

Executive Board Meeting 2/20

1 April 2020 15:00-17:30 SE Asia Standard Time

Venue: Microsoft Teams

Participants

Board Members

Matthias Bickel	GIZ (Chair)	Paul Nicholson	Olam (Vice Chair)
Christ Vansteenkiste	Rikolto (Treasurer)	Adrian Sym	AWS (Secretary)
Stephan Moreels	Control Union	Diederik Pretorius	Ebro Foods
Colin Taylor	IFC	Jai Shal Oberoi	LT Foods
Remy Bitoun	IRRI (Permanent)	Sanjay Sethi	Phoenix Group
Keith Jones	Bayer, Corteva, Syngenta	Simon Mahood	WCS Cambodia
Mark Radka	UNEP (Observer)		

Secretariat

Wyn Ellis	SRP Secretariat	Lea Las Piñas	SRP Secretariat
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Invited

Ignacio Antequera	GLOBALG.A.P. (Agenda Item 6)
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Regrets

Emma Peacock	Mars Food
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Part 1. Summary of Resolutions and Actions Arising

Resolutions

- Resolution 1:** The meeting resolved unanimously to adopt the meeting agenda as circulated.
- Resolution 2:** The meeting resolved unanimously to approve minutes of the meeting 1-20 of the SRP Executive Board on 30 January.
- Resolution 3:** The Board unanimously approved the SRP-IRRI Agreement with revised Article 12 on Termination.
- Resolution 4:** The Board unanimously approved the UNEP-SRP MOU pending confirmed signatories.

Actions Arising

- Action 1:** WE to organize a call among members of the Business Model Task Force to finalize the SRP Business Model.
- Action 2:** Secretariat to propose options for organization of the SRP Plenary Meeting and General Assembly to the forthcoming Extraordinary meeting of the Executive Board.
- Action 3:** Secretariat to organize an Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Board.
- Action 4:** Secretariat to follow up on completed Member Update Forms and raise invoices to the organizations represented by the Board members.
- Action 5:** WE to revise SRP-IRRI Agreement (Article 12) to incorporate termination clause in UNEP-SRP MOU
- Action 6:** MR to confirm UNEP signatory for the UNEP-SRP MOU.
- Action 7:** WE to organize a call to brief interested members of the Executive Board on the developPPP proposal.
- Action 8:** DH to lead a new task force on Mass Balance as a Chain of Custody model.
- Action 9:** LLP to collect feedback from all Board members on the new logo designs by 17 April and coordinate with UNEP communication team to implement changes.

Part 2. Minutes of the Meeting

1. Chairperson's remarks

- The meeting was called to order at 15:02 SE Asia Standard Time and declared quorate.
- Following a reading of the Anti-Trust Statement by the Executive Director, MB welcomed members of the Executive Board to meeting 2-20.

2. Approval of agenda

- MB called for the adoption of the agenda, and no objections or changes were raised.

Resolution 1: The meeting resolved unanimously to adopt the meeting agenda as circulated.

3. Approval of minutes of last meeting and review of actions arising

- Actions arising from previous meeting were reviewed; with the following updates:
 - **Action 1 (completed):** RB clarified role of SRP Executive Board as the ultimate authority overseeing the function and performance of the SRP Executive Director. RB added that any future IP developed by the SRP ED will belong exclusively to SRP. RB further clarified that the ED is expected to report administratively to IRRI, but substantively to the SRP Executive Board. As such, IRRI would like to receive a waiver from SRP, exempting IRRI from actions made by the SRP ED that may impact on IRRI.
 - **Action 2 (pending):** The proposed Business Model structure is pending completion. Interested members are invited to join a Business Model Task Force call to be convened by WE, in order to review and complete the existing draft.
 - **Action 3 (completed):** Prior to her departure from Mars Food, LK kindly introduced Emma Peacock (Global Vice President, Commercial, Mars Food) as the company's interim focal point. EP was invited to the SRP Executive Board meeting 2-20, but sent her apologies due to ongoing adjustments in light of COVID-19.
 - **Action 4 (completed):** Nominations for the new SRP Vice Chair were received and an online poll was launched.
 - **Action 5 (completed):** CV noted that the letter requested by IRRI was not issued. However, total amount of reimbursement to IRRI was already confirmed by AJ Poncin by email. A new Small-scale Funding Agreement will be raised when the previous SSFA is closed.
 - **Action 6 (completed):** Draft agreement on transfer of TM over SRP logo from IRRI to SRP e.V. has been agreed and is now tabled to the Board for approval.
 - **Action 7 (completed):** WE will coordinate with EP/Gingin to update the timeline for processing of the TM change of ownership, considering the extended Enhanced Community Quarantine in Manila, which is expected to last until 30 April 2020.
 - **Action 8 (pending):** Further discussion on organization of the 2020 Plenary Meeting and General Assembly will be tabled at an Extraordinary meeting of the SRP Executive Board, convened to discuss business continuity amid COVID-19.

- **Action 9 (completed):** Indicative schedule for 2020 regular meetings of the Executive Board has been agreed.

Resolution 2: The meeting resolved unanimously to approve the minutes of Meeting 1-20 of the Executive Board on 30 January.

[Action 1: WE to organize a Business Model Task Force call to finalize SRP Business Model]

[Action 2: SRP Secretariat to propose options for the SRP Plenary Meeting and General Assembly at the forthcoming Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Board]

4. Election of new Vice Chair

- The Board noted the decision of SS to withdraw his candidacy and lend his full support to PN, and congratulated / welcomed Paul Nicholson (PN) as the new Vice Chair.
- PN expressed his appreciation to SS for his generous gesture of support. In accepting the post of Vice Chair, PN highlighted the following as personal priorities:
 - Retailer engagement and awareness campaign;
 - Private sector membership engagement with pre-competitive space to define specific objectives and offer feedback on performance of the organization;
 - ICT implementation;
 - Rice-SDG publication to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the SRP;
 - SRLI coordination for global funding;
 - Improved SRP Performance Indicators, as well as emphasis on Assurance Scheme, and improvement in SRP indicators on biodiversity and gender/social issues;
 - Formation of issue-oriented task forces rather than technical committees; and
 - Prioritization of outcomes, objectives, timelines and gap in technical expertise.
- AS acknowledged that while it is good to encourage sectoral interest groups to formulate positions, he cautioned that an imbalance in representation may demotivate under-represented sectors such as CSOs. PN suggested to connect with AS offline to discuss further.

Resolution 3: The Board appointed Paul Nicholson as Vice Chair by unanimous acclamation

5. Secretariat report

- WE presented the Secretariat Report for February-March, including a response and business continuity plan in response to COVID-19 impacts. AS emphasized the need for both short-term and long-term responses, and proposed that the Board convene an extraordinary meeting focusing on our COVID-19 response. The suggestion was seconded by MR, who expressed readiness to provide an update on UNEP's initiatives and responses.
- WE also reported on administration, while CV provided an update on finances. Noting a potential cash flow issue pending members' payment of 2020 dues, Board members were encouraged to facilitate their respective dues payment. He also noted a 94.7% collection rate on 2019 member dues invoiced, with one payment still pending.
- WE requested the Board's approval of the following:

- **SRP-IRRI Agreement on transfer of SRP logo trademark (Annex 3):** PN questioned Article 12 on Termination, seeking clarity on what specifically could be terminated. KJ commented that termination of the agreement may apply if the transfer was not executed, adding that the Article would be rendered moot once the transfer has taken place. To address the uncertainty on grounds for termination, MR proposed adoption of the text appearing in the Article on Termination in the UNEP-SRP MOU which recognizes rights and obligations of parties beyond the validity of the agreement. The proposal was seconded by PN and agreed unanimously.
- **UNEP-SRP MOU on hosting arrangements (Annex 4):** MR clarified that the execution of MOU requires a completed due diligence on the SRP e.V. This is now progressing within UNEP, pending final risk assessment. He added that since the MOU only requires one signatory per organization, UNEP will revert in regard to the recommended signatory.

Resolution 4: The Board unanimously approved the SRP-IRRI Agreement with revised Article 12 on Termination.

Resolution 5: The Board unanimously approved the UNEP-SRP MOU pending confirmed signatories.

[Action 3: Secretariat to organize an Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Board asap]

[Action 4: Secretariat to follow-up on completed Member Update Forms and raise invoices to the organizations represented by the Board members]

[Action 5: WE to revise the SRP-IRRI Agreement (Article 12) following the respective text appearing in the termination clause for the UNEP-SRP MOU]

[Action 6: MR to confirm UNEP signatory for the UNEP-SRP MOU]

6. Scaling projects/partnerships (Annexes 5 and 6)

- WE presented the scaling projects and partnerships, including both ongoing and pipeline initiatives.
- CT commended these scaling efforts and expressed that with parallel initiatives, some specific details may need to be clarified. He sought more information on the develoPPP proposal and its implications on Secretariat hosting. MB welcomed queries and invited interested Board members to a call on the develoPPP proposal.

[Action 7: WE to organize a call to brief interested members of the Executive Board on the develoPPP proposal]

7. SRP Assurance Scheme

- Following Board Approval of the SRP Assurance Scheme at its Meeting 1-20, the document was posted on the SRP website for a 30-day online consultation.
- The Executive Board's decision was requested for the following:
 - **Mass Balance as a recognized Chain of Custody Model:** PN commented that Olam had supported 'mass balance' until an in-depth discussion with Nepcon revealed credibility risks associated with the 'non-SRP component of mixed batches'. CV added that mass balance introduces complexity in communicating with consumers.

SS echoed CV's position citing potential credibility risk for SRP. SM likewise expressed hesitation to accept mass balance as one of the three chain of custody models under the SRP Assurance Scheme, noting that communicating SRP itself is already challenging. DP, however, argued that mass balance presents an opportunity to drive scale, which would contribute to SRP's goal of driving scale. SS further commented that trade has been mainly driven by economic interests, therefore, consumers in general will accept mixed products. However, JSO cautioned that the desire to expand rapidly risks distracting the SRP from its sustainability principles. DH warned that striving to establish a 'niche' SRP rice product risks will hinder upscaling, which will constrain the achievement of SRP's goals and ambitions. Closing the discussion, MB noted that the Board had not reached a consensus on this topic, and so to avoid delay in implementation, IA proposed to exclude 'mass balance' initially, while exploring solutions to mitigate risks relating to mass balance. The proposal was accepted, and DP was nominated to lead a task force to further explore SRP minimum requirements in regard to recognition of mass balance as a legitimate CoC model within the SRP Assurance Scheme.

- **New SRP logo designs:** The final designs for SRP's 3 new logos (i.e. Organizational, Member and 'On-pack SRP-Verified') were presented to the Board for approval. SS noted that Member and On-pack logos look very similar, which could disincentivize interest in on-pack claims. DH remarked that this should not be the case since on-pack claims are covered by strict guidelines, and that members cannot use Member logos on-pack. AS commented that the new designs are not inspiring, while CV expressed that the new designed are much improved versions of the current logo. Reaching no consensus, KJ recommended that the Board be invited to submit feedback on an urgent basis to the Secretariat for consideration. As the contract with the graphic designer has now expired, the Secretariat will seek support from the UNEP communication team to make any needed modifications to the designs. Upon finalization of the logos, the immediate next steps include TM registration in EU and finalization of a Brand Manual.
- **Requirement for SRP membership of retailers:** DP pointed out that Organic certification schemes do not require scheme membership as a condition for on-pack logo use. MB recognized DP's point. No decision was taken (deferred to next meeting for time reasons).

[Action 8: DH to lead a new task force on Mass Balance]

[Action 9: Secretariat to collect feedback from the Board on the new logo designs and coordinate with UNEP communication team to implement changes]

8. Any other business

- None. The meeting adjourned at 17:25 SE Asia Standard Time

Signed

W Wyn Ellis
Executive Director
8 April, Bangkok

Adrian Sym
Secretary

Annexes

- Annex 1 : Meeting Report – SRP Executive Board Meeting 1-20
- Annex 2 : Secretariat Report (February-March)
- Annex 3 : SRP-IRRI Agreement on transfer of SRP logo trademark (Agreed Final Draft)
- Annex 4 : MOU UNEP-SRP (final draft)
- Annex 5 : GEF7 Thailand Country Project Concept Note (SRL Consortium, GIZ)
- Annex 6 : DeveloPPP.de proposal to GIZ/BMZ
- Annex 7 : Overview of Chain of Custody Models
- Annex 8 : New SRP Logo designs