

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, 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 Jurisdictional Working Group, which is looking to upscale RSPO certification beyond management units to the jurisdictional level.
- 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 and EU:

- 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.

INDONESIA:

- Since 2019, CI, Konservasi Indonesia and Unilever have partnered to build a sustainable supply chain in Tapanuli Selatan, North Sumatra and empower smallholders. As part of this work, we conducted RSPO training and refresher training for over 1,000 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 also helped those farmers navigate the process of becoming certified in Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil (ISPO) and the RSPO standards. As of the reporting year, we have achieved the following impacts:
 - o Trained over 1,000 independent oil palm smallholders and certified 800 of them
 - o Established two smallholder association to help oil palm smallholders increase yields and incomes
 - o Planted 22,000 trees and restored 150 hectares of illegally planted oil palm to agroforestry and native species
 - o Improved management of 127,000 ha of forests under legal protection
 Building on this progress in 2024, we began a second phase of work to continue supporting the certified smallholders to incorporate regenerative agriculture principles and improve income as well as build capacity of key government institutions to encourage scaled approaches across the district. In this next phase, we also aim to protect an additional 14,235 ha and restore over 300 more hectares of critical forest landscape.

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. In 2024, the Liberia FOLUR program worked closely with MANO Palm Oil Company through a signed MoU to provide technical support and training for farmers. We are also planning to develop a roadmap and recommendations for improving the project team's participation in RSPO related activities.

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 2024, CI continued to lead the RSPO working group in the

Interinstitutional Committee for Sustainable Palm Oil (CISPS); leading the development of a plan and a governance structure for conforming the Jurisdictional Entity. In November 2024, during the RSPO RT, Ecuador was recognized for completing step one of three towards the Jurisdictional Approach certification. CI began working with a local group of producers to provide capacity building and training to support them in obtaining environmental licenses and BPA certification (Good Agro-productive Practices certification), as a stepping stone for achieving RSPO certification.

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 forests and endangered species in and surrounding palm landscapes

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>