

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 RSPO's Jurisdiction Working Group, which is looking to upscale RSPO certification beyond management units to the jurisdictional level.
- 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 CGF Forest Positive Coalition of Action, LandScale, SourceUp, ISEAL, 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 2023, CI provided recommendations to a private sector company 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 independent smallholders in Tapanuli Selatan, North Sumatra. In 2023, KI has:
 - o Supported two smallholder associations to achieve their first certifications.
 - o Mapped farmers and supported legality checks and land use change assessments for 804 farmers.
 - o Conducted training for over 1,000 smallholders, which included RSPO and GAP training modules, which contributed to productivity improvements of 29-35% for project-supported farmers.
 - o Supported 597 independent smallholders to achieve RSPO certification (Milestone B) and helped facilitate the sale of RSPO Credits.
 - o Worked with an additional 207 independent smallholders to begin RSPO certification processes (certificates to be awarded 2024).
- 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.

EUROPE:

- CI Europe worked extensively to shape the incoming EU Deforestation Regulation.

LIBERIA:

- In Liberia, through the GEF-funded Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program, CI and partners have been working to advance land use planning, sustainable commodity production, restoration of degraded lands, and forest conservation. The work with smallholder farmers aims to facilitate the adoption of sustainable agroforestry methods for cocoa and palm oil production, as well as the formation of associations to strengthen their participation in supply chains. Additionally, engagement with palm oil plantation companies is focused on applying sustainability standards and pursuing socially equitable and mutually beneficial relationships with smallholder producers.

ECUADOR:

- In September 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 RSPO certification with the jurisdictional approach in Ecuador’s Northern Amazon Landscape. This includes strengthening the national multistakeholder table (Interinstitutional Committee for Sustainable Palm Oil – CISPS) and 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 with RSPO certification.
 - In 2023, CI led the RSPO working group in the CISPS; leading the development of a plan and a governance structure for conforming the Jurisdictional Entity; and officially submitted the Jurisdictional Approach matrix for RSPO’s validation of Ecuador’s completion of step 1/3 of the Jurisdictional Approach. CI has also selected a local group of producers to obtain environmental licenses and BPA certification (Good Agro-productive Practices certification), as a stepping stone for achieving RSPO certification.
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1.3 What percentage of your organisation's overall activities focus on palm oil?

10.0%

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 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.

SR 1. Transparency

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

Yes

SR 2. Ethical Conduct

1.2 Does your organisation have a publicly-available policy covering Ethical Conduct, including for recruitment and contractors?

Yes

SR 3 and SR 4. 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?

Yes

SR 8. Information and outreach activities

1.8 Does your organisation implement transparent communication and outreach activities to promote sustainable palm oil?

Yes

SR 9. Human Rights

1.9 Does your organisation have a publicly-available Policy on respect for human rights, including for suppliers and sub-contractors?

Yes

SR 10. Complaints & Grievances**1.10 Does your organisation have a Grievance Mechanism that is accessible to all affected parties?**

Yes

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

Yes

SR 13 and SR 14. Smallholders inclusion**1.13 Does your organisation support oil palm smallholders (groups)?**

Yes

SR 15 - SR 20. Labour & Labour Rights**1.15 Does your organisation have a publicly-available policy covering Labour & Labour Rights?**

Yes

1.15.1 Does the policy cover:

- No discrimination and equal opportunities
- Pay and conditions of the workers.
- Freedom of association and Collective bargaining
- Protection of children and remediation for suppliers and third party contractors.
- Prevention of all forms of harassment, including sexual harassment
- No forced or trafficked labour

SR 21. Occupational Health & Safety

1.21 Does your organisation have a publicly-available Policy covering Occupational Health & Safety?

Yes _____

SR 22. Waste Management

1.22b Does your organisation have a statement of intent to reduce, recycle, reuse and disposal based on the hazardous characteristics?

Yes _____

SR 25. Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases (GHG)

1.25 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 _____

SR 27. Sustainable Palm Oil Policy

1.27b Does your organisation have available a statement of support to RSPO's vision?

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

www.conservation.org