

Particulars

About Your Organisation

1.1 Name of your organisation

The Proforest Initiative

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

8-0061-07-000-00

1.4 Membership category

Organisations

1.5 Membership sector

Affiliate

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. 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 agenda.

1.2 What activities has your organisation undertaken to promote sustainable palm oil, the RSPO and/or RSPO members in the reporting period?

We are RSPO-endorsed training providers for the Lead Auditor P&C and Lead Auditor Supply Chain Certification and during 2019 Proforest delivered three RSPO lead auditor courses SCC (Ghana, Colombia, Mexico) and four RSPO lead auditor courses P&C (Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mexico, Colombia) and a producer training courses in Sierra Leone, as well as a wide range of HCV/HCS/FPIC courses in various countries. We have furthermore developed a course for Group Managers in Latin America and conducted three courses last year (Colombia, Honduras, Ecuador) as well as further SH-focused trainings in Mexico. We also conducted trainings for mills on sustainability aspects linked to customers' responsible sourcing policy implementation. More broadly Proforest is leading the Africa Practitioners Network for building the capacity of auditors in Africa through training and mentoring: <http://www.proforest.net/en/programmes/africa/africa-practitioners-network> and has set up the Village Facilitators Network in Riau in November as a first initiative to also develop an Indonesian Practitioners Network. Generally, we are increasingly providing online training on all aspects of RSPO and sustainable palm oil to a wide host of audiences. Proforest is also the coordinator of 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. Additionally, we have established a 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. As part of our Responsible Sourcing work 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 also support mills directly in various countries with efforts to achieve RSPO certification. In terms of directly working with RSPO, we co-facilitated the successful development of the Shared Responsibility mechanism together with LiSeed and finalised the development of the RISS together with Daemeter. We also facilitated a BoG strategy development session. Towards the end of the year we were furthermore approached by stakeholders in Gabon and invited to facilitate the RSPO Gabon National Interpretation, which we started in November and are carrying on at present. We are also frequently asked to provide benchmarks of standards and were the lead consultants on the benchmark of PO standards last year for IUCN, leading to the publication of the IUCN PO benchmark report, where RSPO clearly scored highest of all standards evaluated.

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

50.0%

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

Yes

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

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 charged at our lower non-for profit rates.

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)

In addition to the work already described in section 1, we are currently in negotiations with RSPO to work on three different projects including the facilitation of the SRWG, the ASC and the review of the FPIC guides for companies and smallholders. The work on facilitating the RSPO Gabon NI is also continuing. In light of the current global Covid-19 pandemic, we aim to increase our online capacity building options as well as carry on supporting companies remotely in their efforts to implement RSPO requirements. Specifically, with regards to increasing RSPO certification, we also work with a range of companies in the Palm Oil Collaboration Group and specifically on the Implementation Reporting Framework which has RSPO certification as highest achievable outcome. We also currently work with RSPO member Rainforest Alliance (RA) on their efforts to direct clients and interested parties to RSPO certification, whereby RA PO clients will be asked to meet RSPO P&C (or RISS if they are smallholders).

3. Challenges

3.1 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

-

3.2 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

-

3.3 If your organisation has any other publicly-available reports or information regarding its palm oil-related policies and activities, please provide the links here

-