Executive Summary

Follow-up field verification against PT Runding Putra Persada (RPP) and its supply chain, CV Buana Indah (CV BI) and a smallholder farmer, conducted by Golden Agri-Resources (GAR) and Wilmar on 13-26 March 2023:

Results:

a) On the development of traceability system, PT RPP has implemented several activities outlined in the action plan published in Nov 2022, including the revision of traceability SOPs to incorporate due diligence mechanism of prospective suppliers, appointed a dedicated PIC to oversee traceability process, and they are currently still working with third party (Koltiva) in supplier data collection as part of the agreed action plan.

b) There have been some challenges encountered in the implementation of the action plan, especially in terms of supply chain data collection at CV BI, and the handover of 4 Ha Mr. Mahmudin’s land inside Suaka Margasatwa Rawa Singkil (SMRS). This is due to several demands from Mr. Mahmudin and CV. BI, which could not be accommodated by PT RPP, such as constructing “elephant ditches” as the boundary between SMRS and Mr. Mahmudin’s adjacent palm oil farm, as well as compensation for the 4 Ha land that had been promised to be handed over to the authority. In addition, based on information from PT RPP, instead of returning the 4 Ha back to the authority, Mr. Mahmudin appeared to be exploring to submit a land release application to the government (for the said 4 Ha area) from within the SMRS through the government’s forest area release program.

Next Step:

a) To speed up the process of achieving the action plan targets in June 2023, it’s been agreed that Wilmar and GAR will further assist RPP in completing the remaining SOPs related to traceability programme. This will be followed by providing traceability support and practical tools, as well as a training/coaching on site for the appointed PT RPP’s PIC, so they are able to run the program successfully and independently.

b) Wilmar and GAR are also planning to meet directly with Mr. Mahmudin and CV BI in May 2023 to obtain a formal statement letter regarding the plan to hand over the 4 Ha plantation area inside the SMRS to the relevant authority.