

## Particulars

### About Your Organisation

#### 1.1 Name of your organization

Conservation International

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#### 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

6-0010-08-000-00

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#### 1.4 Membership category

Environmental or Nature Conservation Organisations (Non Governmental Organisations)

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#### 1.5 Membership sector

Ordinary

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## Environmental and/or Conservation NGO

### 1. Operational Profile

#### 1.1 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:

1. Protecting critical natural capital, biodiversity and ecosystems that provide the foundation for human well-being.
2. Fostering effective governance at local, national, and international levels.
3. 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 palm oil 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.

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

No

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### 1.3 What activities has your organisation undertaken to publicise programmes to support RSPO, RSPO certification, uptake of RSPO-certified sustainable palm oil and oil palm products and/or good standing RSPO members during the year?

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 produce, trade, or purchase palm oil in their products. Through these engagements, CI provides support to companies seeking to develop and implement 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, Colombia, Peru, and Liberia, as well as in consumer markets such as the EU and the US. At the local level, we continue to support small producers with certification as well as through seeking certification and implementation of better management practices.

Highlights of this work include:

#### US:

In the U.S., CI consistently engages with actors within the supply chain as well as other relevant key stakeholders (NGOs, finance, etc.) to provide support on policy implementation, to promote dialogue, and to encourage innovation and action that leads to sectoral, not just supply chain, transformation. CI has advised retailers and agribusinesses in their commitments to sustainable palm oil. CI also served as a member of NASPON, participating in the segregated working group aimed at understanding current challenges in the North American market to sourcing physical CSPO as well as opportunities for reducing supply chain barriers to sustainability, including identifying the role of the segregated supply chain in promoting industry transformation.

#### EUROPE:

CI Europe has been engaging industry stakeholders and identifying ties to CI field projects in producer countries working towards sustainable landscapes which support sustainable palm oil production, to encourage prioritization and increased funding to scale impacts at origin. CI plays an advisory role, providing feedback and support for sustainably produced commodities in policy positions on European policies on deforestation. CI Europe has also been supporting a group of several stakeholders, which includes the private sector, to build a movement in sustainable palm oil, encouraging and enabling the uptake of CSPO in Europe, despite the current European context of palm oil bans and substitution. This movement aims at putting forward best practices from projects implemented in producer countries and supporting informed decision-making related to palm oil. The objective is also to support the 'Amsterdam Declaration in Support of a Fully Sustainable Palm Oil Supply Chain by 2020', as well as corporate commitments to halt deforestation by 2020.

#### BRAZIL:

CI Brazil has supported the biodiversity monitoring in the palm oil plantation of the largest producer in Brazil

#### ECUADOR:

CI Ecuador has continued to support the Ministry of Environment in a palm oil Implementation Plan for Ecuador, 's REDD+ Action Plan, which incorporates steps towards a jurisdictional certification of RSPO in the Amazon. CI Ecuador represents the environmental sector in Ecuador, 's Inter-institutional Committee on Sustainable Palm Oil, headed by the Ministry of Agriculture with the Ministry of Environment, comprised of other representatives from the national government, palm producers and exporters, social organizations and academia. As part of this committee, CI has been advising the Ministry of Environment on the development of jurisdictional-level high conservation value maps for jurisdictional certification. In addition, CI is partnering with a major producer in the region to develop a program for Deforestation-Free Palm Oil in Ecuador, 's Amazon, which will incorporate environmental components in smallholder producer capacity-building as well as linking Conservation Agreements. CI Ecuador also participates in the Latin American Constative Group for RSPO.

#### INDONESIA:

CI Indonesia has been socializing sustainable palm oil to community farmers and field extension services in the district of South Tapanuli, particularly on the significance of RSPO certification. CI has also continued to support the establishment of a forum for sustainable palm oil as a platform to support stakeholders at a local level in the district. CI has supported the district government in promoting the regulation of the sustainable palm oil action plan for South Tapanuli. In addition, we have continued to provide technical support, facilitating smallholders in GAP training and gaining readiness for RSPO certification.

#### PERU:

CI Peru has been engaging several associations of small-scale palm oil producers to explore working together towards zero deforestation value chains, including steps towards RSPO certification.

#### LIBERIA:

CI Liberia is the national convener for Liberia, 's Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 (TFA 2020) and the Africa Palm Oil Initiative. As a founding member of the Liberia National Oil Palm Technical Group and its secretariat, CI Liberia is playing a significant role in the development of Liberia, 's RSPO National Interpretation document, and the national oil palm strategy. Through the GGP project, CI Liberia has established a landscape forum for structured dialogue, planning, consensus building and knowledge sharing on sustainable smallholder oil palm production at a local level. In addition, CI Liberia and IDH have been leading the efforts in the development of a national strategy for sustainable smallholder palm oil production.

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

10%

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

Yes

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**1.6 Do you have any collaborations with the industry players/private sector to support them in the market transformation towards RSPO-certified sustainable palm oil and oil palm products?**

Yes

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**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](http://www.conservation.org/financials).

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## **2. Time-Bound Plan**

**2.1 Date started or expected to start participating in RSPO working and/or taskforce groups.**

2008

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**2.2 Date expected to undertake and publicise programmes to support RSPO, RSPO certification, uptake of RSPO-certified sustainable palm oil and oil palm products and/or good standing RSPO members.**

2012

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## **3. Actions for Next Reporting Period**

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

Over the next year, CI will work to build upon its 2018 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 the following complementary strategies:

**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 actors with the goal of encouraging time-bound commitments and implementation strategies sourcing 100% physical certified sustainable palm oil that does not contribute to deforestation. CI and partners will develop guidance materials that support interested companies in shifting towards opportunities to strengthen industry efforts aimed at transitioning the North American market to support sustainable palm oil at origin. 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, Europe, and Africa.

**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 jurisdictional certification.

**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.

Regional activities and targets in the coming year include the following:

**US:**

- Provide guidance and advise companies in improving their current sustainable palm oil sourcing strategies as well as prioritize collective action and engagement in jurisdictional initiatives, such as the Coalition for Sustainable Livelihoods in North Sumatra and Aceh, to scale impacts for sectoral transformation.
- Finalize development of and pilot a palm oil risk assessment tool to aid companies in assessing deforestation risks in their supply chains in order to prioritize action and investment in sustainable palm oil.

**EUROPE:**

- Continue launching a sustainable palm oil movement with corporate actors and other organizations to provide a range of good examples on sustainable palm oil production in various producer countries, to support informed decision-making on these issues.
- Continue working with corporate actors and other NGOs to call on the European Commission to release ambitious communication on stepping up EU action against deforestation and forest degradation with ambitious measures to adopted over the next EU term
- Serve as trusted advisors to European member states to support the development of national strategies on imported deforestation and sustainable commodities.
- Promote science-based approaches to support decision-making, with tools like trase.earth.

**BRAZIL:**

- Continue to identify new opportunities with one of the largest palm oil producers in Brazil, focusing on sustainable landscapes (ecological corridors, restoration, landscape management) aiming to amplify our strategy for sustainable palm oil and restoration, along with other organizations.

**ECUADOR:**

- Continue to support the Ministry of Environment in implementing the Palm Oil Implementation plan.
- Work with a major palm oil producer to develop a program for Deforestation-Free Palm Oil in Ecuador's Amazon and increase smallholder producer capacity building.

**PERU:**

- Explore ways to leverage funding through CI Ventures - an investment fund that provides loans to support small- and medium-sized enterprises in implementing best practices - to promote next steps towards sustainable palm oil value chains in Peru.

**INDONESIA:**

- Aim to empower, train, and assist 1,000 smallholders in good agricultural practices and gaining RSPO certification.

**LIBERIA**

- Continue collaboration with Rainforest Alliance and Local Farm on a project targeted to reduce identified barriers to effective smallholder participation in the palm oil value chain in Liberia and complete smallholder supply chain integration assessments
- Support the development of a national strategy on sustainable smallholder palm oil production
- Develop a business case for a sustainable development concession model for palm oil production

**4. Application of Principles & Criteria for all members sectors**

**4.1 Regarding your organisation's operations and activities, do you have position statements and/or policies related to dealings in the palm oil industry that are in line with RSPO P&C? Select all relevant options.**

**4.1.A Water, land, energy and carbon footprints**File: [EN-Policies-to-PNC-waterland.pdf](#)

Link: --

**4.1.B Land use rights**File: [CI\\_RBAPolicy.pdf](#)

Link: --

**4.1.C Ethical conduct and human rights**File: [EN-Policies-to-PNC-ethicalconduct.pdf](#)Link: [EN-Policies-to-PNC-ethicalconduct.pdf](#)**4.1.D Labour rights**File: [EN-Policies-to-PNC-laborrights.pdf](#)Link: [EN-Policies-to-PNC-laborrights.pdf](#)**4.1.E Stakeholder engagement**File: [EN-Policies-to-PNC-stakeholderengagement.pdf](#)Link: [EN-Policies-to-PNC-stakeholderengagement.pdf](#)**4.1.F None of the above**

File: --

**4.2 What best practice guidelines or information has your organisation provided in the past year to facilitate production and consumption of RSPO-certified sustainable palm oil and oil palm products? What languages are these guidelines available in?**

File: [ACOP 2018\\_4.2.docx](#)**5. Challenges**

**5.1 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

**Other:**

Europe: A lot of work remains to be done in Europe to secure demand for sustainable palm oil, as well as regarding the decision making around palm oil, preventing substitution, bans, and discriminatory measures.

Brazil: In Brazil, producers often state that certification is not an advantage since the largest consumer market is Asia, with low demand for certified palm oil. Despite being differentiated for sustainable production, it is estimated and perceived that this investment only attracts the European market.

Indonesia: Traceability remains an issue, related to land permits and land management in Indonesia. Additionally, the high cost of certification is a big challenge, where smallholders need support and assistance in order to go through the certification process.

Peru: In Peru, there is limited knowledge about the benefits of becoming RSPO certified. At the same time, there are growing links between oil palm expansion and deforestation in the region, and poor traceability measures for small-scale processing plants sourcing palm oil from small-scale farmers deforesting primary forests.

Liberia: Since the government of Liberia committed to the use of the RSPO standard and certification scheme, smallholder oil palm farmers and companies have reported the numerous constraints they have faced in becoming RSPO certified. To this end, CI Liberia, in collaboration with Rainforest Alliance, is working with a smallholder oil palm firm on a project targeted to reduce identified barriers to effective smallholder participation in the palm oil value chain in Liberia.

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**5.2 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

**Other:****US & EUROPE:**

CI continuously engages with key stakeholders on making commitments to mitigate deforestation and promote the uptake of sustainable palm oil. CI Europe also engages in public and government affairs, to secure enabling conditions for the uptake of sustainable palm oil in Europe.

**BRAZIL:**

CI Brazil has a long-term partnership with a key palm oil producer and is now trying to amplify their sustainable strategy regionally and engage new partners and companies, using this partnership and producer's sustainability story as a positive example to be followed.

**PERU:**

CI Peru is engaging with producers exploring opportunities for biodiversity monitoring and forest conservation. CI is also engaging small-scale farmer producer associations of palm oil as potential clients of CI Ventures and potential RSPO members.

**LIBERIA:**

CI Liberia has established an MOU with the government of Liberia to provide technical and financial support in ensuring the RSPO National Interpretation and oil palm strategy are developed. In addition, CI has supported several stakeholder engagement workshops and information sharing sessions to increase the understanding and visibility of the RSPO certification process.

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**5.3 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)**

To learn more about our work, visit our sustainable palm oil page here:

<https://www.conservation.org/projects/Pages/Sustainable-Palm-Oil.aspx>