

Particulars

About Your Organisation

1.1 Member Name

The Proforest Initiative

1.2 Membership number

8-0061-07-000-00

1.3 Membership sector

Organisations

1.4 Membership category

Affiliate

1.5 Country

United Kingdom

2.0 Does your company or organisation produce, process, consume or sell any palm oil or any products containing derivatives of palm oil?

No

2.2 Please select all the sectors that best describe the business activities of your company or organisation, including your primary RSPO membership sector. You may select multiple sectors and will be required to complete the ACOP form for the relevant sectors

- I finance or support companies or organisations that produce or manufacture palm oil, palm kernel oil or related products
- I support the sustainable development of the palm oil industry as a conservation and environmental NGO
- I support the sustainable development of the palm oil industry as a social and human development NGO
- I am an Affiliate member of the RSPO, indirectly involved in the palm oil industry

Affiliates

1. Operational Profile

1.1 What are the main activities of your organisation?

Proforest helps people manage the world's natural resources sustainably. We are an independent, international organisation that works alongside producers, industry, governments, NGOs and communities to help them understand and address their sustainability challenges, bridge their differences and arrive at effective, integrated solutions. We deliver our work by supporting companies, collaboration and providing knowledge and capacity. Our work builds on a number of steps to achieve positive social and environmental outcomes through awareness, commitment, implementation, integration and scale to deliver goals. Our expertise delivers sustainable natural resource management – from policy, investment and procurement to production on the ground. Our vision is to achieve Sustainable Livelihoods in Sustainable Landscapes, and our approach to responsible sourcing aims to contribute to this transformation.

1.2 What activities has your organisation undertaken to promote sustainable palm oil, the RSPO and/or RSPO members in the reporting period?

We co-facilitated the RSPO Shared Responsibility Working Group with LiSeed and provided technical support in the implementation of shared responsibility i.e. the content and the mechanism of implementation that has been agreed upon through extensive consultation and endorsed by the BoG in October 2019.

We facilitated and provided technical support to the RSPO Assurance Standing Committee (ASC). The facilitation of the process consisted of meeting coordination, communication, reporting and record keeping, while assuring accuracy, credibility of the process, attention to detail and timely progress to ensure ASC fulfils its mandates.

Specifically, with regards to increasing RSPO certification, we work with a range of companies in the Palm Oil Collaboration Group (POCG) and specifically on the Implementation Reporting Framework (IRF) which has RSPO certification as highest achievable outcome. RSPO certification is one of the main elements which contributes to the composition the IRF categories, therefore, we have created direct link to the certification. Apart from that, in other working groups under the POCG, like the Independent Verification Working Group, RSPO is included in all discussions around measuring performance across the supply base. We have a representative from RSPO US in one of the working groups – Deforestation Independent Verification. RSPO team members are also invited to the POCG workshops which take place twice every year.

Also, we have recently developed the Palm Oil Toolkit which is designed to support companies in implementing commitments on responsible sourcing of palm oil, by-products and derivatives. It is an accessible guide to the many initiatives that aim to address key environmental and social issues in the palm supply chain, namely deforestation, development on peat and human rights violations. <https://palmoiltoolkit.net/>.

As part of our Responsible Sourcing work, we have a sizeable Palm Oil portfolio, working with companies across the entire supply chain to support the sustainable production and responsible sourcing of palm oil, with RSPO certification advocated as key tool to achieving sustainability goals. Additionally, we support mills directly in various countries with efforts to achieve RSPO certification. We also support RSPO works through our clients and assistance in producing ACOP reports gathering data and tweaking the narrative.

In the context of smallholders move towards RSPO certification – there is continuous support from company such as PepsiCo for getting more smallholders certified in Latin America. Last year, the first smallholders were certified in Mexico with Proforest support under the PepsiCo projects in Latin America & we developed a Guide for Independent Smallholders for RSPO Group certification, under our work with the Holistic Program with PepsiCo, Nestle and our local partner Oleopalma. This guide was developed with funds from RSPO RSSF funds.

We also contribute by providing feedback and comments on any RSPO public consultation such as the RSPO Certification Systems for Principles & Criteria & Independent Smallholders Standards & the first public consultation of the RSPO New Planting Procedure, and currently the RSPO Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) guidance.

We carried out a research on the impact monitoring systems of some palm oil sustainability schemes recognized by the German Forum for Sustainable Palm Oil (FONAP) where RSPO system was reviewed. <https://www.forumpalmoel.org/imglib/Studien/Impact%20monitoring%20of%20palm%20oil%20sustainability%20schemes.pdf>

We are RSPO-endorsed training providers for the RSPO Lead Auditor P&C and Lead Auditor Supply Chain Certification (SCCLA) and this year we submitted our RSPO SCCLA materials and online course agenda for RSPO approval. We are increasingly providing online training on all aspects of RSPO and sustainable palm oil to a wide host of audiences as well as a wide range of HCV/HCS/FPIC/SIA courses in various countries.

More broadly, Proforest is leading the Africa Practitioners Network for building the capacity of auditors in Africa through training and mentoring:

<http://www.proforest.net/en/programmes/africa/africa-practitioners-network> and has set up the Village Facilitators Network in Riau as a first initiative to also develop an Indonesian Practitioners Network.

Proforest is also the coordinator of the Africa Palm Oil Initiative, launched by the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 (TFA) in 2014, whose focus is the development of principles for responsible palm oil production in West and Central Africa: <https://www.tfa2020.org/activities/african-palm-oil-initiative/>. As part of this the RSPO P&C 2018 have become a strong reference point, with countries including the P&C into their country principles.

Additionally, we have established a Production Landscapes Programme with funding from DfID, which focuses on landscapes in several countries including Ghana and Indonesia and looks at palm oil, cocoa and rubber sectors in those landscapes.

We are also frequently asked by various clients to provide benchmarks of standards including RSPO.

1.3 What percentage of your organisation's overall activities focus on palm oil?

50.0%

1.4 Did members of your organisation participate in RSPO working groups and/or taskforces in the reporting period?

Yes

1.5 Does your organisation have any past or on-going collaborations with public or private sector palm oil industry players to support them in their efforts to increase the production or consumption of certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO)?

Yes

1.6 How is your organisation's work on palm oil funded?

Through private sector companies and grant funding, depending on the nature of the project or programme work concerned. Also, we cover our costs for training provision via course participant fees and service provisioning for RSPO directly is charged at our lower non-for profit rates.

2. Actions for Next Reporting Period

2.1 Please outline activities that your organisation will take in the coming year to promote the production or consumption of certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO)

In addition to the work already described in section 1, we are likely to carry on the process facilitation of the ASC. In light of the current global Covid-19 pandemic, we aim to increase our online capacity building options as well as carry on supporting companies remotely in their efforts to implement RSPO requirements through our e-learning platform.

Challenges and Support

1.1 What significant obstacles or challenges has your company encountered in the promotion of certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO)? What efforts has your company taken to address these obstacles or challenges?

- Awareness of RSPO in the market
- Difficulties in the certification process
- Certification of smallholders
- Competition with non-RSPO members
- High costs in achieving or adhering to certification
- Human rights issues
- Insufficient demand for RSPO-certified palm oil
- Low usage of palm oil
- Reputation of palm oil in the market
- Reputation of RSPO in the market
- Supply issues
- Traceability issues
- No challenges faced
- Others

Others

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1.2 In addition to the actions already reported in this ACOP report, what other ways has your company supported the vision of the RSPO to transform markets to make sustainable palm oil the norm?

- Engagement with business partners or consumers on the use of CSPO
- Engagement with government agencies
- Promotion of CSPO outside of RSPO venues such as trade workshops or industry associations
- Promotion of physical CSPO
- Providing funding or support for CSPO development efforts
- Research & Development support
- Stakeholder engagement
- No actions taken
- Others

Others

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1.3 If your company has any other publicly-available reports or information regarding its palm oil-related policies and activities, please provide the links here

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