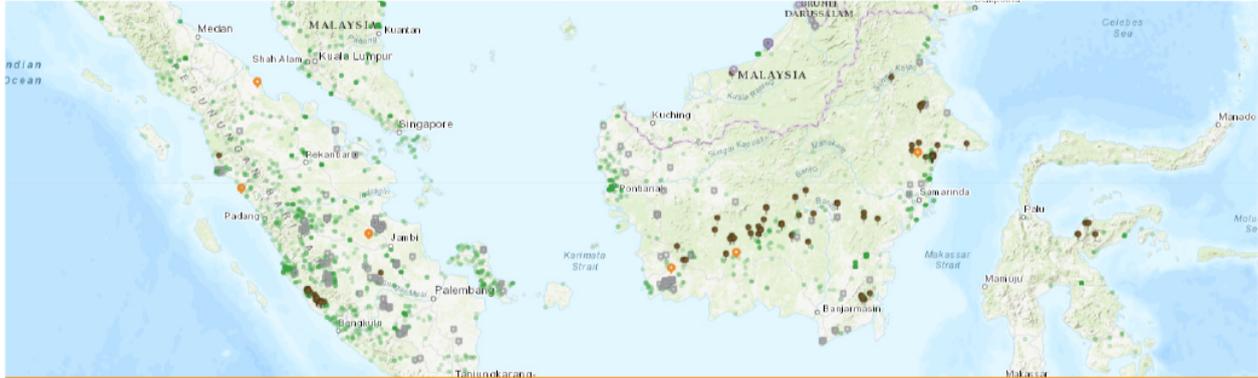


Frequently Asked Questions on RSPO Hotspot Monitoring System and Hotspot Hub



FAQ

on RSPO Hotspot Monitoring System and Hotspot Hub



Question: What is the RSPO Hotspot Hub?

Answer: RSPO Hotspot Hub is an interactive one-stop centre for detected hotspots and potential fires in oil palm plantation areas in Malaysia and Indonesia. The Hotspot Hub demonstrates RSPO members' efforts in mitigating fires detected within their concessions and fire risks, and also building fire prevention mechanisms.

Question: What kind of information can be seen on RSPO Hotspot Hub?

Answer: RSPO Hotspot Hub shows the location of the hotspots and a summary of actions done by the RSPO members after the fire alert is received. The hotspots are categorised by land use type and there are comparative statistics of hotspots between RSPO members and non-RSPO members.

Question: Which satellites and sensors are used by RSPO to detect hotspots?

Answer: RSPO uses Terra and Aqua MODIS, NOAA-20 VIIRS, and Suomi NPP VIIRS to detect hotspots.

Question: What is the difference between the datasets of RSPO Hotspot Monitoring system and Global Forest Watch Fires (GFW Fires)?

Answer: The raw datasets of RSPO Hotspot Monitoring system and GFW Fires are based on the same data provided by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Fire Information for Resource Management System (NASA FIRMS). However, RSPO has filtered the data to reduce false alarms.

Question: What is the confidence level of the hotspot data that are being used and distributed to growers?

Answer: Hotspot data is filtered to a certain confidence level to minimise false alarms. The table below shows the threshold of confidence level used by RSPO.

Satellite	Sensor	Confidence Level
Terra and Aqua	Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS)	60% and above
NOAA-20 and Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership (Suomi NPP)	Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS)	Nominal and High

Question: How far do members have to check for the presence of fire from the coordinates of the hotspots?

Answer: Members are requested to check the presence of fire within 1 km-2 km from the coordinates of the hotspots.

Question: Which high resolution satellite imagery does RSPO subscribe to?

Answer: We subscribe to ~3m high resolution data from [Planet](#).

Question: Which regions and countries are being monitored by RSPO?

Answer: Since 2020, RSPO has been monitoring the global distribution of hotspots daily. Below is the list of regions and countries that RSPO monitors:

- Africa: Gabon, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Madagascar, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Togo
- Latin America: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Peru
- Oceania: Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands
- Asia: Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand, and Sri Lanka

Question: Members are required to respond to RSPO on a hotspot alert within five working days. However, sometimes there might be some delays in getting a police report. Can members send the response first within the stipulated time, and the police report at a later date, once it's available?

Answer: Yes. Members can send the response first and submit the police report once it is available.

Question: If there is a fire in a member's concession, or a fire incident without a reported hotspot, can this be proactively reported to RSPO without waiting for RSPO to notify the member? What is the procedure for this?

Answer: Yes, RSPO would be pleased to receive proactive updates from members. Please fill in [this form](#) and email it to firewatch@rspo.org.

Question: How do members proactively notify RSPO when fire is found in the neighbouring area which is very close to the member's concession area?

Answer: If members receive a fire alert email from RSPO, it is compulsory for members to give their feedback via [this form](#). If the fire takes place outside their concession area, but it is ~2km adjacent to their concession boundary, RSPO also encourages members to provide us with this information.

Question: Why did members receive an email from the RSPO Fire Hotspot Monitoring even though there was no fire?

Answer: Hotspots are an indicator of fire or heat on the ground surface. Satellite systems used in the alert system are not able to capture hotspots with 100% accuracy. RSPO noticed that about 65-75% of detected hotspots are actually fires.

Question: How does publishing the names of the affected members help them to resolve fire issues?

Answer: Transparency is one of the reasons for implementing this action. It aims to prompt the affected members to extinguish the fire immediately before it ravages further and into other nearby concessions.

Question: Will RSPO provide a weather forecast as an early warning?

Answer: At this stage, there is no plan to provide such information. However, RSPO encourages all members to obtain the information on the latest weather forecasts on reliable websites such as ASMC: <http://asmc.asean.org/asmc-regional-weather-observation/>

For further information, kindly contact the Integrity Unit at:

RSPO Firewatch System
firewatch@rspo.org

Have a positive story to share?
Email us at comms.team@rspo.org

RSPO Hotspot Hub
maps@rspo.org

Prepared by: Integrity Unit
Date: 20 July 2021