

Particulars

About Your Organisation

1.1 Name of your organisation

Zoological Society of London

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

6-0009-11-000-00

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?

ZSL (Zoological Society of London) is an international conservation charity working to create a world where wildlife thrives. From investigating the health threats facing animals to helping people and wildlife live alongside each other, ZSL is committed to bringing wildlife back from the brink of extinction. Our work is realised through our ground-breaking science, our field conservation around the world and engaging millions of people through our two zoos, ZSL London Zoo and ZSL Whipsnade Zoo.

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?

Palm Oil Position Statement: ZSL operates a Palm Oil Position Statement across our sites and offices at ZSL London Zoo and Whipsnade Zoo in the UK. We recognise that unsustainable palm oil production has serious negative environmental and social impacts. However, we also recognise that the palm oil industry plays an important role in employment and economic development for many countries, and palm oil is currently the most efficient vegetable oil crop in terms of yield per hectare. Due to these factors, we believe that transforming the market to a sustainable supply of palm oil that supports both people and wildlife is the most practical solution. As such, where ZSL procures products containing palm oil, it is committed to sourcing only certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO) where available, as a minimum defined by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) Principles & Criteria. The full Palm Oil Position Statement is available here: <https://www.zsl.org/palm-oil-position-statement> SPOTT: SPOTT, an initiative of ZSL, is an online platform supporting sustainable commodity production and trade (<http://www.spott.org>). SPOTT assesses commodity producers, processors and traders on their public disclosure regarding their organisation, policies, and practices related to environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues. SPOTT scores tropical forestry, palm oil and natural rubber companies annually against over 100 sector-specific indicators to benchmark their progress over time. SPOTT supports constructive industry engagement by investors, ESG analysts, buyers and other supply chain stakeholders. At those with the power to influence companies to increase their transparency and improve their practices on the ground. Users of SPOTT can identify areas where a company is making continuous improvement and other areas where more engagement may be needed. SPOTT indicators and assessment data can inform policies and procedures for due diligence, screening and sourcing. In 2019, ZSL published assessments of 99 palm oil producers, processors and traders (<https://www.spott.org/palm-oil>), 100 timber and pulp producers, processors and traders (<https://www.spott.org/timber-pulp>), and a pilot assessment of 15 natural rubber producers. The average score of palm oil companies in October 2019 was 35.2% - a decrease from 2018 due to the addition of 29 more companies and changes to the indicator framework, but still a clear improvement compared to the first assessments in 2014, when average scores were less than 30%. The 61 RSPO members assessed (including those with subsidiary members) scored an average of 49.1% in 2018, while the 38 non-RSPO members averaged 12.8%. KELOLA Sendang: Since 2015, ZSL has been working in Indonesia with the Government of South Sumatra on a landscape management project, KELOLA Sendang. This public-private-people partnership aims to address the challenges of deforestation, peatland degradation, wildfires and their associated climate impacts within the context of green growth and biodiversity conservation. The project supports the government, private sector, including palm oil companies, and local communities, to pilot a sustainable management partnership model across the 1.6 million hectare Sembilang-Dangku landscape in South Sumatra, an important habitat for Sumatran tigers and other wildlife. As part of KELOLA Sendang, we are supporting the implementation of best management practices (BMP) within the public and private sectors (including working with RSPO member palm oil companies), working towards sustainable production, while also enabling smallholders and community members in 21 priority villages to access local resources in an environmentally sustainable way. Stakeholder engagement: In 2019 ZSL continued to work with a variety of stakeholders in the palm oil industry to support and promote sustainable palm oil. Financial sector stakeholders and buyers are the primary audience for SPOTT, and ZSL attended various meetings, and presented at events, on webinars and podcasts, to disseminate information and encourage financiers and buyers to use the data and work with palm oil companies to improve their transparency and actions on the ground. ZSL also engaged with several palm oil companies to increase the uptake of best practices for palm oil production and sourcing, as well as to encourage improved transparency in corporate reporting. The SPOTT team also produced various research pieces to support both assessed companies and industry stakeholders, including 'Palm oil: a business case for sustainability' - a report aimed at articulating some of the financial and business-focused arguments for working towards more sustainable palm oil production, which included focus on the benefits of RSPO certification. ZSL has continued to be part of the UK Roundtable on Sourcing Sustainable Palm Oil with the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID), and has also continued to engage in discussions within the international zoo community on sustainable procurement of palm oil and outreach and education, involving organisations such as the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA).

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

5%

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?

Our work on palm oil is funded through grants, charitable donations and some charitable core funds.

2. TimeBound Plan

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

2011

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?

2011

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)

ZSL will continue to promote and support sustainable palm oil via SPOTT and our related outreach and engagement activities. This will include publishing assessments of 100 palm oil companies in November 2020, and engaging with upstream companies to improve transparency and the strength of disclosure on sustainability, as well as encouraging uptake of better practices on the ground. ZSL also hopes to increase its work directly with companies on the ground to improve practices and support uptake of RSPO certification, including in Indonesia and Cameroon, where ZSL has country offices. ZSL will continue to build on its engagement with the financial sector, buyers and other key stakeholders in the palm oil supply chain. ZSL will also continue with outreach activities, through our two zoos, through our participation on the RSPO Board of Governors and several RSPO groups (Biodiversity and High Conservation Value Working Group, Smallholder Standing Committee and Resolution 6D Task Force), and through continued engagement with external initiatives such as the New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF) and European Palm Oil Alliance.

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?

No

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?

Through its work with palm oil companies and stakeholders ZSL is indirectly supporting smallholders by encouraging increased support to them through its SPOTT palm oil assessments, and engagement with supply chain companies and key stakeholders. ZSL also has supported the development of the RSPO Independent Smallholder Standard and currently sits on the Smallholder Standing Committee.

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

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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

ZSL publishes its annual reports here: <https://www.zsl.org/about-us/zsl-annual-reports> SPOTT publishes its annual reports here: <https://www.spott.org/reports/annual-reports/> SPOTT publishes other relevant reports here: <https://www.spott.org/reports/> SPOTT website: <https://www.spott.org>