

Pravin Rajandran 3rd  
Head of Grievances at the Round Table on  
Sustainable Palm Oil  
Sdn Bhd No. A-33A-2, Tower A, Level 33A  
Menara UOA Bangsar  
No 5, Jalan Bangsar Utama 1  
59000 Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia



August 19, 2025

Subject: Request to Revert Final Directive and Closure on Pre-CAP/2012/09/PR

Dear Pravin,

The Civil Society Oil Palm Working Group (CSO-OPWG) of Liberia requests the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) to revert its directive to lift the stop work order on GVL and demands a formal internal review of Golden Veroleum Liberia (GVL) compliance to the RSPO CP Decision of 2018. Our request is based on the recent directive of the RSPO to close the post complaint's monitoring on GVL when the key RSPO and HCSA conditions for lifting the stop work order have not been met.

In January 2024, the CSO-OPWG shared a monitoring report which indicated the RSPO Complaints Panel's Decision of 2018 has mostly not been implemented. We think that the decision of the RSPO to close this case puts local communities at the margin of seeking redress and suggests RSPO's disregard for their basic fundamental rights. The RSPO key principles and criteria (2 & 4) are explicit on company operating legally and with accountability and ensuring respect for community rights and benefits. These ideas embolden the RSPO image and ignoring them in the face of seeking redress for communities whose lands have been taken, sends a different message of the standards of the RSPO. The HCSA-GM-2018-01 grievance procedure led to in 2018 that set conditions upon the stop work order for GVL. These conditions, that include an integrated conservation land-use plan, have not been met. RSPO has integrated the HCSA into its principles and criteria.

We, therefore recommend the following actions for consideration by the RSPO Complaints Panel.

a. Review of the RSPO CP decision and implementation by GVL. This should be jointly initiated by GVL, the Government of Liberia, international environmental organizations and civil society organizations (CSO - OPWG) of Liberia.

- b. Ensure robust follow up of gaps in the implementation of the RSPO Complaint Panel decision.
- c. Maintain the Stop Work Order in order to prevent further conflict and violations of international standards.

We look forward to your timely response.

Yours sincerely,



Sampson N. Williams

On behalf -Liberian Civil Society Oil Palm Working Group

### **Members of the CSO-OPWG**

Rural\_Integrated\_Center\_for\_Community\_Empowerment

Alliance for Rural Democracy

Foundation for Community Initiatives

Foundation for Good Governance and Democratic Initiative

Friends of Franbarnie International

Green Advocates International

Natural Resource Women Platform

Rights and Rice Foundation

Save My Future Foundation

Social Entrepreneurs for Sustainable Development

Sustainable Development Institute

Champion of Change

Community Rights Support Facility



Liberia Forest Media Watch



Journalists for the Protection of Nature



Institute for Multi-Resource Development



Green Landscapes Initiatives



**Affiliate Members**

Milieudefensie - Friends of the Earth, Netherlands



Forest Peoples Programme

