121, 64 and 103 respectively. PNG lags significantly behind all these countries in this comprehensive index and in all the Millennium Development Goals², similar to a number of African countries such as Liberia and DRC who are also looking to oil palm for development.

Preamble

NBPOL is committed to plantation expansion that does not result in deforestation. As a member of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) we implement its Principles and Criteria across all our plantations. All NBPOL plantations and associated smallholders are RSPO certified.

However, to build on these RSPO commitments and to strengthen our commitments to socially and environmentally responsible palm oil production, NBPOL will implement a new approach to address deforestation, protect areas of High Carbon Stock (HCS), respect customary rights and to meet community needs. Towards this NBPOL has become a member of global non-profit organization The Forest Trust (TFT) with an initial focus of assessing and defining HCS forest areas in parallel with assessment of the community's needs within any of our new concessions.

It is important to NBPOL that any development achieves an optimal balance between community development, conservation of natural values, and economic benefit and viability. By excluding from conversion the areas that store large amounts of carbon, we will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect these vital lands.

Therefore community development in rural areas is desperately needed in PNG but such development should not undermine cultural or environmental values and natural capital. NBPOL in conjunction with TFT and other stakeholders will develop and implement a methodology to meet this challenge.

¹ UNDP Country Profiles and International Human Development Indicators (2014). Retrieved from <http://hdr.undp.org/en/data/profiles/>

² World Health Statistics 2012 - Part 1: Health-related Millennium Development Goals (2012) Retrieved from www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/2012/en/index.html

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1. Forest areas are conserved and not developed, as identified through Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), High Conservation Value (HCV)³ and High Carbon Stock (HCS)⁴ assessments together with Social Impact Assessments (SIA), Community Mapping and Consultation, Community Needs Assessments, Participatory Land Use Planning, and Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) procedures.

2. Performance against this policy commitment will be evaluated and reported on regularly in a transparent manner through our website, CSR reports and on-going engagement with key stakeholders. This policy is applicable to NBPOL’s own estates and external fresh fruit suppliers, including all smallholders and outgrowers.

The policy will be implemented through an approach called “Value Based Responsible Development”.

Driver	No Deforestation	
	Environmental	Social
Values	Biological diversity, ecosystem functions (including carbon storage and sequestration), water resources, soils, atmosphere, landscape.	Human rights, customary land rights, livelihoods, food security, gender equality, cultural and spiritual, transparency ^{5 6 7 8 9}
Guiding Principles	Precautionary Approach	Indigenous peoples’ rights, Equity
Frameworks	High Carbon Stock assessments (HCS)	Social Impact Assessments (SIA)
	High Conservation Value assessments (HCV)	Community Mapping and Consultation
	Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA)	Community Needs Assessments
		Participatory Land Use Planning
		Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)
	Combined Evaluation	
Outcome	A concession land use plan that identifies environmentally and socially responsible development, with community use and forest conservation zones	

³ NBPOL requires all HCV assessments to be undertaken by licensed High Conservation Value (HCV) assessors accredited by the HCV Resource Network’s Assessor Licensing Scheme (ALS)

⁴High Carbon Stock (HCS) assessments are used to identify forest with significant carbon value for conservation, with the primary goal of mitigating greenhouse gas emissions caused by forest conversion. HCS is identified through a combination of vegetation stratification based on interpretation of remote sensing images and field checks, and consideration of the ecological and regenerative capacity of the degraded forest. NBPOL uses the High Carbon Stock Approach methodology developed by the HCS Approach Steering Group www.highcarbonstock.org

⁵The Social values are based on assessment of the UN Development Indicators (2013) World Health Statistics, Health - related Millennium Development Goals(2012), The World Bank development Indicators and others global sources of information on health and education (see footnote 5, 6, 7, 8)

⁶ Central Intelligence Agency: The World Factbook (n.d.) Retrieved from www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/as.html>

⁷ NationMaster.com (2003-2013). Retrieved from www.nationmaster.com/graph/ene_ele_con_percap-energy-electricity-consumption-per-capita

⁸ Global Health Facts (n.d.) Retrieved from www.globalhealthfacts.org/data/topic/map.aspx?ind=16

⁹ The World Bank (2011). Data. Retrieved from <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD>



In this approach, the Community Needs Assessment uses three pillars of socially responsible development based on NBPOL's own research as to what can be achieved with investment in rural development and as indicators that act as proxies for development as a whole.

The three pillars are based on the 'one hour principle'.

- 1 Access to 20 litres of tap fed potable water within 1 hours walk
- 2 Access to a medical health post within 1 hours walk
- 3 Access to a primary school within 1 hours walk

The three social pillars will be considered in the HCS land use decision making process for new developments, to ensure NBPOL is meeting community needs while not causing deforestation. All new developments will focus on land of lower carbon stock, typically including grassland and scrub. This will also assist in achieving NBPOL's *zero net GHG emissions commitment*¹⁰.

Revision 2, April 2016

¹⁰ For more details about NBPOL's 'zero net carbon emissions' commitment see www.nbpol.com.pg/?p=894