

Particulars

About Your Organisation

Organisation Name

Conservation International

Corporate Website Address

<http://www.conservation.org>

Primary Activity or Product

- Environmental NGO
-

Related Company(ies)

No

Membership

Membership Number	Membership Category	Membership Sector
6-0010-08-000-00	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 ?

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:

- >> Protecting critical natural capital, biodiversity and ecosystems that provide the foundation for human well-being.
- >> Fostering effective governance at local, national, and international levels.
- >> 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, 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 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, 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 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. 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 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:

>> RSPO

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 engagement with RSPO.

>> INDONESIA

In Indonesia, CI, USAID and the Walton Family Foundation launched the Sustainable Landscapes Partnership (SLP) to support development and implementation of low-emission development strategies that incorporate both economic and conservation objectives in the regencies of Mandailing Natal and Tapanuli Selatan in North Sumatra. Specifically, 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 interested in partnership towards sustainable palm production landscapes.

>> ECUADOR

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 Ecuador is providing technical support to the national interpretation process and is analyzing the current draft and submitting comments to optimize adoption of the P&C.

>> LIBERIA

CI continues to support RSPO principles in Liberia. 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.

>> LIBERIA & DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Supported by USAID via the Forest Carbon Markets & Communities Program, CI is producing a paper titled "Incentivizing No-Deforestation Palm Oil Production in Liberia and the Democratic Republic of Congo" - to be published in May 2015. The objective of this paper is to identify and develop options for actions that the U.S. Government could take to support a transition to the production and sourcing of zero-deforestation palm oil from countries in Africa that harbor large areas of intact forests and have significant potential for oil palm expansion.

>> BRAZIL

Continuing CI Brazil's previous work with a leading Brazilian producer, 2014 was the third year of ongoing biodiversity monitoring in plantation areas. Initially focused on vertebrates groups, the monitoring program was expanded to cover plants and insects. During the project period, CI has produced a number of case studies - with one paper and four abstracts published, three papers currently submitted for review, and seven Master theses completed.

Building on this work, CI Brazil is conducting a study of landscape management opportunities in production areas, which includes several economic variables that will provide the company with the necessary information to evaluate opportunities for conservation and production.

To this end, CI is working to build a public biodiversity and GIS database for Brazil's oil palm growing regions. CI's objective for this project is to collect data that has to date been largely fragmented and develop a public database that could serve the needs of the scientific community, as well as the public and private sectors. The database and resulting analyses will provide the information necessary to evaluate the impacts of production on biodiversity at a regional level, as well as support sustainable management of the broader landscape.

>> BIOFUELS

CI Brazil 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 funded by National Science Foundation and coordinated by University of Michigan.

Within this group, CI Brazil is also playing an important role in helping to identify production systems and priority regions for palm oil development, as well as facilitating communication between the project team and 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 on sustainable palm oil in Brazil. CI Brazil has had two biofuels-focused projects approved through this initiative during the reporting period, including 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 "Bioenergetical Zoning for Palm Oil Crops and its Impacts on Biodiversity in Pará State", from 2014-2016.

Also as part of this initiative, 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, held July 2014 in Belém/PA. This meeting focused on discussing efforts to date, as well as 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?

Yes

Please explain how

CI serves as one of the Environmental NGO representatives on the RSPO Board of Governors.

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**>> SUSTAINABLE SOURCING GUIDE FOR PALM OIL USERS**

CI, in partnership with WWF US, has been working collaboratively with a number of private sector companies across the palm oil value chain interested in supporting the 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 sourcing guide 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.

>> RETAILERS

CI is supporting a major retailer in their efforts to meet a 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 palm oil use, commitments to sustainable palm oil and barriers to transitioning to certified sourcing. Over the past year, we have continued to support these efforts, focusing on education and outreach to suppliers and buyers. In April 2014, CI presented to a group of private label 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 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.

>> CONSUMER GOODS COMPANIES

CI also has a joint initiative with a major consumer products company. The initiative is focused on supporting smallholder producers to implement better agricultural practices and conserve forest areas, thus promoting growth in the supply of sustainable palm oil.

>> PRODUCERS

In BRAZIL, CI continues to build on its work with a leading Brazilian producer to develop a biodiversity assessment and monitoring program - with 2014 representing the third year of annual monitoring. The monitoring protocols for this project focus on resource optimization and were developed not only to address 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.

In INDONESIA, CI has an MOU with a leading plantation company in the intervention area to support the reduction of carbon emissions from an existing peatland plantation, understand and manage environmental and business risk, and work with local communities to address issues of burning and palm oil production processes.

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

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

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

>> UPTAKE IN THE US MARKET

Directly support the 100% conversion of the US market to sustainable palm oil, by releasing the Sustainable Sourcing Guide for Palm Oil Users, defining market transition models using the US market as a test case, participating in and/or convening multi-stakeholder dialogue in 2015.

>> UPTAKE IN ASIAN & AFRICAN MARKETS

Directly support increased uptake of sustainable palm oil in other major consumer markets, by producing a feasibility study to understand opportunities, barriers and incentives for transitioning the Indonesian palm oil market to more sustainable sources in 2015 and commencing a similar study for the African palm oil market by end of 2015.

>> PRODUCTION

Develop and pilot innovative models for addressing key sustainability issues and promoting CSPO production in at least three countries in 2015, by supporting governments and private sector in developing and implementing sustainable production and landscape management strategies.

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To meet these targets, CI must:

- 1) maintain a sustainable source of long-term funding to support palm oil work in markets and at origin; and
 - 2) 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

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 2014 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 three complementary strategies:

1) 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 users with the goal of encouraging post-2015 commitments that include time-bound plans for sourcing 100% physical certified sustainable palm oil.

>> CI and partners will develop data and guidance materials that support interested companies in shifting to certified sustainable palm oil and CI will explore opportunities to strengthen industry efforts aimed at transitioning the North American market to 100% certified sustainable palm oil.

>> CI will explore the feasibility of promoting uptake of certified sustainable palm oil through demand-side initiatives in other major consumer markets, including Indonesia and Africa

2) 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 high carbon stock, development of peat areas, community rights and FPIC, as well as discussions on traceability, transparency and accountability. CI will also explore opportunities to pilot jurisdictional models aimed at promoting sustainable production at the landscape level.

3) PILOTING SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION FIELD 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.

>> In INDONESIA, CI will further advance the palm oil work under the Sustainable Landscapes Partnership (SLP) in North Sumatra and will establish MOU collaboration agreements with at least two additional producers in SLP landscapes. This will include non-RSPO and non-ISPO companies in order to work across the spectrum of plantations that are in the landscape. We will build on existing work, which includes: A) Implementing existing MOUs with districts and working with the district governments to improve spatial planning and environmental management of key biodiversity areas within the districts; B) Working more closely with the provincial government in a joint secretariat that aims to further improve the production of sustainable palm oil in North Sumatra; C) Proposing work with three plantation companies to reduce carbon emissions from degraded and peatland plantations, improve water management and riparian area management, and develop risk management preparation for the upcoming El Niño threat; and D) Continuing to work with provincial Environmental Planning Board of the government to improve land siting, and landscape planning processes.

>> In ECUADOR, CI will continue to work to build capacity and promote sustainable palm oil through our work with the Ecuador National Association of Palm Oil Producers (ANCUPA) and by supporting the national interpretation of RSPO principles and criteria, with a specific focus on the identification of high conservation value areas.

>> In LIBERIA, CI will continue to play an active role in promoting and facilitating multi-stakeholder discussion and collaboration throughout the palm oil value chain. Liberia is one of six African countries participating in the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 Palm Oil Initiative. As the in-country focal point, CI will play a leading role in convening a national workshop aimed at developing a set of basic directives for best practice in palm oil production. The workshop will include stakeholders from the public and private sector, as well as technical experts and civil society. CI will also seek to reconstitute the RSPO National Technical Working Group in Liberia and to establish partnerships with RSPO member companies operating in Liberia and provide direct support to these companies in their implementation of RSPO Principles and Criteria.

>> In BRAZIL, Building on the knowledge acquired via the landscape monitoring exercise, CI intends to expand this study to the palm region of the state of Pará. We will extrapolate the work developed to date, providing important information to guide the sustainable 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 oil sector a model for best practices.

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.

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?

No --

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
[EN-Policies-to-PNC-waterland.pdf](#)
- Ethical Conduct
[EN-Policies-to-PNC-ethicalconduct.pdf](#)
- Labour rights
[EN-Policies-to-PNC-laborrights.pdf](#)
- Stakeholder engagement
[EN-Policies-to-PNC-stakeholderengagement.pdf](#)

6.2 What steps will your organization take to realize ethical conduct in business-applicable regulations and industry practices?

Please see CI's Code of Ethics and Rights-based Approach Policy.

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?

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 includes:

>> SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL PRESENTATIONS

As mentioned above, we are currently in the process of developing a Sustainable Sourcing Guide for Palm Oil Users to support 100% CSPO in the US market to be released in 2015. However, early findings and learnings have been shared with various stakeholder audiences including palm oil users, processors, producers and NGO 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.

>> STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

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. ?

>> PALM OIL TRAINING MANUAL

The Sustainable Landscapes Partnership (SLP) is developing training materials aimed at promoting sustainable production practices among smallholders in Indonesia. One manual will focus specifically on palm oil. These manuals will be released in 2015 and will be available in Bahasa Indonesia. They will be approved by the district and national government and based on ISPO/RSPO standards.

>> MULTI-STAKEHOLDER FORUMS

CI's SLP program in Indonesia provides key learning and training discussions every month in the provincial and district level that are attended by plantations, government and smallholders. These include topics such as best management practices on peat, reducing deforestation outside concession areas, challenges relating to certification and a variety of other topics pertaining to better environmental and management practices of oil palm.

>> "WHY PALM OIL ISN'T THE ENEMY"

CI published a blog 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 Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, The Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, and Salon. The original posting can be viewed here: blog.conservation.org/2014/04/why-palm-oil-isnt-the-enemy/

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

As an environmental NGO, we do not manage concessions.

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?

MARKET CHALLENGES:

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.

FIELD-BASED CHALLENGES

>> In INDONESIA, CI's Sustainable Landscapes Partnership has faced a number of challenges in promoting sustainable palm oil production with communities, government and plantation companies. With communities, we are working to address a general lack of awareness of sustainable palm oil production practices among local producers, as well as communities seeking to convert land from primary and secondary forest to oil palm. At the district level, governments may depend upon income from oil palm production to the detriment of longer-term land use planning. Among companies, RSPO-certified plantations remain a minority within the district. Those that are certified express frustration that they are not seeing better pricing for sustainably produced palm oil, and non-certified plantations in the region appear to have little desire to improve palm oil production processes.

CI's SLP program seeks to address these issues through ongoing engagement with plantation companies and communities on more sustainable palm oil production practices. CI will also continue its engagement with government through both formal and informal efforts aimed at supporting improved land-use planning and working with a provincial Secretariat to address many of the other issues noted above.

>> In ECUADOR, there have been challenges in gaining sufficient political support within the sector to adopt the principles and criteria of the RSPO at the national level. To address this, CI will participate in the National Working Group in 2015 and support ANCUPA in their new commitment to promote adoption of the RSPO principles and criteria in 2015.

>> In LIBERIA, there has been a challenge securing the resources necessary to finalize the National Interpretation of RSPO Principles and Criteria. Until such a time that the National Interpretation process is complete, smaller producers in Liberia will have limited opportunity to apply for RSPO certification. CI will seek to reconvene the National Working Group and explore opportunities to advance dialogue around a National Interpretation.

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:

Yes

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.

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
