Voluntary Sustainability Initiatives and emissions reductions

1. Gauging the potential of VSIs to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries

2. Exploring Certification and beyond : REAP project

3. Minimising Greenhouse Gas Emissions from the Oil Palm Sector
   RSPO Experience
Do VSIs have a significant role to play in reducing emissions at the national level?
Areas for improvement in VSI

• LEAF assessment
• VSI are generally having an impact
• Recommendation for VSIs.
  – Enhance monitoring, transparency and traceability
  – Issue clear and robust guidance
  – Increase capacity to implement VSIs
• Recommendation for VSIs.
  – Promote landscape level planning
  – Establish supportive policies and regulations
  – Work with VSIs to extend practices to SMEs and engage smallholders
Agricultural certification and deforestation

- Certification continues to be key to encourage private sector towards sustainability and deforestation free supply chains
- Limitations include traceability, smallholder engagement and therefore scope/coverage
- Cannot be expected to do everything such as fill the void of a lack of policy or institutional support
- Also cert schemes need to keep evolving to deal with the rising sustainability issues
- Need to be complimented by other efforts - Cannot tackle broader issues underlying deforestation which needs more than just company change of behavior
- Requires sectoral reform and landscape approach (including all stakeholders) and a move to national level policies support and regulation.
RSPO efforts

• Heard about the new RSPO criteria developed through multi-stakeholder approach for operational and new planting emissions - to report emissions
• Plans that include scenarios for reduced emissions approval will be needed by RSPO
• Management of existing oil palm plantations on peat – water level best management practice can increases.
• RSPO certification does help to reduce emissions in compliant companies.
• Companies are signing up.
• Challenges remain
  – policies for set-asides on HCS / HCV / peat
  – Capturing oil palm in the wider landscape - entire sector / medium - small holders
  – Alignment with national initiatives
  – Effectively engaging the entire plantation sector including medium and small growers (national certification/regulations)
  – Enhancing incentive measures/mechanisms
Issue to future

• How well are VSIs implemented?
• Which part of government should we be aiming recommendations at?
• Integrate VSIs into govt. LEDS / emissions targets
• National initiative synergy (ISPO/ MSPO and for mandatory coverage)