Nomination for Board of Governors Election
14th General Assembly of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)

30th November 2017

BOARD SEAT: SOCIAL OR DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATIONS (NGOs)

Name of organisation  | Oxfam International
Membership number     | 7-0001-04-000-00
Name of nominee       | Johan Verburg
Position in organisation | Advisor Inclusive Value Chains
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Summary

Nominee Profile

Johan Verburg is a well-known figure to many in the RSPO and has a track record in the board of governors and numerous working groups. Johan has been working both with palm oil buyers, investors, traders and allied NGOs from his base in Europe (the Netherlands) as well as with communities, civil society groups and growers in palm oil production countries, notably in Indonesia.

Johan Verburg advises on inclusive value chains. His colleague and alternate, Taufiqul Mujib, coordinates the food and natural resources programme for Oxfam in Indonesia.

Johan recently wrote in a blog how palm oil has become his “Hotel California”. “When I had for only a few years been engaged and had supported the establishment of criteria and certification rules for the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, I thought I would “check out any time I liked” and move on to a next commodity sector. It was 2007 and I couldn’t have been more wrong; more than ten years later I feel I “can never leave”. The involvement of an international social/development perspective remains highly needed, despite significant progress made and reaching a fragile but critical mass of the sector. To achieve impacts for people and sustainable development there is a need for continued and new efforts.

Organisation Profile

Oxfam is an international development organisation working with others including civil society, private sector and governments to overcome poverty and suffering. This involves changing public and private sector policies and practices, nationally and internationally, as well as working in programmes with people in poverty. Oxfam supports people to take control over their own lives and enjoy their basic rights,
increasing their voice in decisions that affect their livelihoods and protect the natural resources they depend upon.

Oxfam is an international confederation working together with over 3,000 partners in more than 100 countries to find lasting solutions to poverty, suffering and injustice.

Advancing the social aspects of the palm oil sector has the potential to contribute to Oxfam's mission. The focus is on sustainable land use and inclusive growth, improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, labourers, and disenfranchised groups, such as indigenous people or women.