

## Particulars

<b>Organisation Name</b>	Sumatran Orangutan Society (SOS)
<b>Corporate Website Address</b>	<a href="http://www.orangutans-sos.org">www.orangutans-sos.org</a>
<b>Primary Activity or Product</b>	Environmental NGO
<b>Related Company(ies)</b>	None
<b>Country Operations</b>	Indonesia, United Kingdom
<b>Membership Number</b>	6-0013-09-000-00
<b>Membership Type</b>	Ordinary Members
<b>Membership Category</b>	Environmental and Conservation NGOs

## Environmental and Conservation NGOs

### Operational Profile

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

Sumatran orangutans are critically endangered and without urgent action could be the first Great Ape species to become extinct. SOS is dedicated to turning this situation around.

We do this by:

Raising awareness about the importance of protecting orangutans and their rainforest home;  
Supporting grassroots projects which empower local people to become guardians of the rainforests;  
Restoring damaged orangutan habitat through tree planting programmes;  
Campaigning on issues threatening the survival of orangutans in the wild.

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

No

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#### 1.3 Activities undertaken to promote sustainable palm oil, the RSPO and/or members in the reporting period

SOS has worked with partners in Sumatra, Indonesia to provide training for plantation workers and agricultural communities on best management practices for dealing with human wildlife conflict, enabling farmers to protect their crops without harming wildlife. We have evacuated orangutans at risk in plantation areas, including those owned and managed by RSPO members.

We have submitted a robust complaint against an RSPO member in 2012, in an effort to support the increased integrity and credibility of the RSPO - this case however remains unresolved.

Ensuring that standards are upheld on the ground is a crucial role for NGO members of the RSPO.

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

Yes

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##### If yes, please explain how:

RSPO RT in Medan  
Presented resolution at the GA10 in Medan regarding Transparency in plantation concession boundaries  
SOS staff was member of RSPO complaints panel from November 2013 - April 2014

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

Yes

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##### If yes, please explain how:

We led the Clear Labels, Not Forests campaign, which contributed to the passing of new legislation in the EU on labelling regulations. From the end of 2014, all packaged food products must list the specific vegetable oil/s used on the ingredients list. This will support the market transformation towards CSPO.

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

50

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

Public donations and grants from donor agencies

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### Time-Bound Plan

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

2013

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

2015

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

We intend to submit resolutions at each GA which, if passed, would increase the credibility of the RSPO.

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

Indonesia, United Kingdom

**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)**

We have not outlined actions that will be taken in the coming year to promote sustainable palm oil as we are still awaiting the outcome of a complaint case.

Our ability to promote or endorse the RSPO will very much depend on the outcome of this case, which to date has been running for 687 days.

**Reasons for Non-Disclosure of Information**

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

Other

**- Other reason:**

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

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

- None

**- Energy and carbon footprints**

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**- Ethical conduct**

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**- Labour rights**

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**- Land Use Rights**

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**- Stakeholder engagement**

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

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**5.2 What steps will your organization take to realize ethical conduct in business-applicable regulations and industry practices?**

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**5.3 What best practice guidelines or information has your organization provided to facilitate production and consumption of CSPO? What languages are these guidelines available in?**

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

No

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**- 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?

An RSPO member company, PT Sisirau, was found to be actively clearing HCV, and despite the acknowledged presence of a population of orangutans on their land, continued clearance.

The RSPO's complaints procedure has, to date, been inadequate to deal with this grave violation.

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### 2 How would you qualify RSPO standards as compared to other parallel standards?

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#### Cost Effective:

No

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#### Robust:

No

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#### Simpler to Comply to:

easier

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### 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)

Political lobbying, engagement with key stakeholders

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

Without an effective complaints panel to adequately deal with confirmed, problematic members then the reputation and viability of the organisation and the RSPO brand as a whole is severely threatened.

To quote the RSPO itself: "By and large, any one or anybody can certify anything, there being little legal restrictions on that, and, indeed, there are already a plethora of certificates and standards being awarded these days. The crux of the matter is the credibility and usefulness of the certification – basically, who will believe or use it."

RSPO, 2012d. Why RSPO Certification. Available at: [http://www.rspo.org/en/why\\_rspo\\_certification](http://www.rspo.org/en/why_rspo_certification) [Click here to visit the URL](#) [Accessed May 20, 2014].

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