

Particulars

About Your Organisation

Organisation Name

Wetlands International

Corporate Website Address

<http://www.wetlands.org>

Primary Activity or Product

- Environmental NGO
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Related Company(ies)

No

Membership

Membership Number	Membership Category	Membership Sector
6-0007-07-000-00	Ordinary	Environmental or Nature Conservation Organisations (Non Governmental Organisations)

Environmental and Conservation NGOs

Operational Profile

1.1 What are the main activities of your organization ?

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 recognizes a potential role of biofuels in terms of emission reductions compared to fossil fuels. However, under the current practice, biofuels often have large negative impacts on high carbon natural ecosystems, for example peatlands, where the expansion of biofuels crop production leads to higher rather than lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. 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 disregard the need for 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 organization use and/or sell any palm oil?

No

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

1. Involved in the development of peat monitoring and methods paper which is currently being processed for publication by the RSPO.
 2. Contributed to the review and improvement of the Palm Oil GHG tool.
 3. Active member of Emissions Reduction Working Group and Peatland Working Group (2014), contributing to reviews of documents, consultant reports and participating in working group meetings
 4. Working on the identification and mapping of oil palm plantation concessions on peat in parts of Indonesia and Malaysia.
 5. Ongoing monitoring of palm oil expansion on peatlands/peat swamp forests and the impacts thereof.
 6. Financing of local NGO involvement in Indonesian National Interpretation process.
 7. Active observer of and advisor to the Indonesian and Malaysian NI processes.
 8. Collaborate with Indonesian government and NGOs in discussions and meetings on the Moratorium in Indonesia on expansion of (oil palm) plantations on peatlands. Promote for Moratorium extension and expansion/improvements.
 9. Commissioned scientific studies by independent research institutes on peatland issues, especially (in 2014-2015) on peatland drainability and subsidence issues, including a study of the Rajang delta in Sarawak, and the Kampar peninsula in Riau, Indonesia.
 10. Commenced an awareness campaign on the issue of peatland subsidence and flooding as a result of deforestation and drainage, and the long-term social, economic and environmental security impacts of this.
 11. Ongoing lobby work to influence EU biofuels policy, promoting the application of the approved RSPO RED scheme as the best certification scheme for biofuels.
 12. Submitted in conjunction with other European NGOs position statements regarding ILUC issues in relation to palm oil.
 13. Contributed to agenda setting in the International Peat Society, especially also in relation to tropical peatlands and the issue of oil palm plantation developments in SE Asia, as a lead in to the International peat congress that will be held in Kuching, Sarawak, on 15-19 August 2016.
 14. Ongoing work to promote paludiculture as an alternative for unsustainable peatland land-use
 15. Contributed to discussions on HCV, ideas on compensation mechanisms that can provide support to growers to phase out unsustainable practices.
- Participated in the RSPO EU meeting in Amsterdam

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

Yes

Please explain how

1. Contributed to the review and improvement of the Palm Oil GHG tool.
2. Active member of Emissions Reduction Working Group and Peatland Working Group (2014), contributing to reviews of documents, consultant reports and participating in working group meetings; instigated the development of guidelines on implementation of peatland-related RSPO requirements, and led the consultation on these guidelines within the RSPO, and contributed to editing (as part of the PEET WG)
3. Participated in discussions regarding the RSPO RED scheme

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

Yes

Please explain how

1. We have provided advice (on request) to individual industry players on peatland issues, investment risks and mitigation measures.
2. We organised a workshop on investment risks regarding oil palm plantation developments on peat for the Indonesian banking sector in 2014.

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

10%

1.7 How is your work on palm oil funded?

It is funded by various donors, including DGIS (Netherlands), Norad (Norway), EU.

Time-Bound Plan

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

2008

Comment:

GHG working group 1; GHG working group 2, including the Peatlands Working group (ongoing), EWRG working group (ongoing), EU RED Working Group (ongoing), PEET sub-Working Group (ongoing), New Planting sub-Working group, P&C task Force. We also made contributions to the HCV working group and will be a member of the sub-working group on Incentive mechanisms that is currently in development. In addition, Wetlands International is an active member of the POIG.

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

2014

Comment:

And ongoing. This is a continuous effort!

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

1. Contribute to the implementation of the new RSPO P&C through monitoring, and provision of awareness and training materials regarding GHG and land subsidence issues
2. Ensure reduction of emission by the sector by stopping the expansion of oil palm plantations on peat and encouraging the rehabilitation of peatlands well before the drainage base is reached.
3. Encourage Malaysian, Indonesian and EU governments to adopt policies in support of the RSPO P&C (to create a level playing field)
4. Industry standards, regulations and community practices are improved for at least three production systems to prevent the loss of wetlands and their values, such as for water, climate regulation and biodiversity.
5. Inclusion of ILUC factors in the EU revised Renewable Energy Directive after 2020

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

- Belgium
- Indonesia
- Malaysia
- Netherlands

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)**

1. Finalisation of user-friendly guidance for the implementation of the P&C 2013 and for measuring and monitoring the required data for GHG and carbon calculations; this will involve the organisation of a workshop in 2015.
2. Development of ideas for compensating GHG emissions through set-aside area management and restoration, land banks and other mechanisms
3. Awareness raising on wetlands/peatlands and climate issues in relation to both mitigation and adaptation; in context of coastal lowland/peatland issues such as subsidence, drainability issues and GHG emissions
4. We will participate in an RSPO workshop on incentive mechanisms on 3 august 2015.
5. Review of GHG emission report submissions by RSPO members, as activity copntributing to the piloting of the new P&C and relevant tools.

Reasons for Non-Disclosure of Information

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

GHG Emissions

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

Yes

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

Yes

Application of Principles & Criteria for all members sectors

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

- Energy and carbon footprints
 - Ethical Conduct
[EN-Policies-to-PNC-ethicalconduct.pdf](#)
 - Labour rights
[EN-Policies-to-PNC-laborrights.pdf](#)
 - Stakeholder engagement
[EN-Policies-to-PNC-stakeholderengagement.pdf](#)
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6.2 What steps will your organization take to realize ethical conduct in business-applicable regulations and industry practices?

Before entering into formal cooperation with industry we implement a screening of ethical conduct, risks and options on how we could bring positive influence.

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

1. We contributed to the RSPO BMP manuals in relation to oil palm plantations on peat

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

Yes

Concession Map

7.1 This questions only applies for companies who would like to declare concession boundaries owned. (both RSPO Certified and uncertified)

Do you agree to share your concession maps with the RSPO?

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?

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

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Cost Effective:

Yes

Robust:

Yes

Simpler to Comply to:

No

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 issued with our Ecosystem Alliance partners (IUCN-Netherlands and Both Ends) a statement in support of high quality certification and integration of these sustainability principles and criteria into EU/NL policy and legislation, with reference to RSPO

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

Please see our website, on which all our statements regarding palm oil are published.
