

Particulars

About Your Organisation

1.1 Name of your organization

Conservation International

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

- Oil Palm Growers
 - Palm Oil Processors and/or Traders
 - Consumer Goods Manufacturers
 - Retailers
 - Banks and Investors
 - Social or Development Organisations (Non Governmental Organisations)
 - Environmental or Nature Conservation Organisations (Non Governmental Organisations)
 - Affiliate Members
 - Supply Chain Associate
-

1.3 Membership number

6-0010-08-000-00

1.4 Membership category

Ordinary

1.5 Membership sector

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:

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.

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

No

1.3 Activities 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 use 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 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:

EUROPE:

In Europe, CI has been facilitating a constant dialogue with all relevant stakeholders (EU institutions, industry, producing countries and civil society) about policy options supporting the goal of 100% sustainable palm oil in Europe by 2020. As a feasibility study assessing different policy options to be included in an EU Action Plan on Deforestation and Forest Degradation is underway, CI has continued promoting our joint policy recommendations with WWF, Greenpeace and others through bilateral meetings and public events for European policy-makers in Brussels as well as in Germany, France, Switzerland and the Netherlands. The study will be published by the European Commission in June 2017. Throughout 2016, CI has also worked to influence the European Parliament report "Palm oil and tropical deforestation" to be adopted in April 2017. CI sent a joint letter with the RSPO to Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) containing specific text recommendations in order to make the report less critical of palm oil and certification schemes, but acknowledging their challenges. CI and the RSPO had a set of meetings with MEPs to discuss our positions. At the national level, CI has promoted policy recommendations to the signatory countries of the Amsterdam Declaration on "Eliminating Deforestation from Global Value Chains" and "Towards 100% Sustainable Palm Oil in Europe" in the field of environment, development and trade policy.

INDONESIA:

Since 2010, with support from the Walton Family Foundation and USAID, CI has implemented the Sustainable Landscapes Partnership (SLP) to demonstrate low-emission development strategies that incorporate both economic and conservation objectives in four regencies of North Sumatra – Mandailing Natal, South Tapanuli, North Tapanuli and Pakpak Bharat. Specifically, SLP is working to improve agricultural production of key crops, including palm oil, 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 improve practices and agricultural production of local smallholders while establishing linkages with international buyers interested in supporting producers that are pursuing sustainability.

BRAZIL:

The Palm Oil Dialogue, a workshop with all the stakeholders involved in the palm oil production chain in Pará state, Brazil, was launched on October 25, 2016 to discuss issues related to sustainable palm oil production, such as RSPO certification, fair labor conditions, biodiversity conservation, and regional governance. The Palm Oil Dialogue brought together leading Brazilian producers as well as influential stakeholders from the private sector and NGOS to discuss how the palm oil sector can promote solutions for sustainable production and conservation issues at scale.

LIBERIA:

The Government, through the Ministry Agriculture, authorized Conservation International as the lead organization responsible for the completion of Liberia's National Interpretation process. CI organized several meetings with national stakeholders to discuss the completion of Liberia's National Interpretation process. CI has begun disseminating and socializing the RSPO's principles and processes with key government agencies, private sectors and civil society recognizing the significant role the RSPO certification of Liberia's palm oil play in contributing to the national economic and biodiversity conservation.

CI is also serving as the Liberia national focal point in the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020's Africa Palm Oil Initiative. In 2016, as part of this effort, CI coordinated a TFA Workshop on behalf of the national Oil Palm Technical Working Group, a group of palm oil companies, government stakeholders and civil society organizations, responsible for advancing Liberia's vision for sustainable palm oil development. During the workshop, nearly 80 participants agreed upon a set of joint principles, supported by the Government of Liberia. These national principles include a commitment to RSPO, including the development of the National Interpretation for Liberia, clarification of High Conservation Value and High Carbon Stock and a monitoring, verification and reporting system that can be used to support certification.

ECUADOR:

Through CI-Ecuador's participation in RSPO's National Interpretation Table, CI-Ecuador helped to align RSPO standards with national legislation and policies. CI-Ecuador also contributed to developing the implementation plan for palm oil in Ecuador's National REDD+ Action Plan. In addition, Ecuador has collaborated with two palm oil companies to make a commitment to work towards RSPO certification. These alliances are key as the companies have committed to a zero deforestation.

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITY (GEF):

CI continued its participation in the Steering Group for the GEF's Integrated Approach Project, "Reducing Deforestation for Commodity Production". In 2016, proposals and scopes of work were advanced to integrate sustainable production, demand and financial transactions into palm oil production pilots in Indonesia and Liberia. Funding and work will begin in May 2017.

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

10%

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

No

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

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 expected to start participating in RSPO working groups/taskforces

2008

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

Actions for Next Reporting Period

3.1 Outline actions 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 2016 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:

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 time-bound commitments and implementation strategies 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 100% sustainable palm oil in Europe by 2020, 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.

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. CI will also provide input and comment to the upcoming review of RSPO's P&Cs.

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.

INDONESIA:

CI-Indonesia will provide training on ISPO to agriculture field extension in two districts of North Sumatra, Mandailing Natal and North Tapanuli. Establish demonstration plots which will demonstrate best practices to improve palm oil production in a sustainable way. A map will be developed which will present areas that are suitable/not suitable for palm oil to guide expansion of production. Activities which support the government in developing a road map and strategy for a sustainable palm oil jurisdictional approach will be undertaken.

LIBERIA:

CI-Liberia will facilitate the development of National Strategy/ Policy documents, complete National Interpretation documents, play a convening role in the Oil Palm Sector Technical Working Group meetings, and establish a partnership with private sector players to promote sustainable palm oil. In addition, the socialization of the national outgrowers scheme will be supported, with national stakeholders and international partners. Landscape level forums to promote dialogue and consensus building around concepts including HCV, HCS, and RSPO will be established, as well as cost-effective monitoring systems within the landscape.

BRAZIL:

Two additional workshops will be held on the Palm Oil Dialogue. A proposal was developed with the intention of working with the largest palm oil company in Brazil to develop ecological corridors for the Belem Endemism Center (CEB), in order to minimize the impacts of palm oil production on regional biodiversity, especially endemic species. In addition, a CI palm oil exchange will be hosted in June to discuss the next steps in the palm oil strategy for the Amazon.

ECUADOR:

In the next year, CI-Ecuador will continue to work closely with the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, RSPO, and a range of oil palm producers to achieve jurisdictional certification in the next few years. Ecuador will also contribute to reviewing HCVs and LUCC assessments in order to assure the quality of the information provided to RSPO.

NEW MODELS & TOOLS:

In early 2017, CI will convene a workshop of industry and sustainability stakeholders to explore opportunities to adapt the Conservation Agreement model to support smallholders in reducing deforestation in oil palm landscapes, with the goal of integrating Conservation Agreements into our implementation pilots in Indonesia, Liberia and other key regions.

GHG Emissions

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

Yes

Uploaded files:

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

No

Please explain why

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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:

- Energy and carbon footprints
Uploaded file: [EN-Policies-to-PNC-energyandcarbonfootprints.pdf](#)
 - Land Use Rights
Uploaded file: [EN-Policies-to-PNC-landuserights.pdf](#)
 - Ethical Conduct
Uploaded file: [EN-Policies-to-PNC-ethicalconduct.pdf](#)
 - Labour rights
Uploaded file: [EN-Policies-to-PNC-laborrights.pdf](#)
 - Stakeholder engagement
Uploaded file: [EN-Policies-to-PNC-stakeholderengagement.pdf](#)
 - None of the above
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5.2 What best practice guidelines or information has your organization 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?

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:

>>INDUSTRY PRESENTATIONS

CI teams in the U.S., Indonesia, and Europe participated in industry events and panels, aimed at promoting greater awareness of sustainable palm oil issues and initiatives. These included:

- CI Europe participated in numerous events and panels to address the important role Europe plays in the sustainable palm oil discussion, connect efforts to address imported deforestation with climate goals, and highlight the need for leadership commitments coupled with investment in sustainable production at the landscape level in producing countries. Presentations and events included: the European Parliament conference on EU policy and market transformation model for palm oil, the annual European Palm Oil Conference organized by the European Palm Oil Association, and the GIZ annual meeting on “Climate, Biodiversity and Environment Policy”.
- CI Indonesia presented on challenges associated with smallholders and prosperity, community based land rights, and access to finance as well as approaches to adapting to the impacts resulting from climate change within the context of palm oil at the Responsible Business Forum on Sustainable Development Goals.
- Representatives from CI’s Center for Environmental Leadership in Business (CELB) spoke at the RSPO EU RT in June 2016 outlining our policy work to promote sustainable palm oil production and consumption. Additionally, CELB staff regularly advise companies in the US market on purchase and use of CSPO.

>>BLOGS

CI featured several blogs highlighting our work in Indonesia, Africa, and Amazonia related to (1) supporting smallholders with resources, training, and market access, (2) informing policies and governments around sustainable land use planning, and (3) engaging companies in sustainable palm oil production and market transformation. Blogs included:

- “What you need to know about palm oil – in 5 charts”
- “In palm oil, Liberia sees economic boom – but forests may lose”
- “Charting a sustainable path in a land of peat, oil palm and pollution”
- “Stopping deforestation in the Amazon by 2020? It’s possible”

To visit these and other blog posts, visit: <http://blog.conservation.org/>

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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: RSPO certification does not fully satisfy market demands for assurance against NDPE commitments. RSPO Next is encouraging, but needs to prove it can scale and market actors need to prove they will buy it: questions remain around availability, costs, and level of assurance provided by RSPO Next. In the next reporting period, CI will look at RSPO Next as it relates to similar initiatives, criteria and commitments by individual companies to facilitate market confidence to make commitments to RSPO Next or equivalent. Additionally, as efforts to promote sustainable palm oil at a landscape level (outside of the RSPO-led jurisdictional certification pilots) develop and scale, RSPO should work constructively with stakeholders to understand how RSPO might fit into a step-wise plan for development. Public documentation and case studies on the challenges and progress of the jurisdictional certification efforts would also be helpful. CI's field programs in places like Ecuador and Liberia are engaging with RSPO as we define our objectives for sustainable palm oil landscapes. Some specific challenges and lessons from our regional engagement include: INDONESIA: To address challenges of traceability, smallholder mapping was facilitated for palm oil. Follow up discussions with government officials were conducted to find solutions for obtaining legal status of smallholders which is key to certifications. In order to address environmental obstacles around development of palm oil on peat lands, recommendations were provided to the private sector on peat land management in their plantations. BRAZIL: The biggest obstacle is finding ways to positively engage all parties interested in the production chain. LIBERIA: The lack of a national palm oil strategy and policy document is an obstacle in Liberia. CI has been mandated to play a leadership role in the drafting of this national document, and the initiation of the process will depend on availability of findings. Another issue is that HCV/ HCS sites have not been identified and demarcated by the concessioners. CI will initiate localized and spatial land use planning with local communities to prioritize areas of high conservation values. ECUADOR: The certification process for RSPO is still challenging for smallholder producers to understand and implement but CI-Ecuador is helping certify smallholder producers. There is an additional challenge that needs to be addressed at a broader level to avoid making RSPO certification a perverse incentive: compensation mechanisms and additionality. In Ecuador, many companies own land with forests and that don't have management plans yet. In order to prevent the oil palm companies from selling those lands to third parties, who in turn might deforest that land, and purchasing degraded lands in other areas, it is important to find a mechanism that will allow those lands to stay in conservation instead of being sold (for example, putting them in a national protected area system) and would also allow for compensation.

2 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 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.

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

- No files were uploaded