

## 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 produce, trade, or purchase 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, 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 those seeking certification and through the 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, and in 2017, CI advised a major US retailer in advancing their commitments for uptake in physical CSPO, as well as the development of a deforestation policy.

**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. This study was published by the European Commission in 2017.

**BRAZIL:**

CI launched the Palm Oil Dialogue, a forum for stakeholders across the palm oil production supply chain and has been in the planning process for a second edition of this event, focusing on RSPO certification.

**ECUADOR:**

In October 2017, Ecuador's Socio Bosque Program, a voluntary incentives program to reduce deforestation and improve livelihoods, was approved as a compensation mechanism for RSPO certification. CI-Ecuador has been bringing its expertise in conservation agreements and linking it to the palm oil sector to support this national program and contribute to the implementation of Ecuador's National REDD+ Action Plan. In addition to this work, CI-Ecuador was selected in 2017 to participate in the Inter-sectoral Committee for Sustainable Palm Oil, headed by the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Cattle. The committee will, among other things, lead the work towards a jurisdictional certification of RSPO in Ecuador's Amazon.

**COLOMBIA:**

CI has been working to strengthen the RSPO's national interpretation, including zero net deforestation. CI-Colombia has participated in four national meetings with a major oil palm processor and discussed the need to explicitly include zero net deforestation in the Colombian Amazon agenda for palm oil. CI worked with a major producer and RSPO member to collaborate with other palm oil entrepreneurs and producers in Colombia, highlighting this major producer's responsible palm oil practices as well as challenges in sustainable production and RSPO Next certification. In addition, CI conducted due diligence on all of this major producer's operations in Colombia.

**PERU:**

CI, along with companies and smallholder association members, participated in a meeting in Lima presenting RSPO's proposed changes in certification.

**INDONESIA:**

CI Indonesia has supported the goals of RSPO by collaborating with stakeholders through a provincial multi-stakeholder platform as a basis for advocacy, dialogue and engagement to support an improved understanding of critical conservation issues and sustainable palm oil more broadly. Beyond these activities, CI also provided strategic technical comments and feedback to advance the Sustainable Palm Oil National Action Plan.

**LIBERIA:**

CI-Liberia hosted a team from RSPO in 2017 and will work to support the Oil Palm Technical Working Group to complete the RSPO national interpretation process for Liberia. In addition, CI worked with Proforest on the implementation of the TFA 2020 action plan, where quarterly meetings were held with various national stakeholders in the oil palm sector.

**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?**

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

---

**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).

---

## **Time-Bound Plan**

**2.1 Date started or expected to start participating in RSPO working groups/taskforces**

2008

**Comment:**

CI first started participating in RSPO working groups/taskforces in 2008, and has more recently joined the NASPON working group in 2017

---

**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

**Comment:**

CI first publicized programmes to support RSPO certification and uptake in 2012 and continues to support the work of RSPO. As a member of NASPON since 2017, we will continue our support in 2018.

---

## **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 2017 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 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 data and 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 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.

**EUROPE:**

CI-Europe will participate in launching a sustainable palm oil movement with corporate actors and other organizations, to highlight good examples of sustainable palm oil production and support informed decision-making. In addition, CI will continue to advise European member states in support of the development of national strategies around imported deforestation and use of science-based tools such as TRASE to inform decisions.

**BRAZIL:**

CI-Brazil's strategy in the Belem Center of Endemism (CEB) in 2018 will focus on four main actions: (1) Monitoring Natural Capital (Biodiversity Monitoring and Water quality and Carbon storage comparing forest and palm oil plantation); (2) Understanding the impacts of palm oil production in the local communities through socio economics questionnaire applied to the communities living near palm oil plantations and companies; (3) Landscape Planning (CEB Landscape Profile, identification of areas for restoration); (4) Communication (Scientific publications in partnership with universities, storytelling videos and Social Media publications)

**ECUADOR:**

CI-Ecuador is part of a working group that accessed the Smallholder Support Fund in order to certify 2,000 smallholder producers in Ecuador. CI will work on incorporating and improving environmental components of the capacity-building mechanisms as well as review "Go and No Go", high conservation value and land use change maps at a jurisdictional scale.

**COLOMBIA:**

CI-Colombia will support the development of the TRASE tool in Colombia to increase transparency and traceability of palm oil in the region. We will socialize the results of the TRASE tool with producers, demonstrating the advantages of being responsible producers. In 2018, CI will work with a major producer to implement the Landscape Assessment Framework (LAF) tool in the Colombian Caribbean to measure, monitor, and communicate the sustainability of the palm oil landscape.

**PERU:**

In 2018, CI-Peru will update the Peruvian Amazon palm oil map and promote a knowledge exchange between two major palm oil companies in Peru and Brazil.

**INDONESIA:**

At the end of 2017, a long-standing CI-Indonesia flagship program (Sustainable Landscape Partnership) concluded its first phase of funding with targeted interventions across 3 districts in North Sumatra. In 2018, a number of linked projects specific to palm oil will expand upon these earlier interventions. This includes, but is not restricted to: projects that focus on exploring how Community Conservation Agreements (CCA) can support sustainable palm oil and conservation outcomes, production of a guidance document for CCAs and palm oil, spatial planning and strategic environmental assessments with the aim of developing a district blueprint for sustainable palm oil, identification of go/no-go areas within a district, development of policy(s) to support sustainable palm oil at the district level, implementing a smallholder farmer training program, piloting a paludiculture program in peatland locations as well as multi-stakeholder forum established at the district level to support engagement. Detailed work specific to peatlands at the district level are expected to commence as well as national and provincial policy engagement specific to peatlands.

**LIBERIA:**

CI Liberia will support the Oil Palm Technical Working Group/MoA to complete the RSPO national interpretation process for Liberia. In addition, CI-Liberia is in the final stages of a proposal for a sustainable development concession model for oil palm development in Indonesia. This initiative will focus on an inclusive multi-stakeholder engagement process with integrated landscape planning to

identify key areas for conservation and ecosystem services, building on HCS/HCV forest work, as well as oil palm and food production. Through a public-private partnership agreement, a formal, long-term management plan will be established for the sustainable development concession.

**4.1 Are you currently reporting any GHG footprint?**

No

**Please explain why**

CI offsets 100% of our CO2 emissions, but we do not publicly report on this information at this point in time.

**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

**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. Other information and guidance includes industry presentations and initiatives as well as published materials and blog posts to share information on sustainable palm oil:

**US:**

In September, CI along with UNDP, WWF, IFC, UN Environment, and the government of Indonesia, Paraguay, Brazil and Liberia, held a conference launching the Good Growth Partnership (GGP) - an initiative aimed at transforming key commodity supply chains, including palm oil. This partnership will scale up CI's efforts in promoting production and consumption of sustainable palm oil in Indonesia and, Liberia.. CI also published several blog posts on current topics in the palm oil sector, promoting and encouraging sustainable palm oil:

- Europe moves to restrict import of unsustainable palm oil (<https://blog.conservation.org/2017/04/europe-moves-to-restrict-import-of-unsustainable-palm-oil/>)
- Sustainability heavyweights take aim at environmental impacts of soy, beef, palm oil (<https://blog.conservation.org/2017/09/sustainability-heavyweights-take-aim-at-environmental-impacts-of-soy-beef-palm-oil/>)
- To a country on the edge of development, what is nature worth? (<https://blog.conservation.org/2017/03/to-a-country-on-the-edge-of-development-what-is-nature-worth/>)

**BRAZIL:**

In November, CI-Brazil produced a video with information about sustainable palm oil and our partnership with a prominent sustainable palm oil production company which is the only company with RSPO certification in the Belem CEB region. In addition, useful information about sustainable palm oil production was published on our website.

**COLOMBIA:**

CI-Colombia held and facilitated meetings with companies and working groups to share guidance and best practices for improving their sustainable palm oil production.

**INDONESIA:**

In 2017, CI-Indonesia produced several materials which broadly support sustainable palm oil. In coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and Palm Oil Research Center, CI facilitated the distribution of a sustainable palm oil practice guideline (GAP). In collaboration with Wetland International, CI submitted a technical recommendation for sustainable palm oil practices for two government districts – South Tapanuli and Mandailing Natal, North Sumatra.

**Uploaded files:**

No files were uploaded

## 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?**

EUROPE: A major challenge in Europe is the prevalence of a strong anti-palm oil sentiment and current discussions to ban palm oil-based biofuels by 2021. By developing a sustainable palm oil movement with corporate actors to highlight good examples of sustainable palm oil production, CI aims to resolve this obstacle and support informed decisions-making which promotes sustainable palm oil production and consumption. BRAZIL: Scaling up the strategy in the CEB region to get other companies certified and become partners in this initiative is quite challenging. We are working with the Association of Palm Oil Producer of Para State to share our strategy for the region and overcome this challenge. COLOMBIA: Social and environmental group resistance to palm oil has been an obstacle, however, we are working to educate palm oil entrepreneurs and interest groups on the benefits of sustainable palm oil. INDONESIA: Observed obstacles in the field and with partners include: low crop productivity due to technical issues, lack of a premium price for smallholders, low enforcement of policies, and continued clearing of forest and critical areas for oil palm. LIBERIA: Since the government of Liberia subscribed to the use of the RSPO standard and certification scheme, smallholder oil palm farmers and companies have reported numerous constraints they faced in becoming RSPO certified. Amidst these constraints, CI-Liberia has organized several educational, information-sharing meetings for smallholders' farmers through the national oil palm platform, highlighting the basic steps and financial opportunities to becoming RSPO certified. In addition, CI has made considerable efforts in linking local smallholder's farmers to RSPO's smallholders online hub that provides adequate information about smallholders and how the RSPO provides them with support and funding.

---

### **2 In addition to the actions already reported in this ACOP how has your organization supported the vision of RSPO to transform markets in other ways? (e.g. Funding; Engagement with key stakeholders; Business to business education/outreach)**

US & EUROPE: CI continuously engages with key stakeholders on making commitments to mitigate deforestation and promote the uptake of sustainable palm oil. BRAZIL: CI Brazil has been working towards greater funding to support capacity building with communities in the region. COLOMBIA: CI Colombia has engaged with stakeholders to commit to sustainable palm oil and educated palm oil companies on best practices. With further development of the Trase tool, we will expand these efforts and provide a broader commercial scope. INDONESIA: CI, in collaboration with the Joint Secretariat on Sustainable Palm Oil in North Sumatra, has supported market transformation by initiating collaborative sessions with companies to share information on best practices in sustainable palm oil and discuss ongoing environmental challenges. LIBERIA: CI Liberia held four quarterly engagement meetings with key stakeholders in the oil palm sector, held a national workshop to review the TFA 2020 action plan, and continues to seek donors to implement activities for sustainable oil palm production.

---

### **3 File -Please attach or add links to any other information from your organisation on your policies and actions on palm oil (EG: sustainability reports, policies, other public information)**

- No files were uploaded

**Link:** [www.conservation.org/projects/Pages/Sustainable-Palm-Oil.aspx](http://www.conservation.org/projects/Pages/Sustainable-Palm-Oil.aspx)

---