

## Particulars

### About Your Organisation

#### 1.1 Name of your organization

Wetlands International

#### 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

#### 1.3 Membership number

6-0007-07-000-00

#### 1.4 Membership category

Environmental or Nature Conservation Organisations (Non Governmental Organisations)

#### 1.5 Membership sector

Ordinary

## Environmental and/or Conservation NGO

### 1. Operational Profile

#### 1.1 What are the main activities of your organisation?

Wetlands International is the only global not-for-profit organization dedicated to the conservation and restoration of wetlands. Our vision is a world where wetlands are treasured and nurtured for their beauty, the life they support and the resources they provide. Wetlands International is a leading expert on environmental matters related to land use and management of (tropical) peatlands, including for palm oil and for pulp wood production. This pertains particularly to biodiversity, GHG and soil subsidence issues, but also to social aspects. We work in a critical and constructive manner with the corporate sector to improve their sustainability performance. We challenge their economic strategies and production system standards which lack sufficient sustainability criteria, particularly those relevant to wetlands. In addition, we also work to influence policy change and commitments from various governments. Some examples of our substantive work in this area includes science based contributions to the UNFCCC, IPCC, Indonesian and Malaysian Governments, EU (on biofuels, RED, FQD, CAP) including a successful lobby to the European Commission for the inclusion of wetlands and peatlands sustainability criteria in the EU Renewable Energy Directive and the Fuel Quality Directive.

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

Yes

#### 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?

1. Participated in Peatland consultation workshop preceding RT15 of the review of RSPO Manual on Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Existing Oil Palm Cultivation on Peat, and for Management and Rehabilitation of Natural Vegetation Associated with Oil Palm Cultivation on Peat. In particular, developed the Drainability Assessment Guidelines, a scientifically based methodology to determine the 2-crop cycle distance to drainage base for growers, to be included in the new 2018 Principles & Criteria, which is up for adoption early 2019.
2. The RSPO started an Online Sustainability College, based on the Best Management Practices Guidelines for existing oil palm on peat and for rehabilitation and conservation of forest and peatland. We developed all peatland related modules that contain messages to enhance sustainability practices in peatlands. These are now to reach many more people including from palm oil growers and are presented in an easily accessible manner.
3. Collaboration with Indonesia's Peatland Restoration Agency on developing peatland restoration plan in one province in Sumatra, including restoration of peatland area that has been converted to oil palm plantation following existing Indonesian regulations. As per 2016 to present the WI-Indonesia Director is an expert panel on the working group of the Peatland Restoration Agency. The Indonesia office is engaged in providing technical training (peatland rewetting, rehabilitation and revitalization) to BRG field facilitators.
4. Working on project collaboration on the joint identification of alternative economic developments on rewetted peatlands (paludiculture) with RSPO member companies (IOI, in preparation stages)
5. Initiated a project portfolio with one RSPO member (Wilmar) on applying their RSPO Remediation and Compensation in a peatland restoration area in Central Kalimantan. The development stopped as Wilmar could not agree to high target and long term commitment WI demands for implementing the project as guided in RSPO Remediation and Compensation scheme
6. Collaborated with the Indonesian government and NGOs in discussions and meetings on sustainable peatland management, its particular reference to oil palm plantations, and the moratorium on development of oil palm on new peatlands.
7. Developed a Paludiculture Forum in Indonesia as a sharing platform for information and latest advance on Paludiculture practices in Indonesia to which, members from oil palm industry have been invited.
8. Participated in the meeting led by IUCN NL in Jakarta (April 2019), related to the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) of EU in relation to oil palm in peatland areas. In the meeting we raised the issue of long term socio-economy and environmental impacts of oil palm planted in peatland areas, besides the loss of primary forest/forest degradation and biodiversity. Banning of OP should therefore be reviewed against all of these factors.
9. Wetlands International provided training to RSPO members and Non-RSPO members on a selection of technical matters, e.g. on Drainability Assessment.

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

5%

#### 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 RSPO-certified sustainable palm oil and oil palm products?**

Yes

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**1.7 How is your work on palm oil funded?**

Financed by various donors: a) DGIS, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands; b) CLUA (Climate and land-use Alliance); c) RSPO (specific assignments and travel costs coverage); d) The Otter Foundation; E) Partners for Resilience(PfR) programme in Indonesia; e) self-funded

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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.**

2019

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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.**

- 1) Finalization of the Drainability Assessment Guideline for plantations on peatlands and full adoption by the 2018 Principle & Criteria
  - 2) Contribution to the revision of the RSPO P&C through the membership of the P&C task force
  - 3) Finalize the Best Management Practices for Rehabilitation of degraded peatlands (BMP Rehab), with preparation of scripts for the BMP modules ready for O&E and assist (if needed) with preparing the launch of the modules at RT16
  - 4) Engage with the European Parliament on the bio-economy strategy, CAP and related climate energy files.
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## 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.**

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**4.1.A Water, land, energy and carbon footprints**

File: [CO2 Emissions Policy.pdf](#)

Link: --

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**4.1.B Land use rights**

File: [Land Use Rights.pdf](#)

Link: --

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**4.1.C Ethical conduct and human rights**

File: [Ethical\\_Policy\\_WetlandsInt.pdf](#)

Link: [Ethical\\_Policy\\_WetlandsInt.pdf](#)

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**4.1.D Labour rights**

File: [Labour\\_Rights\\_WetlandsInt.pdf](#)

Link: [Labour\\_Rights\\_WetlandsInt.pdf](#)

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**4.1.E Stakeholder engagement**File: [Stakeholder\\_Engagement\\_WetlandsInt.pdf](#)Link: [Stakeholder\\_Engagement\\_WetlandsInt.pdf](#)

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**4.1.F None of the above**File: --

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**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: --

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**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
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**Other:**

1) A key challenge for an NGO like Wetlands International is to ensure that we have sufficient financial resources and human capacity to maintain our level of contributions to the RSPO, in terms of quantity and quality.

2) In Indonesia, certain academicians / universities are paid to promote oil palm in peatland area as sustainable business

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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
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**Other:**

We have launched a fund to promote sustainable use of rewetted peatlands by communities through stimulation of sustainable business models and development of innovative economic alternatives on rewetted peatlands by NGO-community partnerships.

Additionally, we started a platform to bring together researchers, NGO's, the private sector and government to discuss and exchange experiences of alternative wet agricultural practices and species on (degraded) peatlands (Paludiculture).

In 2016, together with Winrock International and other local NGOs, developed a Protocol for Oil Palm Independent Smallholder for Sustainable and Responsible Management of Peat Areas.

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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)**

<https://www.wetlands.org/news/business-and-industry-need-to-join-civil-society-and-governments-to-improve-the-condition-of-wetlands/>

<https://www.wetlands.org/our-approach/peatland-treasures/sustainable-land-use/>

<https://www.wetlands.org/publications/the-source-annual-review-and-accounts-2018/>

<https://www.winrock.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Winrock-Protocol-Smallholder-Palm-Oil-Production-on-Peat-Areas-Booklet-2017-English.pdf>

<https://majalah.tempo.co/read/156285/problem-gambut-setelah-moratorium-sawit>

<http://en.tempo.co/read/news/2018/10/23/055922794/Wetland-International-Lauds-Jokowis-Peatland-Protection-Act>

<http://industri.bisnis.com/read/20160825/99/578451/wetlands-rekomendasikan-moratorium-perluasan-perkebunan-kelapa-sawit-di-papua>

<http://villagerspost.com/todays-feature/ini-dia-visi-misi-lingkungan-jokowi-maruf/>

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