

Particulars

About Your Organisation

1.1 Name of your organization

ProForest

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

- Grower
 - Processor and/or Trader
 - Consumer Goods Manufacturer
 - Retailer and/or Wholesaler
 - Bank and/or Investor
 - Social and/or Development NGO
 - Environmental and/or Conservation NGO
 - Supply Chain Associate
 - Affiliate
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1.3 Membership number

8-0061-07-000-00

1.4 Membership category

Organisations

1.5 Membership sector

Affiliate

Affiliate

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

No

1.3 Activities undertaken to promote sustainable palm oil, the RSPO and/or 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 2018 Proforest delivered two RSPO lead auditor courses in the UK (Supply Chain Certification) and Cote d'Ivoire (P&C) and three producer training courses in Mexico, Liberia and Colombia, as well as a wide range of HCV/HCS courses. 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>. 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/>. Proforest is also the secretariat for the SHARP programme, a multi-stakeholder partnership which is working with the private sector to support sustainable smallholder development: www.sharp-partnership.org. SHARP's RSS framework is a tool for smallholders and their partners in palm oil supply chains to use as a stepwise approach towards RSPO certification. Additionally, we have started 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.

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

50%

1.5 Did members of your staff participate in RSPO working and/or taskforce groups in the reporting period?

Yes

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

Yes

1.7 How is your 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 costs for training provision via course participant fees and service provisioning for RSPO directly is charged at our non-for profit rates.

2. Actions for Next Reporting Period

2.1 Outline activities that you will take in the coming year to promote sustainable palm oil along the supply chain.

In addition to the work already described in section 1, we are specifically now also facilitating the RSPO Shared Responsibility mechanism development and have recently started to co-run with RSPO a specific course targeting group managers in LatAm.

3. Challenges

3.1 What significant economic, social or environmental obstacles have you encountered in the production, procurement, use and/or promotion of CSPO and what efforts did you make to mitigate or resolve them?

- 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
 - Others
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Other:

3.2 In addition to the actions already reported in this ACOP, how has your organisation supported the vision of RSPO to transform the market for sustainable palm oil in other ways? (e.g. Funding; Engagement with key stakeholders; Business to business education/outreach)

- Engagement with business partners or consumers on the use of CSPO
 - Engagement with government agencies
 - Promotion of CSPO outside of RSPO venues eg trade workshops industry associations
 - Promotion of physical CSPO
 - Providing funding or support for CSPO development efforts
 - Research & Development support
 - Stakeholder engagement
 - Others
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Other:

We have led the initial thinking on RSPO Shared Responsibility concept as part of the P&C Review subgroup work and are currently facilitating the process and task force that is developing the requirements and mechanism to roll this out amongst the membership in the coming year. This involves consultation with key stakeholders, which also allows us to promote the RSPO vision, which we consider to be the starting point for the Shared Responsibility thinking.

3.3 Please attach or add links to any other information from your organisation on your palm oil policies and activities (e.g.: sustainability reports, policies, other public information)

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