

Particulars

About Your Organisation

Organisation Name

Conservation International

Corporate Website Address

<http://www.conservation.org>

Primary Activity or Product

- Environmental NGO
-

Related Company(ies)

No

Membership

Membership Number	Membership Category	Membership Sector
6-0010-08-000-00	Ordinary	Environmental or Nature Conservation Organisations (Non Governmental Organisations)

Environmental and Conservation NGOs

Operational Profile

1.1 What are the main activities of your organization ?

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 practices. The palm oil sector is particularly important to CI's mission because it can be an important driver of economic growth in developing countries, can create employment opportunities in rural areas, is the highest yielding oil crop per hectare and is a globally important foodstuff. However, poorly planned and managed oil palm cultivation can result in forest conversion, undermining the 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, and the development of government and market policies with the goal of protecting environmental values, supporting economic growth and improving rural livelihoods.

1.2 Does your organization 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

CI is working at multiple levels to promote sustainable palm oil. At the global level, we participate in and support the RSPO and we maintain engagements with several major corporations that use palm oil in their products. Through these engagements, CI provides support to companies seeking to develop and implement of sustainable sourcing policies, including the purchase of CSPO. We also work to create a supportive policy environment for sustainable palm oil in producer countries such as Indonesia, Brazil, Ecuador and Liberia, as well as in consumer markets such as the EU and the US. At the local level, we continue to support producers with certification and implementation of better management practices. Highlights of this work include: >> RSPO CI served on the RSPO Board of Governors since 2008. CI has appreciated the opportunity to bring our perspective to the RSPO dialogue at the highest levels. To allow more space for new voices and perspectives in those discussions, in November 2015, CI declined to pursue re-election. However, we remain committed to advancing the principles of the RSPO and to supporting RSPO in its mission of transforming the palm oil sector toward sustainability. In this capacity, CI staff representing CI's expertise and interests in field demonstration, policy and markets will continue to actively engage with RSPO. >> INDONESIA Since 2010, CI, USAID and the Walton Family Foundation have supported the Sustainable Landscapes Partnership (SLP) to demonstrate low-emission development strategies that incorporate both economic and conservation objectives in the regencies of Mandailing Natal, South Tapanuli and North Tapanuli in North Sumatra. Specifically, 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 two of the three regencies and, in 2015, CI established an MOU with one company and collaboration agreements with two additional producers in SLP landscapes. These include both RSPO and non-RSPO/non-ISPO companies in order to work across the spectrum of plantations that are in the landscape. Additionally, CI has: a) implemented existing MOUs with districts and is working with the district governments to improve spatial planning and environmental management of key biodiversity areas within the districts; b) worked closely with the provincial government to support a joint secretariat that aims to further improve the production of sustainable palm oil in North Sumatra; c) proposed work with three plantation companies to reduce carbon emissions from degraded and peatland plantations, improve water management and riparian area management, and develop risk management preparation for the El Niño threat; and d) continued to work with provincial Environmental Planning Board of the government to improve land siting, and landscape planning processes. >> ECUADOR CI has continued to provide technical support to the Ecuador National Association of Palm Oil Producers (ANCUPA) on a range of issues, including the analysis of RSPO principle and criteria for national interpretation, with a specific focus on the identification of high conservation value areas. CI is also working with the RSPO in order to establish the Socio Bosque Program, Ecuador's National Incentives Program for conservation and ecosystem restoration, as an approved compensation mechanism for palm oil companies seeking RSPO certification in Ecuador and

around the world. Furthermore, as a pilot project in Ecuador's northern border and in the Amazon, CI is teaming with a national palm oil company in identifying areas with high conservation values, establishing mechanisms to strengthen environmental safeguards and ways to contribute to the financial sustainability of Ecuador's conservation incentives programs and protected areas. >> LIBERIA In Liberia, CI has been playing an active role in promoting and facilitating multi-stakeholder discussion and collaboration throughout the palm oil value chain. Liberia is one of six African countries participating in the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 Palm Oil Initiative, led by Proforest. As the in-country focal point, CI played a leading role in convening stakeholders from the public and private sector, as well as technical experts and civil society in a national workshop in May 2015. During the workshop a number of government leaders, representatives from multinational consumer goods companies and technical experts came together to develop a 'compact' set of basic directives for good practice and this included the development of a principle requiring that 'entities commercially producing palm oil in Liberia should be RSPO members aiming to produce RSPO certified palm oil'. Conservation International will use the momentum generated by Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 Palm Oil Initiative to reconstitute the RSPO National Technical working group in Liberia, provided that adequate funding be made available. Conservation International will also seek to establish partnerships with RSPO member companies operating in Liberia and provide direct support to these companies in their implementation of RSPO Principles and Criteria. >> BRAZIL Working with a leading Brazilian producer, CI continued to monitor biodiversity in relation to oil palm plantation areas. The main objective of this work is to collect fragmented data and join that information in a single database as a basis for scientific research and decision-making by public and private entities. Information gathered in this database – which includes data from biodiversity monitoring, vegetation cover and topography – may serve as a basis for evaluating impacts of palm oil production on biodiversity, as well as for designing sustainable management models for the broader landscape. Under the project "Conservation, Production and Social Inclusion: Oil Palm as Sustainable Development Vector in Belém Endemism Center", supported by USAID and National Science Foundation (NSF), CI will use collected data to provide recommendations with respect to the sustainable expansion of palm oil production, including specific recommendations for the involvement of smallholders. Data gathered to date will provide an important basis for a constructive and transparent dialogue with key stakeholders about opportunities for ensuring that any expansion of the palm oil sector happens in a sustainable way. This project is being undertaken as part of a Pan-American research network (OISE-PIRE: Sustainability, Ecosystem Services, and Bioenergy Development across the Americas), funded by NSF, that includes universities and research center from Canada, USA, Mexico, Argentina and Uruguay, and is investigating the bioenergy development across the Americas. CI Brazil also signed a new, three-year agreement with the same leading Brazilian producer to maintain biodiversity, land use and social monitoring research in the company sites, as well as to expand these efforts throughout new areas recently affected by plantation expansion in the region. The plan also includes support the implementation of a jurisdictional approach for RSPO certification in this region. >> BIOFUELS CI Brazil is developing and supporting research on the social, economic and environmental impacts of biofuel production, as well as the potential threats to forests. This research, which is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and led by the University of Michigan Tech, is helping to identify appropriate production systems and priority regions for palm oil development. The forum itself also plays an important role in facilitating dialogue with key stakeholders in this sector. And the knowledge and experience generated through this initiative provided the basis for additional funding from USAID ("Biodiversity and Socio-economic Impacts of Palm Oil Bioenergy Development in the Brazilian Amazon") and FAPESPA ("Bioenergetic Zoning for Palm Oil Crops and its Impacts on Biodiversity in Pará State"). >> GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF) CI serves on the Steering Committee of the GEF's Taking Deforestation out of the Commodity Supply Chains Integrated Approach Project (IAP), along with WWF, the

International Finance Corporation (IFC) and UNDP. The GEF IAP aims to advance sustainable production, demand and finance efforts across the entire palm oil supply chain in Indonesia and Liberia. A kick-off meeting was held in Jakarta in November 2015 to present the project to key stakeholders and identify project partners. Currently, CI and partners are working on the Project Preparation Grant phase to finalize the design of this program. This program seeks to turn the sustainable production of key commodities from niche and specialized operations to the norm in the palm oil sector. The Program's overall objective is to reduce the global impacts of agriculture commodities on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and biodiversity by meeting the growing demand of palm oil, soy and beef through supply that does not lead to deforestation and related GHG emissions. It is expected that the GEF will approve this Project at the end of June. CI will focus most of our work on the production side of this program, which will focus on removing barriers to production policy and enforcement, enabling dialogue and public private partnerships, providing farm support systems and agri-inputs, and advancing efforts on land use plans and mapping.

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

Yes

Please explain how

CI served as one of the Environmental NGO representatives on the RSPO Board of Governors through November 2015.

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

Yes

Please explain how

CI engages directly with companies in the palm oil industry to support their efforts to produce or source sustainable palm oil. Additionally, CI supports market transformation at a larger scale through the development of research, guidance and recommendations to private and public sector stakeholders. >> PRODUCERS In BRAZIL, CI continues to work with a leading Brazilian producer to improve sustainability and comply with RSPO certification requirements through improved impact monitoring, resource optimization and landscape management based on the implementation of environmental legislation and the conservation of ecosystem services that are critical for production. In INDONESIA, CI has an MOU with a leading plantation company in the intervention area to support the reduction of carbon emissions from an existing peatland plantation, understand and manage environmental and business risk, and work with local communities to address issues of burning and palm oil production processes. >> RETAILERS In 2015, CI provided technical support to a major retailer in their efforts to meet a global commitment to source 100% sustainable palm oil for all private label products by 2015. Previously, CI has worked with this retailer to develop tools and processes for surveying suppliers regarding their palm oil use, commitments to sustainable palm oil and barriers to transitioning to certified sourcing. Over the past year, we have continued to support these efforts, focusing on education and outreach to suppliers and buyers. CI also worked with this retailer to conduct an analysis of the impacts of their sustainable palm oil commitments in the industry, in their supply chain and in production regions. The findings of this analysis will be used to inform next generations sustainability strategies for palm oil sourcing. >> SUSTAINABLE SOURCING GUIDE FOR PALM OIL USERS In May 2015, CI, in partnership with WWF US, released the Sustainable Sourcing Guide for Palm Oil Users. This guide was developed as a result of our collaborative work with a number of private sector companies across the palm oil value chain interested in supporting the transition of the US market to 100% CSPO. This group consists of RSPO members from the retail, consumer goods, processing and growing sectors, as well as other NGO partners. Through this engagement, we have identified key market and supply chain barriers contributing to delays in further CSPO uptake and developed informational guidance tools to support US palm oil users in addressing these barriers. To review the Sourcing Guide, please visit: www.conservation.org/palmoilguides. Following the release of the Sourcing Guide, CI has engaged in numerous strategic conversations with retailers and consumer goods companies to provide guidance and support to the development of sustainable sourcing strategies and their subsequent implementation. CI has also been working with palm oil suppliers and traders to explore opportunities for the conversion of key products and sectors to 100% physical CSPO. >> INDONESIA MARKET ANALYSIS With support from CI, the Palm Oil Agribusiness Strategic Policy Institute (PASPI) completed an analysis to understand opportunities for promoting uptake of sustainable palm oil in the Indonesian market. The study included an analysis of market structure and key stakeholders; a review of existing and emerging policy initiatives that may present opportunities to promote sustainable palm oil production and uptake; and the status and role of certification in the Indonesian market. Summary findings will be released in 2016. >> EUROPEAN MARKET In Europe, with support from the RSPO, CI Europe hosted a policy event at the European Parliament on 21st September 2015. The title of the event was "Ending Imported Deforestation to the EU" and the objective was to make some concrete policy recommendations to the European legislators for adopting an EU Action Plan on Deforestation and Forest Degradation, which would be highly relevant to the palm oil sector. The proposed policy recommendations were based on two studies, one on business acceptability of a set of policy options and the second on effectiveness in terms of reduced deforestation. This event contributed to the decision of the European Commission to fund its own feasibility study on the EU Action Plan on Deforestation. In addition to this event, CI worked with a coalition of NGOs including WWF, Greenpeace and others to redact a position paper with five concrete policy recommendations for the EU Action Plan on Deforestation and Forest Degradation and to reach out to a series of policy-makers at the EU and national level. These EU policy recommendations were presented at numerous events across Europe, including the workshop organized by the French Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil at the Forum Convergences in Paris on 8 September 2015 and the Amsterdam Conference on Global Value Chains on 7 December 2015 hosted by Minister Liliane Ploumen.

1.6 What percentage of your organizations overall activities focus on palm oil?

10%

1.7 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. For more information on CI's financials, please see: www.conservation.org/financials.

Time-Bound Plan

2.1 Date started or expect to start participating in RSPO working groups/taskforces2008

2.2 Date expected to undertake and publicise programmes to support RSPO, RSPO certification and/or good standing RSPO members2012

2.3 What are your interim milestones towards achieving your commitments to promote sustainable palm oil (the production/uptake of CSPO)?

>> UPTAKE IN THE US MARKET Directly support the 100% conversion of the US market to sustainable palm oil, by releasing the Sustainable Sourcing Guide for Palm Oil Users, defining market transition models using the US market as a test case, participating in and/or convening multi-stakeholder dialogue. >> UPTAKE IN THE EUROPEAN MARKET Directly support national and European market commitments aimed at transitioning the EU to 100% sustainable palm oil, by conducting policy and market research, proposing policy recommendations, hosting and/or participating in high-level events. >> UPTAKE IN ASIAN & AFRICAN MARKETS Directly support increased uptake of sustainable palm oil in other major consumer markets, by producing a feasibility study to understand opportunities, barriers and incentives for transitioning the other Asian and African palm oil markets to more sustainable sources. >> PRODUCTION Develop and pilot innovative models for addressing key sustainability issues and promoting CSPO production in at least three countries, by supporting governments, private sector, producers and communities in developing and implementing sustainable production and landscape management strategies. * * * * * To meet these targets, CI must: 1) Maintain a sustainable source of long-term funding to support palm oil work in markets and at origin; and 2) Develop meaningful partnerships with companies, policymakers, growers, communities and NGOs to support the continued advancement of sustainability in the palm sector, which includes continued support for the RSPO and its principles and criteria, as well as leadership commitments and demonstration projects that strengthen market support for forests, species, communities, and smallholders.

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

- Australia
- Belgium
- Bolivia
- Botswana
- Brazil
- Cambodia
- China
- Colombia
- Congo, the Democratic Republic of the
- Costa Rica
- Ecuador
- Fiji
- Guyana
- Hong Kong
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Mexico
- New Caledonia
- Papua New Guinea
- Peru
- Philippines
- Samoa
- Singapore
- South Africa
- Suriname
- United States

Actions for Next Reporting Period

3.1 Outline actions that will be taken in the coming year to promote sustainable palm oil(along the supply chain)

Over the next year, CI will work to build upon its 2015 achievements to advance the objectives of RSPO and promote increased uptake for certified sustainable palm oil. Our actions over the next year will focus on four complementary strategies: 1) ENSURING SUSTAINABLE AND RELIABLE DEMAND FOR SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL IN KEY MARKETS >> CI will support corporate partners in their efforts to fulfill their commitments to purchase 100% certified sustainable palm oil. >> CI will provide support and technical advice to major palm oil users with the goal of encouraging post-2015 commitments that include time-bound plans for sourcing 100% physical certified sustainable palm oil that does not contribute to deforestation. >> CI and partners will develop data and guidance materials that support interested companies in shifting to certified sustainable palm oil and CI will explore opportunities to strengthen industry efforts aimed at transitioning the North American market to 100% certified sustainable palm oil. >> CI will explore the feasibility of and pursue opportunities to promote uptake of certified sustainable palm oil through demand-side initiatives in other major consumer markets, including Indonesia and Africa. >> CI will continue and strengthen its work to reach the 100% sustainable palm oil goal in Europe including the EU policy engagement on the EU Action Plan on Deforestation, the SDG communication, the benchmarking study about palm oil and the trade negotiations between the EU and Indonesia. CI will also continue to promote the increase of uptake of CSPO in Europe through public events, engagement with the private sector and communications. 2) CONTRIBUTING TO CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF RSPO >> CI will contribute to ongoing industry discussions aimed at clarifying and defining best practice models for key sustainability issues that build on RSPO's principles and criteria. This includes exploring opportunities to leverage CI's core strengths of science, partnership and field demonstration to support and advance emerging initiatives, including but not limited to RSPO Next and jurisdictional certification. 3) PILOTING SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS IN OIL PALM LANDSCAPES >> CI will continue to develop and pilot projects that combine the identification and protection of critical natural capital with productivity improvements, capacity building initiatives and improved governance in palm oil production areas. >> In INDONESIA, CI will further advance the palm oil work under the Sustainable Landscapes Partnership (SLP) in North Sumatra and will through a number of initiatives continue to work with stakeholders (companies, government and communities) to support the understanding of sustainable palm oil and conservation. >> In ECUADOR, CI will continue to work to build capacity and promote sustainable palm oil through our work with the Ecuador National Association of Palm Oil Producers (ANCUPA). It will also partner with local producers to benchmark best practices and team with local organizations in order to scale-up RSPO certifications and promote compensations through national conservation programs. >> In LIBERIA, CI will continue to play an active role in promoting and facilitating multi-stakeholder discussion and collaboration throughout the palm oil value chain. >> In BRAZIL, CI will continue to work on monitoring biodiversity and socioeconomic impacts, but will expand its activities to map potential areas for restoration and maximize biological connectivity based on a sustainable agricultural landscape view. CI will also help to strengthen local governance by creating a constructive dialogue with key stakeholders in order to build an alternative sustainable palm oil production model.

Reasons for Non-Disclosure of Information

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

GHG Emissions

5.1 Are you currently assessing the GHG emissions from your operations?

Yes

5.2 Do you publicly report the GHG emissions of your operations?

No --

5.2 Please upload related document

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5.2 Add a link to a website

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Application of Principles & Criteria for all members sectors

6.1 Do you have organizational policies that are in line with the RSPO P&C, such as:

- Energy and carbon footprints
[EN-Policies-to-PNC-waterland.pdf](#)
- Land Use Rights
[EN-Policies-to-PNC-landuserights.pdf](#)
- Ethical Conduct
[EN-Policies-to-PNC-ethicalconduct.pdf](#)
- Labour rights
[EN-Policies-to-PNC-laborrights.pdf](#)
- Stakeholder engagement
[EN-Policies-to-PNC-stakeholderengagement.pdf](#)

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

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6.2 If no to any of the above, what steps will your organization take to realize ethical conduct in business-applicable regulations and industry practices?

N/A.

6.3 What best practice guidelines or information has your organization provided to facilitate production and consumption of CSPO? 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. Specific products and guidance includes: >> SUSTAINABLE SOURCING GUIDE FOR PALM OIL USERS In May 2015, CI, in partnership with WWF US, released the Sustainable Sourcing Guide for Palm Oil Users. These guidance materials were developed to address supply chain and market barriers inhibiting uptake of certified sustainable palm oil in the US market. Based on the feedback received to date, the Guide has proven to be a valuable resource to companies, particularly in supporting supplier outreach and education. The Guide is available in English and can be accessed at: www.conservation.org/palmoilguides. >> SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL PRESENTATIONS IN EUROPE CI hosted an event at the European Parliament on 21 September 2015 focusing on

"Ending Imported Deforestation in the EU by 2020", at which the RSPO was invited to speak. CI also made a public intervention on sustainable palm oil in Europe at the Sustainable Oils and Fats International Congress in Paris on 15 June 2015; the workshop organized by the French Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil at the Forum Convergences in Paris on 8 September 2015; and at the Amsterdam Conference on Global Value Chains on 7 December 2015 hosted by Minister Liliane Ploumen. >> STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT CI's SLP program in Indonesia provides key learning and training discussions every month in provincial and district level multi-stakeholder forums that are attended by plantations, government and smallholders. These include topics such as best management practices on peat, reducing deforestation outside concession areas, challenges relating to certification and a variety of other topics pertaining to better environmental and management practices of oil palm. >> PALM OIL TRAINING MANUAL The Sustainable Landscapes Partnership (SLP) plans to utilize training materials that were developed by SNV that aim to promote sustainable production practices among smallholders in Indonesia. For the palm oil and other smallholder training programs SLP has developed a specific set of training materials that help to promote an improved farmer understanding of the importance of conservation to production the title of the training series is: 'Where farms meet forests: Conservation and Forest-farm Systems'. These manuals were released in 2015 and are available in Bahasa Indonesia.

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

Yes

Detail

As detailed under our activities, CI works with a number of partners, including RSPO members, on the implementation of the Principles & Criteria through our direct work with producers, as well as our efforts to promote sustainable production at the landscape scale.

Website link

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Concession Map

7.1 This questions only applies for companies who would like to declare concession boundaries owned. (both RSPO Certified and uncertified)

Do you agree to share your concession maps with the RSPO?

No

Please explain why

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Challenges

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?

MARKET CHALLENGES: Discourse among palm sector stakeholders and criticisms of RSPO's principles and criteria during this reporting period has contributed to confusion in the marketplace as to the effectiveness of CSPO sourcing, eroding support for RSPO, and in some cases delaying CSPO sourcing. In November, RSPO established RSPO Next to begin addressing these issues.

This is an encouraging, but still nascent initiative and until it is more clearly defined, understood and piloted, market confusion and delays are likely to persist. Additionally, the drop in commodity prices, including palm oil, has also contributed to increased challenges as palm oil companies are less willing to justify the investments associated with RSPO certification requirements or other CSR activities. FIELD-BASED CHALLENGES >> In INDONESIA, CI's Sustainable Landscapes Partnership has faced a number of challenges in promoting sustainable palm oil production with communities, government and plantation companies. With communities, we are working to address a general lack of awareness of sustainable palm oil production practices among local producers, as well as communities seeking to convert land from primary and secondary forest to oil palm. At the district level, governments may depend upon income from oil palm production to the detriment of longer-term land use planning. Among companies, RSPO-certified plantations remain a minority within the district. Those that are certified express frustration that they are not seeing better pricing for sustainably produced palm oil, and non-certified plantations in the region appear to have little desire to improve palm oil production processes.

CI's SLP program seeks to address these issues through ongoing engagement with plantation companies and communities on more sustainable palm oil production practices. CI will also continue its engagement with government through both formal and informal efforts aimed at supporting improved land-use planning and working with a provincial Secretariat to address many of the other issues noted above. There is a chronic gap in knowledge, capacity and skills required to drive reforms both at the provincial and district levels. Negligible sustained socialization and communication of new policies, regulations and laws to stakeholders result in a significant gaps between the rhetoric of national level debates and the realities of what is happening on-the-ground. Increasingly there is considerable anger, frustration, and resentment expressed by many Indonesian stakeholders at what is perceived as being foreign-originating commitments made that will limit the scope for palm oil development in new regions. >> In ECUADOR, there have been challenges in gaining sufficient political support within the sector to adopt the principles and criteria of the RSPO at the national level. To address this, CI will participate in the National Working Group in 2015 and support ANCUPA in their new commitment to promote adoption of the RSPO principles and

criteria in 2015. >> In BRAZIL, there has been a challenge to have an appropriate analysis for the long-term economic viability of enterprises related to palm oil sector in Brazil. The worldwide low prices of biodiesel and currently economic/political crisis in Brazil have affected expansion of palm oil sector and investments on its sustainability. Other challenge is the inclusion of family farmers in palm oil production, since the lack of land titles generates insecurities over land responsibilities and long term investments. CI will seek and suggest low budget initiatives to promote sustainable palm oil production based on previous researches and experiences shared, and will contribute to land-use regularization and restoration of forest fragments so called forest reserves.

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:

Yes

3 How has your organization supported the vision of RSPO to transform markets? (e.g. Funding; Engagement with key stakeholders; Business to business education/outreach)

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.

4 Other information on palm oil (sustainability reports, policies, other public information)

To learn more about CI's ongoing efforts on sustainable palm oil, please visit www.conservation.org/palmoil.