

Particulars

Organisation Name	Conservation International
Corporate Website Address	http://www.conservation.org
Primary Activity or Product	Environmental NGO
Related Company(ies)	None
Country Operations	Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Cambodia, China - People's Republic of, Colombia, Congo - Democratic Republic, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Guyana, Indonesia, Japan, Liberia, Madagascar, Mexico, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, South Africa, Suriname, USA
Membership Number	6-0010-08-000-00
Membership Type	Ordinary Members
Membership Category	Environmental and Conservation NGOs
Primary Contacts	John Buchanan Address: 2011 Crystal Drive Suite 500 Arlington United States 22202
Person Reporting	Elizabeth Baer

Related Information

Other information on palm oil:

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Reporting Period	01 July 2012 - 01 July 2013
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Environmental and Conservation NGOs

Operational Profile

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:

- Protecting critical natural capital, biodiversity and ecosystems that provide the foundation for human well-being.
- Fostering effective governance at local, national, and international levels.
- Promoting sustainable production and consumption practices.

The palm oil sector is particularly important to CI's mission because it is an important driver of economic growth in developing countries, creates relatively high employment opportunities in rural areas, is the highest yielding oil-crop per acre, and is a globally important foodstuff. However, poorly planned and managed oil palm cultivation can result in forest conversion to agricultural uses and thereby undermine biodiversity and ecosystem health upon which agriculture and ultimately human well-being depend. Effective and constructive engagement with the oil palm 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, government and market policies with the goal of protecting environmental values, supporting economic growth, and improving rural livelihoods.

2. Does your organisation use and/or sell any palm oil?

No

3. Activities undertaken to promote sustainable palm oil, the RSPO and/or members in the reporting period

CI is working at multiple levels to promote sustainable palm oil. At the global level, we are involved with the RSPO and maintain engagements with several major corporations that use palm oil in their products. Our engagements with these companies are aimed to support development and implementation of sustainable sourcing policies, specifically including purchase of CSPO. We also work to create a supportive policy environment for sustainable palm oil in countries such as Ecuador and Liberia, and also work at the local level to support producers with certification and implementation of better management practices.

Highlights of this work include:

- CI continues to serve on the Executive Board of the RSPO, with Andre Guimaraes (Executive Director of CI-Brazil) leading CI's involvement and with John Buchanan (Senior Director, Sustainable Food and Agriculture Markets) as his backup.
- In Indonesia, CI, USAID and the Walton Family Foundation launched the Sustainable Landscapes Partnership (SLP) to support development and implementation of low-emissions development strategies that incorporate both economic and conservation objectives in Mandailing Natal and Tapanuli Selatan regencies in North Sumatra. Specifically, the SLP is working to improve agricultural production of key crops in the regencies, identify and protect critical areas of natural capital such as HCV forests, support local government in implementation of key policy measures such as Strategic Environmental Assessments, and establish linkages with international buyers interested in supporting producers that are pursuing sustainability. Oil palm is a key crop in both regencies and CI is in the process of mapping producers and value chains with the aim of identifying and supporting producers that may be interested in partnership in working towards sustainable palm production landscapes.
- CI has maintained coordination meetings with the Ecuador National Association of Palm Oil Producers (ANCUPA) on a range of issues, including the analysis of RSPO principles and criteria for national interpretation. CI-Ecuador is providing technical support to the national interpretation process and is analyzing the current draft and submitting comments to optimize adoption of the P&C.
- CI has continued its support for RSPO principles in Liberia by recently hosting a 3-day capacity building workshop titled "Mainstreaming Rights Based Approach Principles in Private Sector Stakeholder Engagement in Liberia". This initiative brought together partners from the civil society, government, private sector such as Golden Veroleum of the oil palm industry, donors such as USAID, local communities where CI has presence and academic institutions. The primary objective of the workshop focused on creating awareness to enhance partners' capacity on CI's framework for the six principles of Rights Based Approach and utilizing FPIC principles in community engagement. This initiated steps for the development of a comprehensive tool-kit to facilitate community and stakeholder engagement in Liberia.
- CI is working on building a biodiversity public database in the palm region in Brazil that will provide relevant information to the scientific community, public and private sectors. To date, the greatest portion of data available for this region is fragmented and falls on the researcher's domain only. The intent of CI is to collect data available from different sources and develop a public database that would result on additional data analyses and information which are crucial to evaluate the impacts on biodiversity in a regional basis. This pack of information will also support the study of landscape management that CI is proposing for this area.
- CI is supporting a group of Latin American academics and scientists that are researching biofuel production systems that could impact forests. This 5 years research exercise is being funded by National Science Foundation and is coordinate by Michigan University. CI is having an important role helping this group to identify production systems and regions that are priority for palm development, as well as facilitating the communications of this group with key stakeholders in this sector.
- CI- Brazil participated actively on the Seminar "Technical week of sustainable palm", on October 22-24, 2012. This debate aimed at delineating a positive agenda for palm development in the state of Para.
- Following up on CI's previous work with a leading Brazilian producer, the monitoring program of vertebrates groups was expanded to also cover plants and insects. The monitoring is performed yearly, being 2013 the second year of this exercise. As a continuation of this partnership, CI-Brazil is conducting a study of landscape management for the associated properties. This model includes economic variables which aim to provide the company relevant information to evaluate gains in production and plan for future production expansion.

4. Did members of your staff participate in RSPO working groups/taskforces in the reporting period?

Yes

If yes, please explain how:

CI has been closely engaged in the smallholder working group through the development of technical guidance, attendance of physical meetings, and provision of advice/support as needed. A key document being developed by CI within the smallholder working group is "Simplified Guidance for Independent Smallholder Groups to Conduct High Conservation Value (HCV) Assessments". This document addresses the elements identified as missing in the certification system for independent smallholders as defined by the 2010 publication "RSPO Principles and Criteria for Sustainable Palm Oil Production: Guidance for Independent Smallholders under Group Certification". This important work being led by CI within the smallholder working group therefore seeks to provide practical guidance for independent smallholders to meet HCV requirements as stipulated in Criteria 5.2 and 7.3. The objective of the document is to simplify the process of HCVA for eligible smallholders with "user-friendly" step-by-step guidance and scaled-down tools, without compromising the integrity of the safeguards which HCVA intends to put in place for sustainable production systems. The guidance document provides the background information and ready-to-use templates for group managers to conduct the assessment, wherein each HCV component is addressed through targeted inquiries and participatory processes, including the following:

- a member questionnaire,
- instructions for a participatory mapping exercise at the plot level,
- guidelines for developing the management plan where HCV are identified, and
- a simple check-list for the group manager and auditor to ensure all requisite tasks are completed.

From July 2013 going forward, CI will present the draft simplified guidance document to the Smallholder Working Group for discussion; integrate all comments and suggestions from working group members; support the dissemination of the document through the Biodiversity and High Conservation Value (B-HCV) Working Group for further comment; finalize the document integrating and addressing all working group commentary; and support the presentation of the document to the Executive Board for approval and publication of the final document.

5. Do you have any collaborations with the industry players/private sector to support them in the market transformation towards CSPO?

Yes

If yes, please explain how:

- CI, in partnership with WWF and IDH, has organized a coalition of private sector companies across the palm oil value chain interested in overcoming stagnation in the transition to CSPO in target markets. This group consists of RSPO members from the retail, consumer goods, processing, and growing sectors as well as other NGO partners. We are working with this group to identify key barriers to the transition and to develop a roadmap for interested parties to put into action.

- CI is also supporting the U.S. units of a major retailer in their efforts to achieve their global commitment to source 100% sustainable palm oil for all private label products by 2015. We have developed tools and processes for surveying suppliers regarding their use of palm oil, commitments to sustainable palm oil and barriers they see to transitioning toward sustainable palm oil. The data collected through this process can be used to consolidate efforts to bring sustainable into the North American market at scale and to support this retailer's efforts to work with actors throughout the supply chain.

- CI has provided advice and input to two other multi-national branded companies in the development and implementation of their sustainable palm oil policies and strategies. In these instances, CI has helped these palm oil users understand the value of the RSPO, strengths and weaknesses of the different supply chain options and has provided advice in wording of specific policies, guidance and questionnaires to suppliers, and in wording of messaging around RSPO.

- CI also has a joint initiative with a major consumer products company. The initiative will support the company's efforts to expand volumes of RSPO certified oil from smallholder growers and eventually source resulting certified oil through partnership with their suppliers.

- Following up on CI's previous work with a leading Brazilian producer, the monitoring program of vertebrates groups was expanded to also cover plants and insects. The monitoring is performed yearly, being 2013 the second year of this exercise. As a continuation of this partnership, CI-Brazil is conducting a study of landscape management for the associated properties. This model includes economic variables which aim to provide the company relevant information to evaluate gains in production and plan for future production expansion.

6. What percentage of your organization's overall activities focus on palm oil?

10

7. How is your 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.

Time-Bound Plan

8. Date started or expect to start participating in RSPO working groups/taskforces

2008

9. Date expected to undertake and publicise programmes to support RSPO, RSPO certification and/or good standing RSPO members

2012

10. What are your interim milestones towards achieving your commitments to promote sustainable palm oil?

We need to secure funding for our palm oil work in markets and at origin.
We aim to directly support the 100% conversion of the US market to sustainable palm oil by 2015.

11. Which countries that your institution operates in do the above commitments cover?

Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Cambodia, China - People's Republic of, Colombia, Congo - Democratic Republic, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Guyana, Indonesia, Japan, Liberia, Madagascar, Mexico, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, South Africa, Suriname, USA

Actions for Next Reporting Period

12. Outline actions that will be taken in the coming year to promote sustainable palm oil

Over the next year CI will work to build upon its 2012-13 achievements to advance the objectives of RSPO and promote increased uptake for certified palm oil. Our actions over the next year will focus on three complementary strategies:

A) Ensuring there is a sustainable and reliable demand for sustainable palm oil in key markets:

- CI will support corporate partners in their efforts to fulfill 100% of their purchasing commitments to buy certified sustainable palm oil. CI will also provide support and technical advice to at least two major palm oil users looking to make similar commitments to source certified sustainable palm oil.
- CI and a coalition of sector actors will develop data and a transition roadmap that supports the interested companies' efforts to consolidate efforts throughout their North American supply chains to shift to sustainable palm oil supply in the North American market.

B) Contributing to the continuous improvement of RSPO:

- CI will continue to play a leading role in the smallholder working group with an objective to simplify the process of HCVA for eligible smallholders with "user-friendly" step-by-step guidance and scaled-down tools, without compromising the integrity of the safeguards which HCVA intends to put in place for sustainable production systems.

C) Building models at origin that seek to demonstrate sustainable palm production landscapes by combining identification and protection of critical natural capital, such as forests, with production improvements in existing growing areas, capacity building, and improved governance:

- CI will continue to work to build capacity and promote sustainable palm oil through the Ecuador National Association of Palm Oil Producers (ANCUPA), with a focus on principles and criteria related to selection of areas of high conservation value.
- We will further advance the palm oil work under the Sustainable Landscapes Partnership (SLP) in Indonesia (see further detail in question 3).
- Building on the knowledge acquired with the landscape monitoring exercise developed with the Brazilian producer, CI intends to expand this study to the palm region of the state of Para. This model considers economic considerations of the biodiversity's positive externalities as the basis to develop a new strategic management paradigm for the region. This set of data will provide relevant information on how to plan for the expansion of palm in the region, being an important tool to guide the public sector on its definition of policies and programs for palm and, therefore on the development of a more secure environment for private investments. This exercise will also provide an opportunity for close interaction between CI, the public and private sectors, academia, other NGO's and institutions in the state of Para.

An additional core element of our focus over the coming year is to identify sustainable funding sources to support our continued involvement in RSPO as well as our sector-wide activities.

Reasons for Non-Disclosure of Information

13. If you have not disclosed any of the above information please indicate the reasons why

Data Unknown

- Other reason:

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Application of Principles & Criteria for all members sectors

14. Do you have organisational policies that are in line with the RSPO P&C

- Energy and carbon footprints
- Ethical conduct
- Labour rights
- Stakeholder engagement

Energy and carbon footprints policy

[EN-Policies-to-PNC-waterland.pdf](#)

For administration purpose, attachment files are renamed automatically

Ethical conduct policy

[EN-Policies-to-PNC-ethicalconduct.pdf](#)

For administration purpose, attachment files are renamed automatically

Labour rights policy

[EN-Policies-to-PNC-laborrights.pdf](#)

For administration purpose, attachment files are renamed automatically

Stakeholder engagement policy

[EN-Policies-to-PNC-stakeholderengagement.pdf](#)

For administration purpose, attachment files are renamed automatically

14.1. If none of the above, please specify if/when you intend to develop one

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15. What steps will your organization take to realize ethical conduct in business-applicable regulations and industry practices?

See CI's Code of Ethics policy (question 14)

16. Has your company supported any community programmes, related to palm oil, on its own or through partnerships? How do you benchmark the impacts of these programmes?

Yes. Farmer community engagement will form part of the SLP program described above.

17. What best practice guidelines or information has your organization provided to facilitate production and consumption of sustainable palm oil? What languages are these guidelines available in?

We integrate best practice guidance into the strategic advice we provide to corporate partners on a consultative basis. This guidance includes becoming a member of RSPO and setting a time-bound goal to source 100% CSPO.

18. Has your organization partnered with any RSPO members in the implementation of or benchmarking against the Principles and Criteria?

No

Challenges

1. Significant economic, social or environmental obstacles

Securing funding to support staff time necessary to engage directly in RSPO activities and promote RSPO in markets and at origins remains a challenge.

2. How would you qualify RSPO standards as compared to other parallel standards?

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Cost Effective:

Yes

Robust:

Yes

Simpler to Comply to:

No

3. How has your organization supported the vision of RSPO to transform markets?

We have participated in the RSPO Executive Board, engaged directly with member companies to implement their commitments, educated non-members and advised them to join, and advanced models in the field and in global markets to support the expansion and uptake of CSPO. See further details in the ACOP report.
