

## Particulars

### About Your Organisation

#### 1.1 Member Name

Conservation International

#### 1.2 Membership Number

6-0010-08-000-00

#### 1.3 Membership Sector

Environmental or Nature Conservation Organisations (Non Governmental Organisations)

#### 1.4 Membership Category

Ordinary

#### 1.5 Country

United States

#### 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 am a bank or financial institution that finances or supports companies or organisations that produce or manufacture palm oil, palm kernel oil or related products
- I am a conservation and environmental NGO supporting the sustainable development of the palm oil industry
- I am a social and human development NGO supporting the sustainable development of the palm oil industry
- I am an Affiliate member of the RSPO, indirectly involved in the palm oil industry

## NGOs

### 1. Operational Profile

#### 1.1 What are the main activities of your organisation?

##### MISSION:

Building upon a strong foundation of science, partnership and field demonstration, CI empowers societies to responsibly and sustainably care for nature, our global biodiversity, for the well-being of humanity.

##### STRATEGY:

Through science, policy and field work, CI works to protect the resources that we all depend on. We help communities, countries and societies protect tropical forests, lush grasslands, rivers, wetlands, abundant lakes and the sea. Only through properly valuing the essential services these ecosystems provide can we create a sustainable development path that will benefit all people for generations to come.

Our scientists, field staff and policy experts are: measuring the contribution of healthy ecosystems to human well-being; assessing the implications of development decisions; putting cutting-edge, rigorously tested information in the hands of decision-makers and the public; and demonstrating through field models how economic opportunity and the stewardship of natural resources can leverage change at an international scale.

Our strategy is built around three pillars:

1. Protecting critical natural capital, biodiversity and ecosystems that provide the foundation for human well-being.
2. Fostering effective governance at local, national, and international levels.
3. Promoting sustainable production practices.

The palm oil sector is particularly important to CI's mission because it can be an important driver of economic growth in developing countries, can create employment opportunities in rural areas, is the highest yielding oil crop per hectare and is a globally important foodstuff. However, poorly planned and managed oil palm cultivation can result in forest conversion, undermining the biodiversity and ecosystem health upon which agriculture and ultimately human well-being depend.

Effective and constructive engagement with the palm oil sector, and related agribusiness sectors, is extremely important to forging joint solutions based on identification and implementation of better practices for oil palm cultivation, promotion of science-based land use planning and zoning, and the development of government and market policies with the goal of protecting environmental values, supporting economic growth and improving rural livelihoods.

#### 1.2 What activities has your organisation undertaken to publicise programmes to support the RSPO, RSPO certification, the uptake of RSPO-certified sustainable palm oil and oil palm products, or to support good standing RSPO members during the reporting period?

CI is working at multiple levels to promote sustainable palm oil. At the global level, we participate in and support the RSPO and we maintain engagements with several major corporations that produce, trade, or purchase palm oil in their products. Through these engagements, CI provides support to companies seeking to develop and implement sustainable sourcing policies, including the purchase of CSPO. We also work directly with companies and through multi-stakeholder platforms to encourage companies across the palm oil supply chain to invest in and support jurisdictional and landscape initiatives that include sustainable production and livelihoods, including palm oil. CI aims to create a supportive policy environment for sustainable palm oil in producer countries such as Indonesia, Brazil, Ecuador, and Liberia, as well as in consumer markets such as the EU and the US. At the local level, we continue to support small producers with certification as well as through seeking certification and implementation of better management practices.

Highlights of this work include:

##### GLOBAL:

- CI is a member of the High Carbon Stock Approach Steering Group. We participate in several working groups, including:
  - o Protection Working Group, which seeks to ensure the ongoing protection of HCS forests and HCV areas through integration in land use planning, sustainable finance mechanisms and conservation incentives; and
  - o RSPO & HCSA No Deforestation Joint Steering Group, which seeks to understand the challenges, align HCSA & RSPO stakeholders and support application of RSPO No Deforestation criteria in High Forest Cover Countries.
- CI is also supporting broader multi-stakeholder initiatives and efforts including the Palm Oil Collaborative Group, the CGF Forest-Positive Coalition, and TFA, among others.

##### US:

- In the U.S., CI consistently engages with actors within the supply chain as well as other relevant key stakeholders (NGOs, finance, etc.) to provide support on policy implementation, to promote dialogue, and to encourage innovation and action that leads to sectoral, not just supply chain, transformation. In 2021, CI supported a private sector company in assessing their land footprint based on commodities they source – including palm oil - and provided recommendations for prioritizing palm oil landscapes for improved management, protection, and restoration interventions.

- CI served as a member of NASPON, participating in the segregated working group aimed at understanding current challenges in the North American market to sourcing physical CSPO as well as opportunities for reducing supply chain barriers to sustainability.

#### INDONESIA:

- Since 2019, CI and Unilever have partnered to build a sustainable supply chain in Tapanuli Selatan, North Sumatra and empower smallholders. As part of this work, CI conducted RSPO training for 725 smallholders, which included topics such as P&C, FPIC, handling of B3 (toxic and hazardous waste); occupational health and safety; High Conservation Value (HCV); best management practices for peat; forest fire control; riparian area introduction; and gender contributions. We're also helping those farmers navigate the process of becoming certified in Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil (ISPO) and the RSPO standards, with the ambition of certifying 12 groups of farmers and two cooperatives that will meet the RSPO's standards for producing 100 percent sustainable palm oil by the end of 2022.

#### EUROPE:

- CI worked extensively to shape the upcoming EUs legislation on imported deforestation, worked on the French national strategy against imported deforestation
- We have also continued to work within SPOC, the Sustainable Palm Oil Coalition in Europe

#### LIBERIA:

- Conservation International Liberia hosted, provided financial and technical support for the drafting of Liberia RSPO National Interpretation document especially in areas that focus on smallholders, conservation and HCV/ HCS

#### ECUADOR:

- In September 2021, the Initiative "The Business Case for Collective Landscape Action: innovative data, finance and partnerships for impact at scale" funded by USAID was approved. In Ecuador, the project will work towards creating the enabling conditions required for Ecuador to achieve the RSPO jurisdictional certification in the Ecuadorean Amazon.

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

10.0%

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

Yes

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**1.5 Does your organisation have any 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

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

CI's work with palm oil is funded by a wide range of donors including foundation, government and private sector partners, as well as individual supporters. For more information on CI's financials, please see: [www.conservation.org/financials](http://www.conservation.org/financials).

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**2. TimeBound Plan**

**2.1 Which year did your organisation start or expects to start participating in RSPO working groups and/or taskforces?**

2008

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**2.2 Which year did your organisation start or expects to start undertaking and publicising programmes to support the RSPO, RSPO certification, uptake of RSPO-certified sustainable palm oil and oil palm products and/or good standing RSPO member?**

2008

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### 3. Actions for Next Reporting Period

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

- Training on sustainability topics, monitoring of implementation of sustainability topics
- Participation in RSPO Working Group or Task Forces;
- Support Independent Smallholders (ISH)
- Become a partner of the RSPO Smallholder Trainer Academy
- Provide technical support for Independent Smallholder Certification projects
- Involvement/direct investments in Jurisdictional/Landscape approach
- Promote and support Direct/collective investments in conservation and restoration initiatives
- Provide technical support support members with Remediation and Compensation (RaCP) process, direct/collective investments in conservation and restoration initiatives
- Allocating FTE to promote the production or consumption of certified sustainable oil palm products or
- Specific policies and action plans by the member to promote CSPO production or consumption in the upstream or downstream supply chain, including target dates or broader policies that include such efforts
- No activities planned
- Others

Other

Biodiversity monitoring and policies/programs for protecting endangered species in palm landscapes \_\_\_\_\_

## Shared Responsibility

*The Board of Governors of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil approved new Shared Responsibility rules on 31 October 2019, requiring all members to share sustainability requirements and obligations. Reporting of Shared Responsibility (SR) requirements will be done through ACOP and MyRSPO. As the process of verification of the reports is in development, the Shared Responsibility section in ACOP may change in future ACOP cycles. Evidence to show compliance to the SR requirements shall be uploaded via your membership profile in MyRSPO. Please login to your MyRSPO account and upload the relevant policies, plans and relevant reports there. If you do not have a policy or your policy does not cover all items, you will be required to provide a Declaration of Support for the relevant policy items in your MyRSPO profile. Additional information on the required policies and plans applicable to all sectors as well as the annual uptake targets for supply chain actors can be found on <https://rspo.org/members/shared-responsibility> or email the Shared Responsibility team at [sharedresponsibility@rspo.org](mailto:sharedresponsibility@rspo.org).*

### Information & Public Availability

**1.1 Does your company have organisational management documents publicly-available?**

Yes

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### Ethical Conduct & Human Rights

**1.2 Does your company have a publicly-available Policy covering Ethical Conduct & Human Rights?**

Yes

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**1.2.1 Does the policy cover:**

- Recruitment
- Contractors
- Suppliers and Sub-Contractors

### Legal Compliance

**1.3 Does your company comply with all applicable legal requirements?**

Yes

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**1.4 Does your company require its third party contractors to comply with legal requirements, i.e. including a clause on legal compliance in the contracts?**

Yes

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### Complaints & Grievances

**1.5 Does your company have a Grievance Mechanism that is accessible to all affected parties?**

Yes

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**1.5.1 Is your Grievance mechanism in line with the principles of the RSPO's Complaints System?**

Yes

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**Smallholders****1.7 Does your company support oil palm smallholders (groups)?**

Yes

**1.7.1 Does your company report on the actions to support the inclusion of smallholders?**

Yes

**Labour & Labour Rights****1.8 Does your company have a publicly-available policy covering Labour & Labour Rights?**

Yes

**1.8.1 Does the policy cover:**

- No discrimination and equal opportunities
- Pay and working conditions at least at legal or industry minimum standards and are sufficient to provide decent living wages (DLW)
- Freedom of association and Collective bargaining
- Protection of children, as well as the workforce of suppliers and third-party contractors
- Prevention of all forms of harassment, including sexual harassment
- No forced or trafficked labour

**Occupational Health & Safety****1.9 Does your company have a publicly-available Policy covering Occupational Health & Safety?**

No

**1.9.1 Does your company have a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Occupational Health & Safety?**

No

**Waste Management****1.10b Does your company have a statement of intent to reduce, recycle, reuse and disposal based on the hazardous characteristics?**

Yes

**Climate Change & Greenhouse Gas (GHG)****1.13 Does your company have a publicly-available policy covering Climate Change & Greenhouse Gas (GHG) including identification and assessment of GHG emissions and implementation of a plan to reduce or minimise them?**

Yes



## 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?

- Communication and/or engagement to transform the negative perception of palm oil
- Engagement with business partners or consumers on the use of CSPO
- Engagement with government agencies
- Engagement with peers and clients
- Promotion of CSPO through off product claims
- 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

<https://www.conservation.org/projects/sustainable-palm-oil>

<https://www.conservation.org/projects/coalition-for-sustainable-livelihoods>