



Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

RSPO Secretariat Sdn Bhd  
Company No.: 787510-K  
Unit A-33A-2, Level 33A, Tower A  
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Golden Veroleum ( Liberia) Inc.  
R.Fole Sherman Law Building  
17th Street & Cheeseman Avenue  
Sinkor, Monrovia  
Liberia

Attn : Mr Matti Karinen

4 February 2013

Dear Mr Karinen,

**RE: Complaint - Golden Veroleum Liberia**

With reference to our letter dated 12 December 2012 and Golden Veroleum Liberia's (GVL) reply dated 17 December 2012.

Evidence taken into account by the Complaints Panel in reaching its decision includes letters submitted by the communities through Green Advocates, the independent report by Forest People Programme and clarifications provided by you via various communications, both written and verbal.

In light of your membership of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil and following concerns regarding your organisation's sustainability practices highlighted in the complaint by the communities of Greenville, Butaw, and Kpanyan Districts of Sinoe County (the communities) through Green Advocates on 3rd Oct 2012., the RSPO Complaints Panel notifies you of the following.

We discover that:

1. The Environmental and Social Impacts Assessment (SEIA) conducted in February 2011 by Green Consultancy Incorporated has shown evidence that a HCV assessment has been done and some level of FPIC has been done.
2. We note that a submission to the RSPO and a notification according to the RSPO's New Plantings Procedure (NPP) notification was not made.



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3. GVL has recently engaged The Forest Trust (TFT) to conduct on the ground, investigations and give advice on community engagements and advice on compliance to the RSPO rules.

We conclude that:

1. The activities and procedures with regards to, High Conservation Values and Free Prior and Informed Consent, within Principle 7 have been addressed in the abovementioned SEIA. However, the adequacy cannot be entirely ascertained as yet.
2. The NPP does not apply to the past clearances by GVL, since at the point of development GVL was not yet a member of the RSPO.

We request that:

1. GVL responds within 2 weeks, to the requirements listed below (2-8);
2. GVL comply with the RSPO's NPP, henceforth from the date of this letter, in relation to any further clearances for developments.
3. GVL engages an approved Certifying Body to verify that all necessary Standard Operating Procedures(SOPs) especially "Conflict Resolution Management Plan" are in place to prevent a recurrence of the events that led to this complaint.
4. TFT is instructed to provide a statement on the status of FPIC prior to impending clearances/developments, In addition to the current New Planting Procedures.
5. GVL continue to engage with the complainants, Green Advocates and the Forest People Programme by reviewing the situation on-the-ground via a field study conducted by your appointed experts, The Forest Trust. A status report must be submitted to the RSPO for review quarterly.
6. Agree to work with the complainants on a suitable roadmap/action-plan to deal with the local communities of the whole concession area, leading towards obtaining Free Prior Informed Consent. This roadmap must be agreed by RSPO, GVL and the complainants. This should be completed within a maximum period of 6 months.
7. GVL make changes, as recommended (if any) by The Forest Trust, to its standard operating procedures and undertake to implement the same in all future new plantings within Golden Veroleum Liberia's concession area
8. Plans and field operations should be developed and implemented to incorporate the results of the assessment.



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9. GVL declare to RSPO, explicitly, the total areas that may have been cleared and/or planted, by GVL, which may have infringed Principle 7 of the RSPO P&C, but yet undisclosed to the RSPO. To be completed if any, within 3 months. GVL to submit management and monitoring plans to manage all High Conservation Value Areas that have already been currently identified. The current status on these plans, as sighted by the RSPO, has room for improvement.

The RSPO Complaints Panel is looking forward to your response within 2 weeks of receipt of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

for the Complaints Panel of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil  
(RSPO),

Ravin Krishnan  
Complaints Coordinator RSPO

c.c. Alfred Brownell – Green Advocates  
Marcus Colchester – Forest People Programme  
Peter Heng – Golden Agri Limited