

Research Survey Results



RSPO IMPACTS & EVALUATION



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In July 2018, RSPO released a **Research Agenda**, which details the research plans of RSPO moving forward.

The document consists of a list of research questions centred around six key themes related to RSPO:

Cost & Benefit Analysis; Certification, Assurance & Grievance; Demand Generation & Support System; Human Rights; Smallholders; and Ecosystem Conservation & Management.

The primary scope of the Research Agenda is to understand and demonstrate the performance and impact of RSPO's interventions and strategies, in line with the **RSPO Theory of Change**, so that we can improve our standards to perform better.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Objective of Research Survey

Point 1

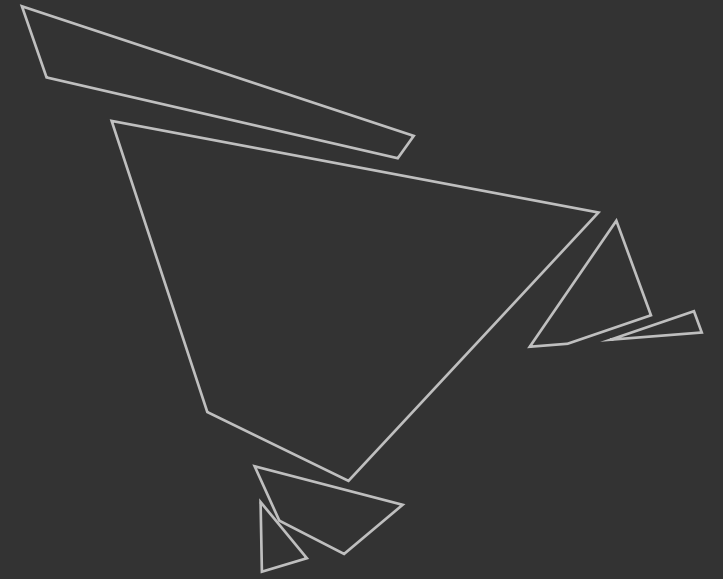
- Since the production of the Research Agenda, RSPO Impacts & Evaluation team has been using the document to **engage with the research community at large** in order to drive research on impacts of RSPO standard and certification.

Point 2

- While we place a very high value on independently conducted research on RSPO, we are also aware that there are some pressing questions that will need to be answered promptly.
- As such, we will be **commissioning our own studies** as well.

Point 3

- In order for us to determine which are the key topics that we will need to focus on first, we have designed this **Research Survey**, based on the Research Agenda, **to engage all internal and external RSPO stakeholders**.

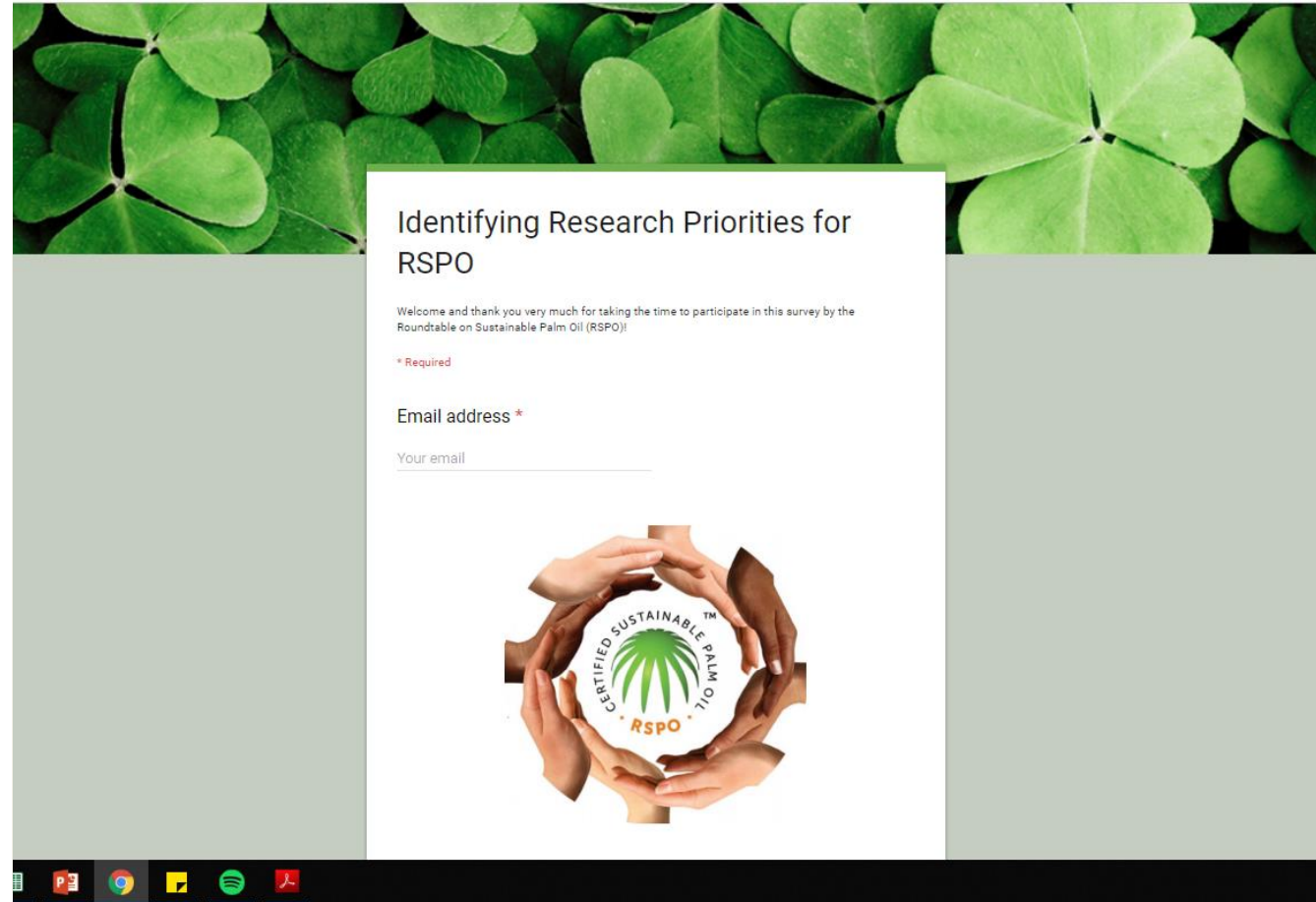


2.0 METHODOLOGY & RESULTS

Research Survey

In October 2018, an online **Google-based Research Survey** was developed and shared with:

- Key internal RSPO Secretariat members
- RSPO Standing Committees, Working Groups and Task Forces members
- Researchers and others (individuals working in the oil palm industry, governments etc.)

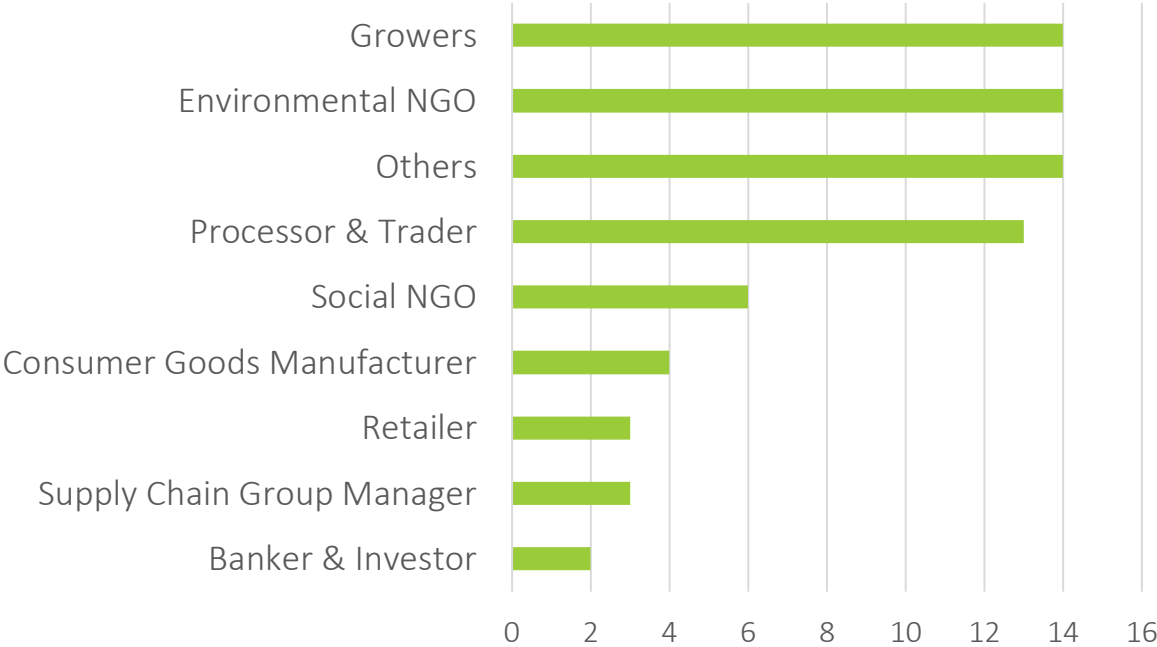


Research Survey Responses

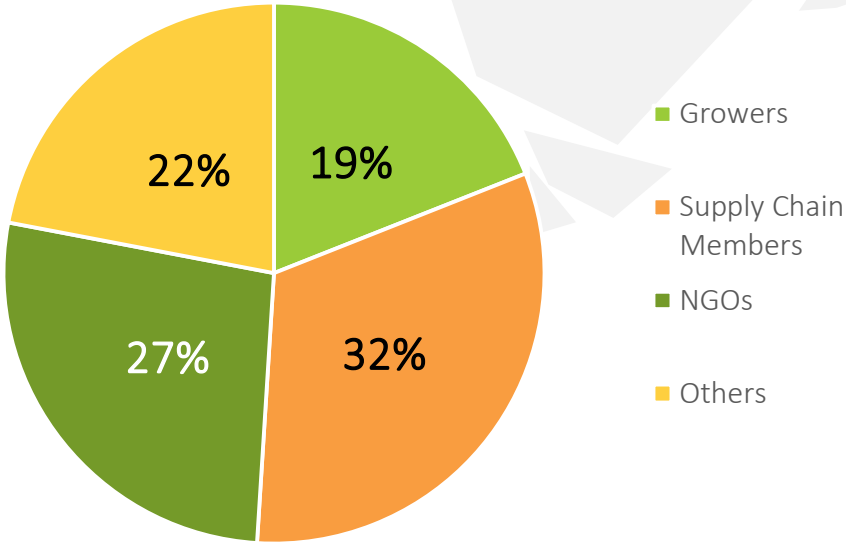
The survey was opened for a period of around 3 weeks and a total of **107 responses** have been received. Of this total, 73 were from external stakeholders while the remaining 34 are from the RSPO Secretariat.

The breakdown of the survey respondents are as follow:

External Stakeholders (by type)



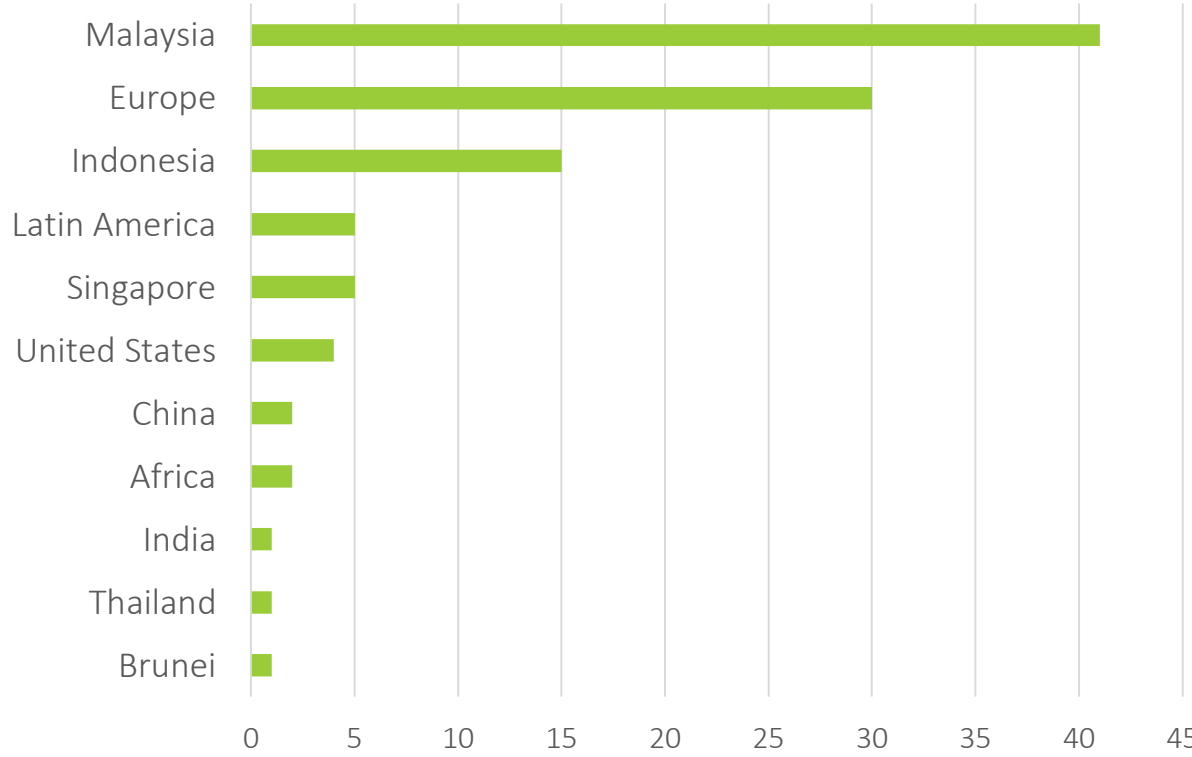
External Stakeholder grouping



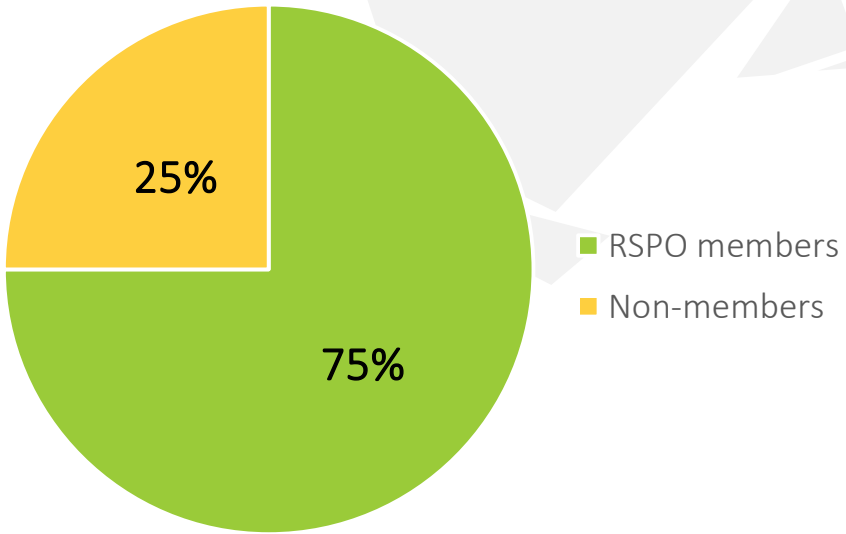
Research Survey Responses

The breakdown of the survey respondents are as follow (cont.):

Stakeholders (by region)



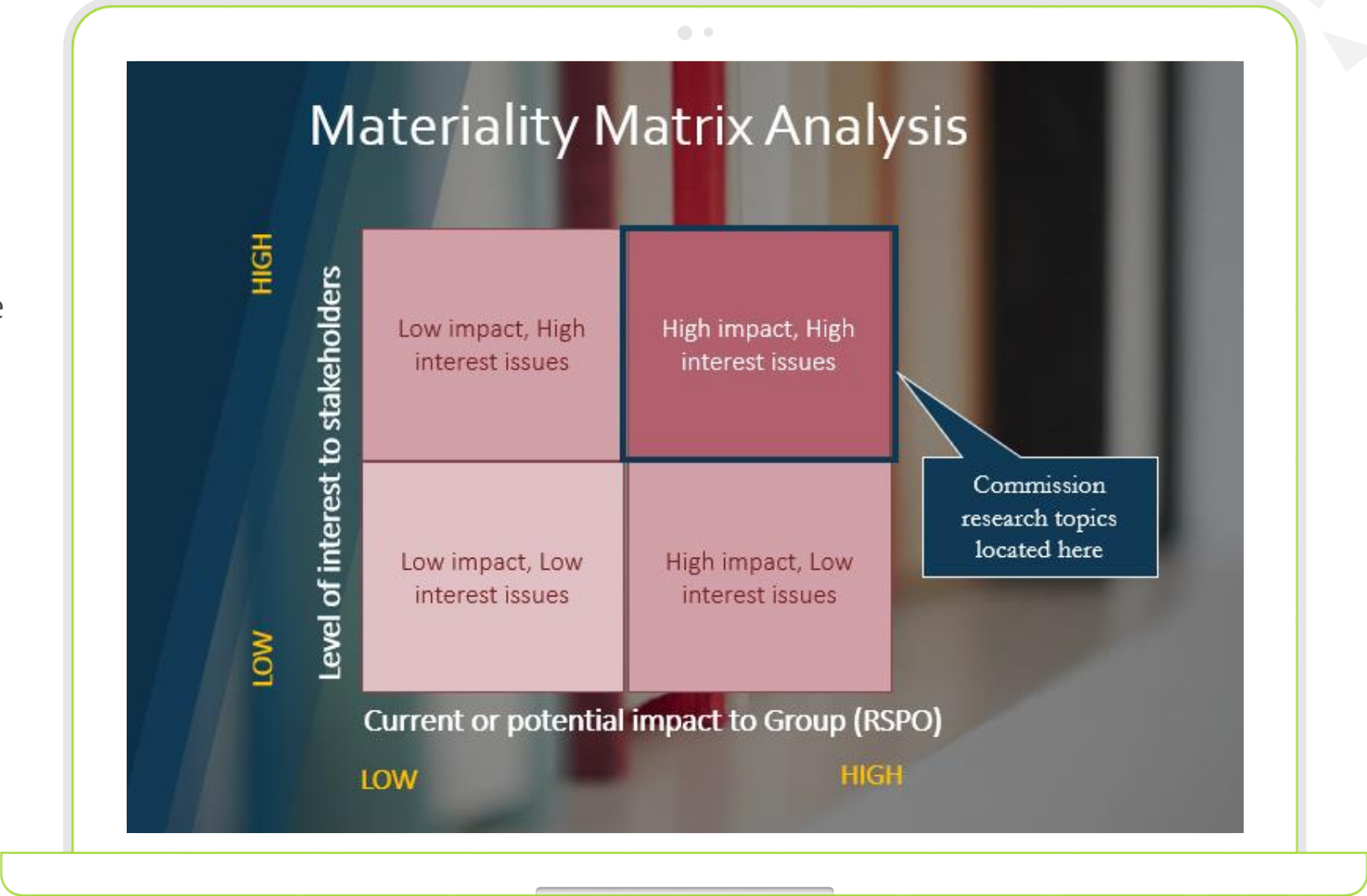
Membership of External Stakeholders



Note: The non-members are usually researchers and non-profit organizations

Materiality Matrix Analysis

To determine the key research topics/questions to focus on, we have employed the materiality matrix analysis methodology which is commonly used in sustainability reporting, as per guided by the **Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)**.



Plotting the Matrix

To plot the matrix, we have identified and grouped the following stakeholders:

X-axis

RSPO Chief Executive Officer (CEO); Chief Operating Officer (COO); Directors; Outreach & Engagement (O&E) Department; and Regional Representative of RSPO

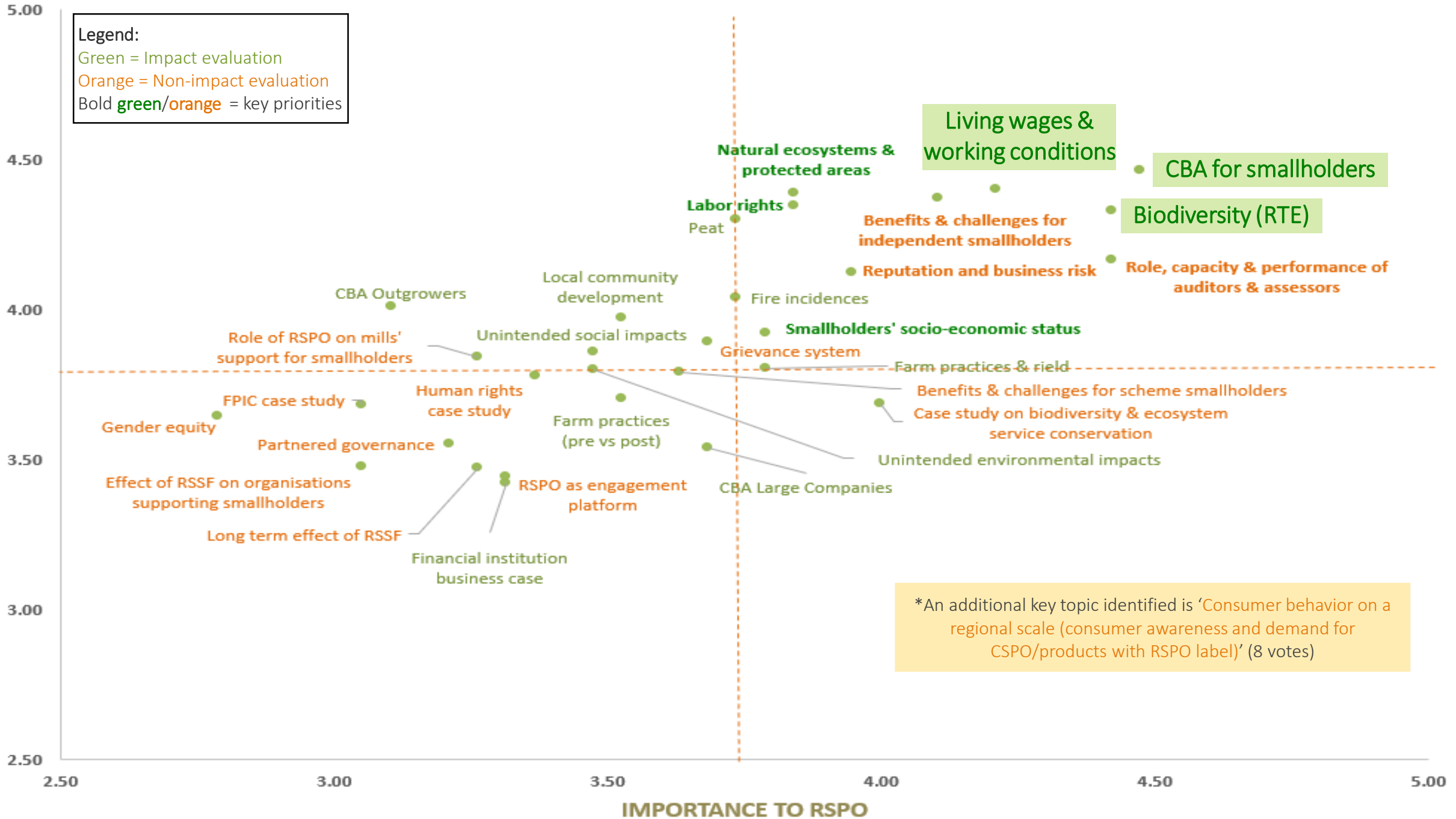
Y-axis

Other RSPO Secretariat staff; RSPO Standing Committee, Working Group and Task Force members; Researchers and others (individuals working in the oil palm industry, governments etc.)

Weighted Average

- For each key research topic, weighted average scores were calculated for both x- and y-axis.
- The scores were then used to plot the research topics on the materiality matrix.

INTEREST TO RSPO'S STAKEHOLDERS



*An additional key topic identified is 'Consumer behavior on a regional scale (consumer awareness and demand for CSPO/products with RSPO label)' (8 votes)

3.0 WHAT NEXT?

The Research Survey has assisted us in determining the three key research priorities to focus on for 2019/2020. Based on the materiality matrix, RSPO I&E will be commissioning the following research: -

Cost-benefit analysis for smallholders to attain and maintain RSPO certification. How can the costs be reduced and benefits amplified? How sustainable are these benefits over time?


To what extent and in what context does the adoption of RSPO's Principles and Criteria (P&C) contribute to the **protection (maintenance and improvement) of biodiversity**, especially rare, threatened and endangered (RTE) species, on oil palm plantations?


How do the **living and working conditions** (e.g. living wages, health and safety, child labour, work targets etc.) of workers on RSPO certified plantations compare to those who are employed on non-certified plantations? What difference does RSPO certification make to worker's livelihood? To what extent can the differences observed be attributed to RSPO certification?

Thank You



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<https://www.rspo.org/impacts/research-and-evidence> 