

## Particulars

<b>Organisation Name</b>	Conservation International
<b>Corporate Website Address</b>	<a href="http://www.conservation.org">www.conservation.org</a>
<b>Primary Activity or Product</b>	Environmental NGO
<b>Related Company(ies)</b>	None
<b>Country Operations</b>	Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Fiji, Guyana, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mexico, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, South Africa, Suriname, United States
<b>Membership Number</b>	6-0010-08-000-00
<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 ?

**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 and consumption practices.

The palm oil sector is particularly important to CI's mission because it is an important driver of economic growth in developing countries, creates relatively high 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 to agricultural uses and thereby undermine the biodiversity and ecosystem health upon which agriculture and ultimately human well-being depend. Effective and constructive engagement with the oil palm 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, 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 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

CI is working at multiple levels to promote sustainable palm oil. At the global level, we are involved with the RSPO and maintain engagements with several major corporations that use palm oil in their products. Our engagements with these companies are aimed to support development and implementation of sustainable sourcing policies, specifically including purchase of CSPO. We also work to create a supportive policy environment for sustainable palm oil in producer countries such as 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:

-- CI continues to serve on the Executive Board of the RSPO, with John Buchanan (Senior Director, Sustainable Food and Agriculture Markets) leading CI's involvement. Several staff representing CI's expertise and interests in field demonstration, science, policy and markets actively support and participate directly in RSPO engagement.

-- CI, USAID and the Walton Family Foundation launched the Sustainable Landscapes Partnership (SLP) to support development and implementation of low-emissions development strategies that incorporate both economic and conservation objectives in Mandailing Natal and Tapanuli Selatan regencies in North Sumatra. Specifically, the SLP is working to improve agricultural production of key crops 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 establish linkages with international buyers interested in supporting producers that are pursuing sustainability. Oil palm is a key crop in both regencies and CI is in the process of mapping producers and value chains with the aim of identifying and supporting producers that may be interested in partnership in working towards sustainable palm production landscapes.

-- CI Liberia participated in the recent visit of the RSPO in Liberia and is helping to support follow-up activities in line with the RSPO recommendations. Additionally, CI is actively engaged in the analysis of RSPO principles and criteria for national interpretation in Liberia and participates in the National Interpretation Working Group.

-- In 2013, CI Liberia hosted a 3-day capacity building workshop titled "Mainstreaming Rights Based Approach Principles in Private Sector Stakeholder Engagement in Liberia". This initiative brought together partners from the civil society, government, private sector actors from the oil palm industry, donors such as USAID, local communities where CI has presence and academic institutions. The primary objective of the workshop focused on creating awareness to enhance the capacity of all partners on CI's framework for the six principles of Rights Based Approach and utilizing FPIC principles in community engagement. This initiated steps for the development of a comprehensive tool-kit to facilitate community and stakeholder engagement in Liberia.

-- CI has maintained coordination meetings with the Ecuador National Association of Palm Oil Producers (ANCUPA) on a range of issues, including the analysis of RSPO principles and criteria for national interpretation.

-- CI is working on building a public biodiversity and GIS database in the palm region in Brazil that will provide relevant information to the scientific community, public and private sectors. To date, the greatest portion of data available for this region is fragmented and falls on the researcher's domain only. The intent of CI is to collect data available from different sources and develop a public database that would result in additional data analyses and information which are crucial to evaluate the impacts on biodiversity in a regional basis. This pack of information will also support the study of landscape management that CI is proposing for this area.

-- CI Brazil is playing an important role in helping this group to identify production systems and regions that are priority for palm development, as well as facilitating the communications of this group with key stakeholders in this sector. The work of this group in Brazil is already generating important data and knowledge on the palm sector, and promoting additional funding for joint projects regarding palm oil in Brazil. CI-Brazil has had two biofuels-focused projects approved through this initiative during this reporting period. These include the USAID-funded "Biodiversity and socio-economic impacts of palm oil bioenergy development in the Brazilian Amazon", which runs from 2014-2017, and FAPESPA-funded "Bioenergetic zoning for palm oil crops and its impacts on biodiversity in Pará State", from 2014-2016.

-- Following up on CI's previous work with a leading Brazilian producer, the monitoring program of vertebrates groups was expanded to also cover plants and insects. The monitoring is performed yearly, being 2013 the second year of this exercise. As a continuation of this partnership, CI-Brazil is conducting a study of landscape management for the associated properties. This model includes economic variables which aim to provide the company relevant information to evaluate gains in production and plans for future production expansion. Building on this experience, CI-Brazil is working on a broader strategy for oil palm in Brazil which aims to expand the landscape management analysis to the entire oil palm region in the state of Para.

-- CI is supporting a group of Latin American academics and scientists that are researching the social, economic and environmental impacts of biofuel production systems and the potential threat that may pose to forests. This 5-year research exercise is being funded by National Science Foundation and is coordinated by Michigan University. CI-Brazil organized and actively participated in the NSF-Partnership in Interdisciplinary Research (PIRE) and Inter-American Institute for Global Change (IAI) Grants Team Meeting, on July 16-21, 2014, in Belém/PA. This meeting aimed at discussing what has been done and what are the next steps for research on biofuel development impacts, with a special focus on palm oil in Brazil and the importance of interdisciplinary approaches. CI-Brazil also led a panel on the first Conference on Pan-American Biofuels and Bioenergy Sustainability, organized by the Pan-American Research Coordination Network, on July 22-25 in Recife/PE. The panel discussed NGO/government perspectives on Biofuel and Bioenergy Sustainability.

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

No

**If yes, please explain how:**

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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

**If yes, please explain how:**

-- CI, in partnership with WWF, has been working collaboratively with a number of private sector companies across the palm oil value chain interested in supporting transition of the US market to 100% CSPO. This group consists of RSPO members from the retail, consumer goods, processing, and growing sectors as well as other NGO partners. Through this engagement, we have identified four key market and supply chain barriers contributing to delays in further CSPO uptake and are developing informational and guidance tools that will support US palm oil users in addressing these barriers. This includes the development of a sustainable palm oil toolkit that will address key questions and information needs specific to US palm oil users and a road map that will support interested parties as they seek to put these recommendations and findings into action.

-- CI has engaged in numerous strategic conversations with retailers and consumer goods companies to provide guidance and support to the development of sustainable sourcing strategies and their subsequent implementation. CI has also been working with palm oil suppliers and traders to explore opportunities for the conversion of key product lines to 100% physical CSPO.

-- CI is supporting the U.S. units of a major retailer in their efforts to achieve their global commitment to source 100% sustainable palm oil for all private label products by 2015. Previously, CI has worked with this retailer to develop tools and processes for surveying suppliers regarding their use of palm oil, commitments to sustainable palm oil and barriers they see to transitioning toward sustainable palm oil. Over the past year, we have continued to support these efforts, focusing on education and outreach to suppliers and buyers. In April, CI presented to a group of private and branded bakery and consumer products suppliers on the importance of sustainability in the palm oil sector, the efforts and progress of the RSPO, and both immediate and longer-term opportunities for sourcing physical CSPO in the US market. CI also provided input and content to the development of guidance materials for their palm oil buyers. These materials seek to arm buyers with the necessary tools and resources to engage suppliers in an informed dialogue on the retailer's sustainable sourcing requirements.

-- CI also has a joint initiative with a major consumer products company. The initiative will support the company's efforts to expand volumes of RSPO certified oil from smallholder growers and explore the potential to eventually source resulting certified oil through partnership with their suppliers.

-- CI continues to build on its previous work with a leading Brazilian producer to develop a biodiversity diagnosis and monitoring program of vertebrates, plants and insects. This monitoring is performed yearly, with 2014 being the third year of this exercise. The monitoring protocols for this project focus on resource optimization and were developed not only to attend to the company's sustainability planning goals, but also to comply with RSPO certification requirements. CI-Brazil is also supporting the company's landscape management efforts aimed at improving production through the maintenance of legal reserves to support the continued flow of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the company's managed area.

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

10

**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) [Click here to visit the URL](#)

**Time-Bound Plan****2.1 Date started or expect to start participating in RSPO working groups/taskforces**

2008

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

2012

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

- Directly support the 100% conversion of the US market to sustainable palm oil by 2015.
- Define market transition road map models using US market as a test case by 2015.
- Identify opportunities to explore similar uptake in markets beyond the US, particularly looking at market opportunities in countries that have been traditionally targeted for production-oriented initiatives, but where consumption is high and growing, such as Indonesia and Africa.

To do this, CI must:

- >> Maintain a sustainable source of long-term funding to support palm oil work in markets and at origin.
  - >> Develop meaningful partnerships with companies, policymakers, growers, communities and NGOs to support the continued advancement of sustainability in the palm sector, which includes continued support for the RSPO and its principles and criteria, as well as leadership commitments and demonstration projects that strengthen market support for forests, species, communities, and smallholders.
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**2.4 Which countries that your institution operates in do the above commitments cover?**

Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Fiji, Guyana, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mexico, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, South Africa, Suriname, United States

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## 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)

Over the next year, CI will work to build upon its 2013-14 achievements to advance the objectives of RSPO and promote increased uptake for certified palm oil. Our actions over the next year will focus on three complementary strategies:

A) Ensuring there is a sustainable and reliable demand for sustainable palm oil in key markets:

-- CI will support corporate partners in their efforts to fulfill 100% of their purchasing commitments to buy certified sustainable palm oil.

-- CI will provide support and technical advice to major palm oil users looking to encourage post-2015 commitments that include time-bound plans for sourcing 100% segregated certified sustainable palm oil.

-- CI and a coalition of sector actors will develop data and a transition roadmap that supports the interested companies' efforts to consolidate efforts throughout their North American supply chains to shift to sustainable palm oil supply in the North American market.

-- CI will begin to explore the feasibility of promoting CSPO uptake through demand-focused initiatives in other major consumer markets, including Indonesia and Africa

B) Contributing to the continuous improvement of RSPO:

-- CI will contribute to ongoing industry discussions aimed at clarifying and defining best practices models for key sustainability issues that build on RSPO's principles and criteria. This includes high carbon stock, development on peat areas, community rights and FPIC, as well as discussions on traceability, transparency and accountability.

C) Building models at origin that seek to demonstrate sustainable palm production landscapes by combining identification and protection of critical natural capital, such as forests, with production improvements in existing growing areas, capacity building, and improved governance:

-- CI will continue to work to build capacity and promote sustainable palm oil through the Ecuador National Association of Palm Oil Producers (ANCUPA), with a focus on principles and criteria related to selection of areas of high conservation value.

-- We will further advance the palm oil work under the Sustainable Landscapes Partnership (SLP) in Indonesia and seek to establish collaboration agreements with at least two producers in SLP landscapes.

-- Building on the knowledge acquired with the landscape monitoring exercise developed with the Brazilian producer, CI intends to expand this study to the palm region of the state of Para. We will extrapolate the work developed to date, providing important information to guide the expansion of oil palm, support policy development, and identify opportunities to advance the inclusion of smallholders. CI-Brazil seeks to use our results to date to engage in constructive dialogue with key stakeholders aimed at identifying opportunities to advance the Brazilian palm sector a model for best practices.

-- In Liberia, CI will continue to contribute to the development of the National Interpretation for RSPO's Principles & Criteria, as well as support capacity-building initiatives among producer and government stakeholders aimed at strengthening sustainable oil palm development.

An additional core element of our focus over the coming year is to identify sustainable funding sources to support our continued involvement in RSPO as well as our sector-wide activities.

We are also working at the policy level to explore opportunities to promote sustainability in palm oil trade.

## Reasons for Non-Disclosure of Information

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

Data Unknown

#### - 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:

- eacfp
- ec
- Labour rights
- Stakeholder engagement

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#### - Energy and carbon footprints

[EN-Policies-to-PNC-waterland.pdf](#)

For administration purpose, attachment files are renamed automatically

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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?

See Code of Ethics Policy and Rights-based Approach Policy.

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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?

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 include:

-- As mentioned above, we are currently in the process of developing a toolkit and road map to support 100% CSPO in the US market. However, early findings and learnings were shared with various stakeholder audiences including palm oil users, processors, and conservation stakeholders at various meetings and conferences. One such event was hosted by the American Zoological Association's Palm Oil Task Force, which focused on developing appropriate consumer-facing content and messaging on palm oil for its member zoos' 180 million annual visitors. These products are available in English.

-- ?CI Liberia has developed a stakeholder engagement best practice toolkit which addresses key issues such as FPIC and promotes a rights based approach. This toolkit was developed through a participatory process including major palm industry partners, the government, and civil society in Liberia. Several trainings have been held in relation to the principles developed. ?

-- CI published a blog titled "Why Palm Oil Isn't the Enemy", written by John Buchanan, on sustainability in the palm oil sector, which clearly supported the efforts of the RSPO. This blog (available in English) was one of CI's most visited to date with over 3,000 views, nearly 400 retweets, and 600 Facebook shares. It was also cross-posted by various online media outlets including Eco-Business and the Landscapes for People Food and Nature blogs, and has been linked to by the Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil, The Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, and Salon. The original posting can be viewed here: <http://blog.conservation.org/2014/04/why-palm-oil-isnt-the-enemy/> [Click here to visit the URL](#)

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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?

Recent discourse among palm sector stakeholders and criticisms of RSPO's principles and criteria during this reporting period has contributed to confusion in the marketplace as to the effectiveness of CSPO sourcing, eroding support for RSPO, and in some cases delaying CSPO sourcing. RSPO and its supporters must define means to allow and encourage innovation within RSPO to improve sustainability performance on key issues such as deforestation.

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

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#### Cost Effective:

Yes

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#### Robust:

Yes

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#### Simpler to Comply to:

similar

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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)

We have participated in the RSPO Executive Board, 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. See further details in the ACOP report.

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

To learn more about CI's ongoing efforts on sustainable palm oil, please visit [www.conservation.org/palmoil](http://www.conservation.org/palmoil) [Click here to visit the URL](#)

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