

Particulars

Organisation Name	Poligrow Colombia Ltda
Corporate Website Address	http://www.poligrow.com
Primary Activity or Product	Oil Palm Growers
Related Company(ies)	None
Country Operations	Colombia
Membership Number	1-0079-09-000-00
Membership Type	Ordinary Members
Membership Category	Oil Palm Growers
Primary Contacts	Tatiana Escovar Address: Calle 97 BIS # 19- 20 ofc. 702 Bogotá Colombia 111111
Person Reporting	Felipe Rendon

Related Information

Other information on palm oil:

We are committed to sustainable development in the municipality of Mapiripán through four strategic lines seeking present and future welfare of the community, giving added value to our agribusiness operations:

- Education.
- Business Partner Management and Income Generation.
- Biodiversity Conservation.
- Coexistence - Use of Free Time.

These strategic guidelines are developed through the study of the needs and opportunities of the environment, in this way projects are designed and developed, these projects have been managed with public and private actors who have participation in the region, projects based on economic sustainability, social and ecological, contributing to improved quality of life.

We have signed several cooperation agreements, public-private partnerships or obtained sponsors who fund the projects with seed capital.

Statement by the Organization's Main Representative

Since we started activities with the Mapiripán Project, we have remained firm in our purpose to adopt best farming practices. We have made significant investments aimed at environmental, social, infrastructure, and research initiatives that make our projects sustainable over time and enable us to contribute real benefits to the communities involved. We have created departments with highly-qualified personnel devoted to improving the zone environmental conditions, life quality, our employees' working conditions, and the conditions of the community at large.

The positive impact that our oil palm plantation project has had on the Mapiripán community, in Colombia, has been truly satisfactory. That is why we will continue working to ensure that those benefits last over time and are replicated in new projects that contribute to the economic recovery of these marginal regions.

The main strategic guidelines that have been established to specify actions inside the company are described below.

1. Organization of sowing areas based on systemic, sociocultural criteria;
2. Appropriate environmental and social management practices independently certified;
3. Avoiding indirect pressure on natural areas and ecosystems as well as negative effects on food security;
4. Positive balance of greenhouse gas emissions;
5. Prior informed consent for palm projects in ethnic territories and social, ecological function of the property;
6. Legitimate ownership and use of land;
7. Incentives based on environmental, social criteria;
8. Transparency.

Reporting Period

01 July 2012 - 01 July 2013

Oil Palm Growers

Operational Profile

1. Main activities as a palm oil grower

- Palm oil grower (no mill)

Operations and Certification Progress

2. Total landbank available

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2.1. Total landbank licensed

5534

2.2. Total landbank for oil palm cultivation

3580

2.3. Total landbank for conservation

1018

3. About your estate operations

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3.1. Total area of estate plantations - planted

3578

3.2. Mature area

1736

3.3. Imature area

1844

3.4. Area certified

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3.5. Number of estates/Management Units

1

3.6. Number of estates/Management Units certified

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4. In which countries are your estates?

4.1. Indonesia

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4.2. Malaysia

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4.3. Other

Colombia

5. Schemed smallholder operations that supply your organisation

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5.1. Area of scheme smallholder plantations - planted

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5.2. Area of scheme smallholder plantations that are certified

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6. New plantings and developments

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6.1. Area planted in this reporting period

820

6.2. Have New Planting Procedures notifications been submitted to the RSPO for the plantings this year?

No

7. Third party Fresh Fruit Bunches sourcing

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7.1. Tonnes of outside FFB purchased from sources that are not company, scheme smallholders or contracted outgrowers

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7.2. How much of this is certified?

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8. Fresh Fruit Bunches processing operations

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8.1. Number of Palm Oil Mills operated

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8.2. Number of Palm Oil Mills certified

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8.3. Number of Palm Kernel crushers and/or Palm Kernel mills operated

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8.4. Number of Palm Kernel crushers and/or Palm Kernel mills certified

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9. Total Fresh Fruit Bunches processing production capacity

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9.1. Total annual Crude Palm Oil production capacity

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9.2. Total annual Palm Kernel production capacity

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9.3. Total annual Palm Kernel Oil production capacity

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9.4. Total annual Certified Crude Palm Oil production capacity

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9.5. Total annual Certified Palm Kernel production capacity

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9.6. Total annual Certified Palm Kernel Oil production capacity

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9.7. Total annual FFB production capacity

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Marketing**10 Which supply chain options do you sell RSPO-certified palm oil products through?**

- Book & Claim

Time-Bound Plan**11 Date of first RSPO estate certification (planned or achieved)**

2014

12 Time-bound plan - Year expected to achieve 100% RSPO certification of estates

2014

13 What are your interim milestones towards achieving RSPO certification commitment (year and progressive CSPO%)

- Training internal and external people in topics related to P&C interpretation. 2013.
- Publish an Annual Sustainability Report in accordance with the Global Reporting Initiative – GRI – concepts. 2014
- Environmental Assessment. The project Environmental Assessment was carried out before starting crop activities. An interdisciplinary work team made the assessment that included consultation with stakeholders regarding social and environmental impacts for the purpose of presenting the possible impacts to the community and also receiving contributions and proposals from the community. This assessment was supplemented with a detailed Inventory of Fauna and Flora. The impacts identified were assessed using the methodology in the manual issued by the Colombian Ministry for the Environment and the criteria used are outlined in the Environmental Guide published by Fedepalma. from 2010 on
- Baseline Inventories. Using the aid of a full-time biologist, Poligrow Colombia studies the plantation zone biodiversity to develop the best environmental management proposal and the possibility of permanent monitoring. An Inventory of Fauna and Flora was prepared in order to identify the main areas of vegetation cover and determine the diversity of flora and fauna. The inventory corresponds to an area of 5,680 ha. from 2010 on.
- Study of Soils. A detailed study of soils was carried out to establish condition and quality. The information will enable determining the amount and specific composition of soil amendments and agrochemicals used, by avoiding waste that could reach water sources. The study will also enable locating the vegetation cover that is beneficial for the crop, thus preventing erosion processes and weed growing. In addition to demarcating bodies of water, the study also plots protected areas designated by local environment authorities, thus ensuring that the appropriate wooded cover is maintained
- Best Agricultural Practices. Regarding the zone's Environmental and Social Assessment, Poligrow is defining its Best Agricultural Practices by preparing Agricultural Manuals and Technical Cards for training all involved personnel. The documents related to the farming activity are being developed and meet RSPO P&C for the protection of the environment, biodiversity, and social aspects. 2014
- Develop an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan. 2014
- Construction of a mill: Poligrow has plans to construct a mill, incorporating the latest technology to reduce water consumption down to a minimum and based on a strict management of Greenhouse Gas emissions and waste waters, so as to be considered a Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project. In addition, it is considering the possibility of using the energy generated by the mill for distribution and plantation use. 2015.
- Natural Barriers Project. One of the strategies adopted by Poligrow Colombia's Environmental Department for the protection of ecosystems and water sources is the creation of a natural barrier of approximately 20 Km long, made up of natives species and located between the palm crops and the gallery forests for the next year Poligrow will continue with the maintenance of those barriers. 2014.
- Forest Reserve. Poligrow Colombia's Environmental Department has allocated 180 ha of the Organization's land to establish a protected forest reserve. Various research projects and projects for the conservation of traditional zone ecosystems will be carried out in this area. It also plans to coordinate a project for the recovery of illegally hunted fauna. 2014-2015
- Zero Burning. As part of its environmental policy, Poligrow Colombia has made the decision not to practice burning under any circumstances, specifically for preparing soils or managing solid waste. 2009 onwards.
- Occupational Health and Safety Plan. From the initial stages of the project, an OHS Plan has been documented and implemented based on a prior risk assessment. As part of this plan, all workers and safety committees made up of company employees are trained, the required protection materials are established, and accident prevention procedures are described. Poligrow has a full time employee dedicated to lead Health and safety activities. 2009 onwards
- Create Fundación Poligrow: Fundación Poligrow was founded in April 2010. It is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to be in charge of carrying out different environmental, social projects with the support of Poligrow Colombia Ltda. 2010 onwards.

Timebound plan - Year expected to achieve 100% RSPO certification of associated smallholders and outgrowers)

2016

14 What are your interim milestones towards achieving this RSPO certification commitment (year and progressive CSPO%)

At the moment we do not have any associated smallholder or outgrowers. However after the Mill is operation we are planning on creating new association with smallholders and outgrowers, and guide them and help them trough the RSPO certification with the goal to get them all certified by 2016.

15 Time-Bound plan - Year expected to achieve 100% RSPO certification of independently sourced FFB

2016

16 What are your interim milestones towards achieving this RSPO certification commitment (year and progressive CSPO%)

Poligrow will be developing plans to certifiy smallholders and outgrowers after its mill is operating

17 Which countries that your organization operates in do the above commitments cover?

Colombia

Actions for Next Reporting Period

18 Outline actions that will be taken in the coming year to advance your plans for certification

GENERAL INITIATIVES:

- Internal Audit. To control the correct application of the guidelines established in the management system procedures and documents, which ensure the company's sustainability.
- Documentation Management System. A procedure will be implemented to control and follow up documentation systematization and disclosure. The system enables to classify and verify the use of all documents within each department and to ensure their availability as required.
- Website. Poligrow Colombia will redesign its website [Click here to visit the URL](#), by incorporating a section devoted to sustainability, the RSPO, and its progress in this area. Each website section features the RSPO logo and a link to [Click here to visit the URL](#).
- Fulfilment of all applicable legislation: Poligrow has a mechanism in place to ensure its compliance with all relevant legal requirements in the form of a register listing all applicable laws and regulations. For each law or regulation, its implementation is assessed through confirmation of each stage of compliance (e.g. permits from the competent authorities, practices established, etc.). Internal audits are also carried out, by both in-house personnel and external lawyers and other experts, to evaluate Poligrow's compliance with legislation. In addition, all available measures are taken to ensure that the information contained within the register is up-to-date and that any legislative changes are duly noted.
- Information bulletins: Poligrow publishes a document called "Boletín Poligrow", which provide updates on the progress of the Mapiripán project and the advance in the P&C implementation. This bulletin has a section dedicated to sustainability, where the progress of social, economic and environmental initiatives carried out within the framework of the Mapiripán project is reported
- Develop a composting system: to maximise the use of by-products from the agricultural processes.
- Integrated Pest Management Plan: for the biological treatment of diseases and pests, while keeping the maintenance of ecological equilibrium and community participation in mind.
- Consultations for Stakeholders. Consultations for stakeholders were made to complete the Environmental and Social Assessment, which involved different groups within the community. Those consultations were aimed at finding out about their opinions on the positive and negative project impacts in order to incorporate them into the company's action plans. Opinions are also collected via a suggestions and complaints box. Furthermore, periodic, multi-stakeholder forums were carried out (to show progress of the project, activities carried out that have had an impact on the community, and training indicators, among others) and weekly technical committees with the cooperatives were organized to follow up on field activities and exchange general information. Every year this consultation is made in Mapiripán.
- Food Support Project. Supports setting up essential staple crops for the purpose of reducing the cost of living in the area of the project and improving the nutrition of boarding school students.
- Social Integration Activities (Sports for Peace). To promote a peaceful coexistence, respect for women, and the creative use of free time in order to prevent alcohol consumption and drug use, through sport activities for men and women.
- Training And Education Programs. Through agreements with educational institutions such as Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje – SENA - (Colombian National Apprenticeship Service), the region's inhabitants are able to take technical training courses aimed at broadening their work perspectives.

19 Outline actions that will be taken in the coming year to promote sustainable palm oil

- Active participation in RSPO national meetings.
 - Organize meetings with regional stakeholders of the palm oil business to reinforce the commitment with sustainability.
 - Maintain a frequent communication with RSPO secretariat to be updated with the latest news and changes in the P&C.
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20 Does your company have a public commitment relating to the GHG emissions of your operations?

No

Public commitment relating to the GHG emissions report:

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21 Do you publicly report the GHG emissions of your operations? - Existing operations (as per Criterion 5.6)

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Report the GHG emissions of operations - existing operations (as per Criterion 5.6)

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21 Do you publicly report the GHG emissions of your operations? - Expected emissions associated with new plantings

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Report the GHG emissions of operations - Expected emissions associated with new plantings (as per Criterion 7.8)

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Reasons for Non-Disclosure of Information

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

Data Unknown

Reasons

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Challenges

1. Significant economic, social or environmental obstacles

- Under-trained regional workforce: Poligrow has established training programs to develop and improve agricultural and technical skills for work in the people working in the estate and the potential workers in the community.
- Consequences of the violence resulting from illegal business activity. Develop Social programs with the community to involved the people in legal activities with benefits that bring a personal growing and social welfare.
- Indiscriminate burnings in neighboring properties. Fire product of burnings made in neighboring properties is a constant problem for Poligrow plantation. Poligrow has made fire wall to avoid the presence of flames into its plantation.
- High transportation costs on consumable goods as a result of bad road conditions. Bad infrastructure has increased costs of agricultural inputs that are necessary for the appropriate development of crops.

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?

- Being available to review and support the process of national interpretation in Colombia.
 - Sending the results from environmental and social research and projects developed on our plantation for their application in other places by other countries.
 - Attending and actively participating in the annual board meetings and national and regional RSPO meetings.
 - Publishing information that is sent to stakeholders to make them aware of the RSPO importance in the palm oil business
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