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Environmentally Sustainable Practices and ISO 14001*

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The global nature of the palm oil business has led some in the supply chain to seek proof of sustainability. Oil palm agricultural practices must now reflect this sophistication in choice by being transparent, environmentally sensitive and possessing a documentary chain of evidence. Such a change requires the adoption of a system capable of managing the environment and new thinking by managers. In New Britain Palm Oil Ltd (NBPOL) the framework for this change is the International Standards Organisations (ISO) environmental management standard 14001.

NBPOL gained ISO 14001 (1996) accreditation in April 2004. This paper outlines how NBPOL implemented an Environmental Management System (EMS) and how environmental management has been made an integral part of the company's overall management system. In adopting an ISO 14001 EMS, NBPOL now has a system to monitor and manage environmental performance that permits objective auditing and provides a framework for continuous improvement. NBPOL is now using this framework to place environmentally sustainable practices under the same level of managerial control.

This paper outlines the details of setting up an ISO 14001 certified Environmental Management System and outlines the advantages for the use of such a system to enable NBPOL to grow sustainably

Keywords: Sustainable development, palm oil, ISO 14001, implementation, environment, RSPO P&C

