

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 facilitate constructive coordination between RSPO and HCSA stakeholders to develop guidance and methodologies that 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 Collaboration Group, the CGF Forest Positive Coalition of Action, 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 2022, 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.

INDONESIA:

- Since 2019, Conservation International, Konservasi Indonesia and a consumer goods company have partnered to build a sustainable supply chain and support smallholders in Tapanuli Selatan, North Sumatra. Through this project, KI has conducted RSPO training for over 1,000 smallholders, which included topics such as the RSPO 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 at least 1,000 farmers from two cooperatives that will meet the RSPO's standards for producing certified sustainable palm oil by the end of 2023. In 2022, 596 of these farmers completed their certification body audit and will receive their certification in 2023.
- Konservasi Indonesia and partners have also participated in the Coalition for Sustainable Livelihoods (CSL), a place-based platform bringing together a diverse group of local and global stakeholders to accelerate and scale sustainable development in North Sumatra and Aceh. Together, CSL partners are sharing and leveraging knowledge and lessons learned from landscape approaches to improve natural resources management and livelihoods as well as advance sustainable production – including palm oil. In 2022, KI contributed to the following initiatives conducted by CSL and its partners:
 - o 1 Social Forestry Scoping Study in North Sumatra: A scoping study was conducted to identify agroforestry and restoration opportunities in North Sumatra to advance implementation of Indonesia's Social Forestry Program. The study identified capacity building needs and necessary interventions – such as developing agroforestry demonstration plots, providing trainings for social forestry permit holders, and resolving land permit issues – to address high risk areas in company supply chains, as well as identify opportunities for investment in agroforestry value chains.
 - o 2 Strategic Investment Action Plans (SIAP): In 2022, two SIAPs were produced – a provincial-level SIAP for North Sumatra, and a district-level SIAP for Tapanuli Selatan District. The SIAPs, which were developed jointly with government, communities and private sector partners, focused on identifying strategic activities and investment needs to advance the Integrated Agriculture System (SITANTRI), a key government program for supporting multiple agricultural commodities and value chains (including palm oil) to minimize production costs, maximize production on existing agricultural lands, and increase efficiencies for zero-waste production.

o 1 District Exchange: In August 2022, the CSL Platform and partners facilitated a district exchange with 40 local stakeholders from government, farmers associations, and development partners. During the exchange, Tapanuli Selatan stakeholders learned from partners in Aceh Tamiang about their experience implementing smallholder programs for agroforestry and certification as well as the role of the PUPL platform. The aim was to share learnings and exchange ideas in order to foster collaboration and partnership while encouraging adoption of best practices. Aceh Tamiang stakeholders shared progress towards certification and lessons learned – including success in issuing STDB and SPPL permits. These permits are a requirement for ISPO certification and a common challenge faced by smallholders and local government across Indonesia.

EUROPE:

- CI Europe worked extensively to shape the incoming EU Deforestation Regulation; worked on the French national strategy against imported deforestation.
- We have also worked within SPOC, the Sustainable Palm Oil Coalition, in Europe and with its members as part of coalitions to advocate on policy.

LIBERIA:

- Conservation International Liberia socialized and presented the Liberia RSPO National Interpretation document with smallholders and local communities in Northwest Liberia.

ECUADOR:

- In 2021, the 5-year Initiative “The Business Case for Collective Landscape Action: innovative data, finance and partnerships for impact at scale” funded by USAID was launched. In Ecuador, the project is working towards creating the enabling conditions required for Ecuador to achieve the RSPO jurisdictional certification in the Northern Amazon Landscape. This includes establishing a local multi-stakeholder forum to guide strategic landscape decisions, development and implementation of a landscape action plan, conservation agreements with producers and landscape stakeholders to manage forests and sustainably produce palm oil; and public policy recommendations to support application of the jurisdictional approach to RSPO certification. In 2022, CI supported the elaboration of Ecuador’s Palm Action Plan through the Interinstitutional Committee for Sustainable Palm Oil (CISPS), which promotes certification as one of its main objectives; and created strategic alliances with other organizations, private and public institutions to implement activities in the landscape.
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1.3 What percentage of your organisation's overall activities focus on palm oil?

10%

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

Yes

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

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.

2. TimeBound Plan

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

2008

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

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 and surrounding 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.

Information & Public Availability

1.1 Does your organisation have organisational management documents publicly-available?

Yes

Ethical Conduct & Human Rights

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

Yes

1.2.1 Does the policy cover:

- Ethical conduct for contractors
- Ethical conduct for recruitment
- Respect of human rights, including for suppliers and sub-Contractors

Legal Compliance

1.3 Does your organisation comply with all applicable legal requirements?

Yes

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

Yes

Complaints & Grievances

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

1.7.1 Does your organisation report on the actions to support the inclusion of smallholders?Yes

Labour & Labour Rights**1.8 Does your organisation 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 organisation have a publicly-available Policy covering Occupational Health & Safety?**Yes

1.9.1 Does your organisation have a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Occupational Health & Safety?No

Waste Management**1.10b Does your organisation 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 organisation 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>