

**Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc.**  
**Monrovia Office:** Unit 305, Wazni Building,  
13th Street and Tubman Boulevard,  
Sinkor, Monrovia, Liberia  
**Registered:** R. Fole Sherman Law Building,  
17th Street & Cheeseman Ave

20 July 2018

Sustainable Development Institute (SDI)  
SESDev  
SAMFU  
Green Advocates  
Forest Peoples Program

**Voluntary Suspension of Membership**

1. On 20 July 2018, GVL has informed the RSPO that it would like to voluntarily suspend its membership.
2. While GVL is disappointed in the Appeal Panel decision and the way the Complaint on GVL has been managed, it understands that based on the current process, it has no further recourse.
3. While GVL has challenged the persistent NGO reports, campaigns and complaints, it has always maintained that it welcomes constructive criticisms and engagement, and realises that there are certainly gaps between policy, procedure and practice and areas where changes or improvements are necessary.
4. GVL would like to re-establish its sustainability credentials and this requires a rapid and intensive review and reinforcement of its current practices; as well as a focus on community engagement and the implementation of FPIC processes to finalise MOUs, with a view to emerging in 12-18 months as a strong example of an advocate for sustainable palm oil production in Liberia.
5. We believe that at this point in time, our objectives can best be achieved by a voluntary, time-bound suspension of GVL membership from the RSPO, so as to give the company time and space to make the necessary adjustments internally and externally. Stepping out allows GVL to:
  - a. Properly assess and implement meaningful programmes, in consultation with the relevant communities and other stakeholders, rather than try to construct fixes to meet externally mandated timelines;
  - b. Recruit locally experienced professionals to help guide the journey in a Liberia-appropriate way;

2018-07-20 GVL Letter to RSPO on Voluntary Suspension



c. Strengthen and continue to build the trust of communities in which GVL operates and which are a core constituency of the business.

6. Our journey will involve:

a. Contracting of well-respected and experienced implementation partners to address the most pressing issues;

b. Strengthening of the local management and sustainability team;

c. Third party assessments on GVL's implementation of sustainability policies and procedures.

7. GVL will remain bound by the GAR Social and Environmental Policy given GAR's majority investment in the company and will benefit from more concerted and formalised relationship with GAR's Sustainability Division through a technical service agreement between the two companies.

8. GVL will still apply and work to implement the RSPO Principles & Criteria and would like to contribute to the development of the Liberian National Interpretation.

9. GVL remains committed to developing a sustainable palm oil industry in Liberia for the benefit of communities and respectful of Liberia's natural assets.

10. GVL believes that NGOs/CSOs play an important role in helping to achieve the above objectives and look forward to constructive engagement with interested and relevant parties.

Thank You.

Yours sincerely



Patrice Lobet  
CEO

Patrice.lobet@veroleum.com