

## 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 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

## 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 handed over this work in April 2021.

We facilitated the Cameroon NI during the last quarter (Q4) of 2021, which has now been endorsed by the BoG and published on the RSPO website.

We are continuing to facilitate and to provide technical support to the RSPO Assurance Standing Committee (ASC) Taskforce. 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 carry on our engagement work with low performing mills as part of our role in the Palm Oil Collaboration Group (POCG), an initiative led by several prominent RSPO members, 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.

As part of our Palm Strategy 2025 and priorities to support Sustainable Palm Oil uptake, we are developing 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/Two briefing notes are now publicly available: BN01 Assess and plan implementation \(Palm Oil Toolkit - Briefing Note 01 Assess and Plan Implementation:](https://palmoiltoolkit.net/Two%20briefing%20notes%20are%20now%20publicly%20available%3A%20BN01%20Assess%20and%20plan%20implementation%20(Palm%20Oil%20Toolkit%20-%20Briefing%20Note%2001%20Assess%20and%20Plan%20Implementation%3A%20https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f7ae2d702876c034789c6ff/t/6124c3fc1ca627394c1f672c/1629799429815/BN01+-+Assess+and+Plan+Implementation_16+Aug+2021.pdf)and%20BN03%20Engage%20within%20and%20beyond%20supply%20chain%20(Palm%20Oil%20Toolkit%20-%20Briefing%20Note%2003%20Engage%20within%20and%20Beyond%20Supply%20Chain%3A%20https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f7ae2d702876c034789c6ff/t/611aa6b16875e63ec6371bf7/1629136589715/BN03+-+Engaging+within+and+beyond+Supply+Chain_final_16Aug2021.pdf).)

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f7ae2d702876c034789c6ff/t/6124c3fc1ca627394c1f672c/1629799429815/BN01+-+Assess+and+Plan+Implementation\\_16+Aug+2021.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f7ae2d702876c034789c6ff/t/6124c3fc1ca627394c1f672c/1629799429815/BN01+-+Assess+and+Plan+Implementation_16+Aug+2021.pdf)) and BN03 Engage within and beyond supply chain ( Palm Oil Toolkit – Briefing Note 03 Engage within and Beyond Supply Chain:

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f7ae2d702876c034789c6ff/t/611aa6b16875e63ec6371bf7/1629136589715/BN03+-+Engaging+within+and+beyond+Supply+Chain\\_final\\_16Aug2021.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f7ae2d702876c034789c6ff/t/611aa6b16875e63ec6371bf7/1629136589715/BN03+-+Engaging+within+and+beyond+Supply+Chain_final_16Aug2021.pdf)).

As part of our Responsible Sourcing and Production works, 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.

In the context of smallholders move towards RSPO certification – In 2021, we delivered a training programme for Femexpalma. The Mexican Federation of Oil Palm (Femexpalma) is the organization that represents the Mexican palm sector, from producers to processors; which was established in order to promote sustainable palm production in Mexico. Since 2016, one of the pillars of support for the Mexican palm sector has been the development of local capacities, therefore, the federation has made an effort to bring experts in sustainability to the producing regions. In 2020, Femexpalma has also set up a training programme. Proforest, at the request of Femexpalma, implemented a virtual and face-to-face training programme last year (2021) with the aim of strengthening the capacities of Federation affiliates for the implementation of critical sustainability issues, including a course on the RSPO standard and certification for Independent Smallholders and group managers.

We also offered a smallholder online course for Cargill in 2021. Cargill approached Proforest to design the course syllabus, develop the material and resources presented in course syllabus and implement the online course on its training platform. The syllabus comprises the RSPO certification of smallholders - Who can use the RSPO Independent Smallholder Standard? How to get certified under the RSPO Independent Smallholder Standard Scheme smallholders?

We also contribute by providing feedback and comments on RSPO public consultations such as the RSPO Revised 2015 FPIC Guide and Simplified FPIC Approach for Independent Smallholders (May 2021), on the RSPO Jurisdictional Approach piloting framework (October 2021).

Proforest is carrying on with the coordination work with 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. We facilitated the APOI Virtual Regional Workshops on 12 and 26 May 2021. The first day focused on core APOI business and program implementation, and the second focused on gaining regional, multi-stakeholder feedback to inform the Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade (FACT) Dialogue Government to Government (G2G) process.

Additionally, we are pursuing our 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. Additionally, we secured funding from IKI (the International Climate Initiative of the German Environment Ministry) for landscape programmes focusing to align deforestation commitments from the international private sector with local and national government climate mitigation initiatives. The programme includes the development and testing of landscape and jurisdictional approaches and guidance, as well as capacity building among local and national stakeholders. Under this IKI programme in Peru, Proforest is supporting the Ministry of Agriculture and Development to develop a National Oil Palm Strategy. An RSPO producer training was delivered for national government staff and small-scale producers in the Amazon region in October 2021. There has been a large amount of interest and the course was over-subscribed. A second one will be delivered in 2022 in Tocache. The IKI landscape programme also covers landscapes in Cote d'Ivoire (San Pedro region) and Ghana as well.

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

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

50%

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

Yes

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**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

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**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 done via the Proforest Initiative and charged at our lower non-profit rates.

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## 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)

We aim to continue the portfolio of work described in section 1. Our programmatic funding continues in 2022 and we have a large portfolio of palm oil clients. Additionally, we are continuing to facilitate the ASC until end of June 2022 and are currently tendering for other direct support work with RSPO (the P&C facilitation and the MB robustness study). We also aim to contribute to any public consultations by RSPO and are currently working on benchmarking RSPO against EUDD frameworks.

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## 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

Via our clients, the above has been reported.

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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

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