

Particulars

About Your Organisation

1.1 Name of your organisation

Conservation International

1.2 What is/are the primary activity(ies) or product(s) of your organisation?

- Palm Oil Grower
- Processor and/or Trader
- Consumer Goods Manufacturer
- Retailer
- Bank and/or Investor
- Social and/or Development NGO
- Environmental and/or Conservation NGO
- Affiliate

1.3 Membership number

6-0010-08-000-00

1.4 Membership category

Environmental or Nature Conservation Organisations (Non Governmental Organisations)

1.5 Membership sector

Ordinary

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 to create a supportive policy environment for sustainable palm oil in producer countries such as Indonesia, Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, 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: 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. CI has advised retailers and agribusinesses in their commitments to sustainable palm oil. CI also 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. In addition, in 2019, Conservation International supported the 'Statement in support of Sustainable Palm Oil,' a joint statement by conservation organizations in favor of a move to sustainable palm oil and not blanket boycotts. EUROPE: In Europe, we have advertised CI's projects in producer countries, in particular sustainable landscapes and jurisdictions, to encourage prioritization and increased funding for those initiatives supporting sustainable palm oil. CI Europe has also been supporting a group of several stakeholders, including companies, to build a movement in sustainable palm oil to enable uptake in Europe, in a context of palm oil bans and substitution. This movement aims at putting forward best practices from projects implemented in producer countries and supporting informed decision-making related to palm oil. The objective is also to support the 'Amsterdam Declaration in Support of a Fully Sustainable Palm Oil Supply Chain by 2020,' as well as corporate commitments to halt deforestation. INDONESIA: CI Indonesia has continued to engage provincial stakeholders in North Sumatra as well as district level stakeholders in a range of activities to promote sustainable palm oil, including continued dialog and policy advocacy, to increase understanding of conservation and restoration issues as well as leverage sustainable production, particularly for palm oil. Some of the program activities that have been undertaken to support sustainable palm oil are captured below: ' Implementation of the Coalition for Sustainable Livelihoods (CSL) Tapanuli Selatan working group to align around district level activities for promoting sustainable production and improving livelihoods, mainly through palm oil production. ' Coordination of The Coalition for Sustainable Livelihoods (CSL) participatory workshop held from October 30 to 31, 2019 in Medan, Indonesia to further advance the CSL as an initiative supporting sustainable livelihoods in Aceh and North Sumatra. Over 130 representatives from across private sector, government and civil society organizations, together with CSL's initial supporting partners, participated in sessions purposely designed to support active engagement and collaboration. Find out more about CSL, its supporting partners, and the workshop on the CSL webpage: www.conservation.org/csl. ' Supported and contributed technical input to the Provincial Action Plan for Sustainable Palm Oil in North Sumatra and have been facilitating development of the District Action Plan for Palm Oil that was enacted by the Tapanuli Selatan District Government. ' Continued support and facilitation of farmer training and extension worker training programs, with support from a private sector partner, with the goal of eventually training 1,000 smallholders and 50 extension workers in GAP and RSPO certification. To date, over 700 farmers have been trained and we are working to support those farmers in establishing farmer groups and cooperatives to support sustainable smallholder supply chains. ' Continued to engage key government and private sector stakeholders to support improved understanding of sustainable development specific to palm oil as well as conservation, restoration and protection of critical natural capital in North Sumatra. BRAZIL: ' CI Brazil finalized three reports: (1) a report focusing on an effective governance strategy for the productive and territorial development of palm oil in Brazil, including an analysis on governance, public policies and strategies to promote socio-economic development and inclusion of local communities; (2) a report focusing on instruments and subsidies for territorial planning of the Tomé-Açu micro-region, where 90% of Brazilian palm oil is produced; and (3) a restoration plan on strategic areas for conservation and production in the Tomé-Açu micro-region. Each report emphasized the importance of RSPO certification and sustainable palm oil production. LIBERIA: ' CI Liberia is supporting Liberia's National Oil Palm Platform mandated to develop Liberia's RSPO National Interpretation (NI) documents. CI has played an active role in the RSPO NI draft processes, including hosting working group meetings. ' CI Liberia is also working in palm oil producing regions in the Northwest Landscape to support civil society and community development objectives; address threats to forest from activities like charcoal production; explore opportunities to support sustainable livelihoods through community oil palm and Frontline Conservationist program; and, during Covid-19, support community health through access to improved sanitation and hygiene resources and trainings. ECUADOR: ' CI Ecuador has continued to actively participate in the Inter-Institutional Committee on Sustainable Palm Oil led by the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. ' On September 26th, CI supported the Government of Ecuador (Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock) in the event to launch the RSPO Jurisdictional Certification in Ecuador. CI-Ecuador participated in the event with a presentation on the Socio Bosque Program as a national compensation mechanism for RSPO. ' CI Ecuador actively participated in the RSPO Consultative Group for Latin America. ' In July 2019, CI participated in RSPO's workshop to help define the focus of the Principles and Criteria as applied to a jurisdictional certification.

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,Äôs 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,Äôs 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?

2012

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)

Over the next year, CI will work to build upon its 2019 achievements to advance the objectives of RSPO and promote increased uptake for certified sustainable palm oil. Our actions over the next year will focus on the following complementary strategies:

ENSURING SUSTAINABLE AND RELIABLE DEMAND FOR SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL IN KEY MARKETS: CI will support corporate partners in their efforts to fulfill their commitments to purchase 100% certified sustainable palm oil. CI will provide support and technical advice to major palm oil actors with the goal of encouraging time-bound commitments and implementation strategies sourcing 100% certified sustainable palm oil that does not contribute to deforestation. CI and partners will support guidance materials that help interested companies in shifting towards opportunities to strengthen industry efforts aimed at transitioning the North American market to support sustainable palm oil at origin. CI will explore the feasibility of and pursue opportunities to promote uptake of certified sustainable palm oil through demand-side initiatives in other major consumer markets, including Indonesia, Europe, and Africa.

CONTRIBUTING TO CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF RSPO: CI will contribute to ongoing industry discussions aimed at clarifying and defining best practice models for key sustainability issues that build on RSPO's principles and criteria. This includes exploring opportunities to leverage CI's core strengths of science, partnership and field demonstration to support and advance emerging initiatives, including jurisdictional certification.

PILOTING SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS IN OIL PALM LANDSCAPES: CI will continue to develop and pilot projects that combine the identification and protection of critical natural capital with productivity improvements, capacity building initiatives and improved governance in palm oil production areas. Regional activities and targets in the coming year include the following:

US: Provide guidance and advise companies in improving their current sustainable palm oil sourcing strategies as well as prioritize collective action and engagement in jurisdictional initiatives, such as the Coalition for Sustainable Livelihoods in North Sumatra and Aceh, to scale impacts for sectoral transformation. Further refine, update, and pilot a palm oil risk assessment tool to aid companies in assessing deforestation risks in their supply chains in order to prioritize action and investment in sustainable palm oil. Publish a Palm Oil White Paper

EUROPE: Participate in launching a sustainable palm oil movement with corporate actors and other organizations to provide a range of good examples on sustainable palm oil production in various producer countries and to support informed decision-making on these issues. Continue engaging with corporate actors and involve them in the implementation process of the European communication on "Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests", including mandatory due diligence for companies. Continue working as trusted advisors to European member states to support the development of national strategies on imported deforestation and sustainable commodities. Continue promoting a science-based approach to support decision-making, with tools like trase.earth.

INDONESIA: Continue to support and facilitate smallholder training in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and obtaining RSPO certification. Support development and implementation of the Coalition for Sustainable Livelihoods' governance structure and phase 3 workplan in North Sumatra and Aceh.

LIBERIA: Support the Government of Liberia in the development of the National Oil Palm Strategy. Complete and submit the RSPO NI for Liberia as well as support local oil palm farmers in reaching RSPO certification. Continue to support communities in palm oil producing landscapes in Northwest Liberia and explore opportunities for collaboration with the new concession operator to support sustainable palm oil production and forest conservation.

BRAZIL: CI Brazil hopes to expand current work to study and compare different land uses (such as palm oil production, soy, cattle, and Pinus plantations) as they relate to biodiversity, using biodiversity monitoring tools. Support communication on sustainable palm oil models and examples in Brazil.

ECUADOR: CI Ecuador will continue to participate in the Inter-Institutional Committee on Sustainable Palm Oil to support Ecuador's goal for jurisdictional certification in sustainable palm oil.

4. Shared Responsibility

The Board of Governors of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) approved new Shared Responsibility rules on 31 October 2019, requiring all members to share sustainability requirements and obligations. Reporting of Shared Responsibility indicators will be done through several channels, including ACOP. As the implementation of Shared Responsibility reporting is still on-going and in development, the Shared Responsibility section in ACOP is not yet final and may change in future ACOP cycles. For more information on Shared Responsibility, please go to <https://rspo.org/news-and-events/news/what-are-the-new-shared-responsibility-rules> or email the ACOP team at acop@rspo.org

Labour & Labour Rights

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

Yes

4.1.1 Does the policy cover:

- No discrimination
- Wage and working conditions
- Freedom of association
- No child labour
- No harassment
- No forced or trafficked labour

4.1.2 Has your company previously uploaded or linked its Labour & Labour Rights policy in previous ACOP reporting cycles?

Yes

Ethical Conduct & Human Rights

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

Yes

4.2.1 Does the policy cover:

- Recruitment
- Contractors
- Sub-Contractors & Third-Party Contractors

4.2.2 Has your company previously uploaded or linked its Ethical Conduct & Human Rights policy in previous ACOP reporting cycles?

Yes

Occupational Health & Safety**4.3 Does your company have a publicly-available Policy covering Occupational Health & Safety?**

No

Climate Change & Greenhouse Gas (GHG)**4.4 Does your company have a publicly-available policy covering Climate Change & Greenhouse Gas (GHG)?**

Yes

4.4.1 Does the policy cover:

- Identification and assessment of GHG
- Public reporting of GHG footprint
- Monitored implementation plan to reduce or minimise GHG emissions

4.4.2 Has your company previously uploaded or linked its Climate Change & Greenhouse Gas policy or report in previous ACOP reporting cycles?

Yes

Complaints & Grievances**4.5 Does your company have a Complaints & Grievances Mechanism?**

Yes

4.5.1 Is your Complaints & Grievances mechanism in line with the RSPO's grievance mechanism? For details of the RSPO's grievance mechanism, please go to <https://askrspo.force.com/Complaint/s/>

Yes

Smallholders**4.6 Does your company support oil palm independent smallholder groups?**

Yes

4.7.1 Does this support cover:

- Fair and transparent dealings with Smallholders
- Improved Smallholder livelihoods

4.6.2 How is your company supporting them?

CI works in established cultivation areas in Indonesia and Brazil, as well as expanding frontier areas in places like Liberia, to develop and test models of sustainable cultivation most relevant to those producing regions. This reflects our integrated approach to sustainable production, one that combines conservation, production improvements and constructive engagement with governments and communities aimed at building local capacity for sustainable oil palm cultivation. Through this work, CI aims to help smallholders and communities adopt more sustainable production practices and increase the amount of palm oil they produce, while protecting forests and improving livelihoods. CI is also developing with partners the Coalition for Sustainable Livelihoods in Indonesia, which aims to capture the value of diverse collaboration through a sustainable landscape approach in contributing to sustainable livelihoods and improved natural resources management, as well as to improve smallholder productivity and sustainable development in Aceh and North Sumatra. Regional highlights are captured below: INDONESIA: Conservation International continues to support the government of Tapanuli Selatan in North Sumatra to train 1,000 smallholder farmers, through a sustainable palm oil field school, on Good Agricultural Practices for oil palm production and to achieve RSPO certification. In addition, we are collaborating with the government of Tapanuli Selatan to initiate an agroforestry plot, starting with 100 ha, to address the problem of illegal incursion into forests for smallholder palm oil production. This initiative will serve as a best practice model for transitioning smallholders production methods, for the larger district restoration priority target of 21,000 ha and for broader provincial restoration initiatives. LIBERIA: CI will continue to support smallholder farmers to reduce identified barriers that effect smallholder participation in the palm oil value chain in Liberia. Key activities shall include strengthening the organization of smallholder palm oil producers, improving the participation of women farmers in producer groups; facilitating small farmer access to technical services to improve the quality and sustainability of their palm oil production; and evaluating opportunities to jointly develop new projects to scale up these activities. BRAZIL: CI Brazil, has recently published study and report on effective governance strategies for the productive and territorial development of palm oil in Brazil addresses several sensitive topics related to smallholder producers and large companies to understand the impact of palm oil production on smallholder livelihoods. CI is working to expand work with smallholders in Brazil through the development of conservation agreements to support smallholders in restoration efforts in order to obtain legal compliance.

5. Challenges

5.1 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

Brazilian companies have a lot of social and environmental requirements to accomplish to be in compliance with Brazilian law, but there has been concern over the market not being interested in the way the palm oil is produced (free of deforestation, socially responsible), and that this posture does not benefit certified palm oil and reduces the profits of the company that decides to certify its production.

5.2 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?

- Engagement with business partners or consumers on the use of CSPO
- Engagement with government agencies
- 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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5.3 If your organisation 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/docs/default-source/publication-pdfs/ci_palmoil_2019.pdf?Status=Master&sfvrsn=42065e0_5 <https://www.conservation.org/projects/coalition-for-sustainable-livelihoods>