

Particulars

About Your Organisation

Organisation Name

Sumatran Orangutan Society (SOS)

Corporate Website Address

<http://www.orangutans-sos.org>

Primary Activity or Product

- Environmental NGO
-

Related Company(ies)

No

Membership

Membership Number	Membership Category	Membership Sector
6-0013-09-000-00	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 ?**

Sumatran orangutans are critically endangered and without urgent action could be the first Great Ape species to become extinct. SOS is dedicated to turning this situation around. We do this by: Raising awareness about the importance of protecting orangutans and their rainforest home; Supporting grassroots projects which empower local people to become guardians of the rainforests; Restoring damaged orangutan habitat through tree planting programmes; Campaigning on issues threatening the survival of orangutans in the wild.

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

SOS has worked with partners in Sumatra, Indonesia to provide training for plantation workers and agricultural communities on best management practices for dealing with human wildlife conflict, enabling farmers to protect their crops without harming wildlife. We have evacuated orangutans at risk in plantation areas, including those owned and managed by RSPO members. We have submitted a robust complaint against an RSPO member in 2012, in an effort to support the increased integrity and credibility of the RSPO - this case however remains unresolved. Ensuring that standards are upheld on the ground is a crucial role for NGO members of the RSPO.

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

Yes

Please explain how

We had a member of staff on the Complaints Panel, but chose to step down from this position in this project period.

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

We led the Clear Labels, Not Forests campaign, which contributed to the passing of new legislation in the EU on labelling regulations. From the end of 2014, all packaged food products must list the specific vegetable oil/s used on the ingredients list. This will support the market transformation towards CSPO.

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

50%

1.7 How is your work on palm oil funded?

Public donations and grants from donor agencies

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

2009

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

2009

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

We intend to submit resolutions at each GA which, if passed, would increase the credibility of the RSPO.

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

- Indonesia

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)**

We have not outlined actions that will be taken in the coming year, nor the year previous to promote sustainable palm oil as we are still awaiting the outcome of a complaint case.

Our case was filed with the RSPO on 28 October 2012: <http://www.rspo.org/members/complaints/status-of-complaints/view/22>

Our ability to promote or endorse the RSPO depends very much on the outcome of this case, which to date (18 June 2015) has been running for 963 days.

In addition to this, we had a motion passed in Resolution 6g entitled 'Transparency in plantation concession boundaries' (<http://www.rspo.org/file/resolutions/GA10-Resolution6g.pdf>) at the RSPO GA10 in 2013.

This passed resolution stated,

"We therefore call on the 10th General Assembly of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, to resolve that:

2a) It is mandatory for grower members to make their existing concession boundaries publicly available in digital format (shapefile) via the RSPO website.

b) Data must be provided by each grower member by the 2014 ACOP deadline, although early submission is encouraged."

This was meant to have been a requirement by the 2014 ACOP deadline, yet there is still no data available on this.

All of this is discouraging, and does not incline us to feel that our input is valued by the RSPO.

Reasons for Non-Disclosure of Information**4.1 If you have not disclosed any of the above information please indicate the reasons why**

Other: We have not outlined actions that will be taken in the coming year, nor the year previous to promote sustainable palm oil as we are still awaiting the outcome of a complaint case.

Our case was filed with the RSPO on 28 October 2012: <http://www.rspo.org/members/complaints/status-of-complaints/view/22>

Our ability to promote or endorse the RSPO depends very much on the outcome of this case, which to date (18 June 2015) has been running for 963 days.

In addition to this, we had a motion passed in Resolution 6g entitled 'Transparency in plantation concession boundaries' (<http://www.rspo.org/file/resolutions/GA10-Resolution6g.pdf>) at the RSPO GA10 in 2013.

This passed resolution stated,

"We therefore call on the 10th General Assembly of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, to resolve that:

2a) It is mandatory for grower members to make their existing concession boundaries publicly available in digital format (shapefile) via the RSPO website.

b) Data must be provided by each grower member by the 2014 ACOP deadline, although early submission is encouraged."

This was meant to have been a requirement by the 2014 ACOP deadline, yet there is still no data available on this.

All of this is discouraging, and does not incline us to feel that our input is valued by the RSPO.

GHG Emissions

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

No

Please explain why

Our operations are separate from that of owning or managing a palm oil concession, therefore we do not feel that this question is applicable to us as an eNGO.

However, since this form does not provide an n/a option for us to select:

If the RSPO wishes to supply the funds and/or expertise to assess the GHG emissions from the buses and motorbikes that our staff uses to get to and from our offices, and/or the GHG emissions associated with other tasks and items associated with daily living for those outside of the plantation industry, please let us know and we will set about arranging this.

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

No Our operations are separate from that of owning or managing a palm oil concession, therefore we do not feel that this question is applicable to us as an eNGO.

However, since this form does not provide an n/a option for us to select:

If the RSPO wishes to supply the funds and/or expertise to assess the GHG emissions from the buses and motorbikes that our staff uses to get to and from our offices, and/or the GHG emissions associated with other tasks and items associated with daily living for those outside of the plantation industry, please let us know and we will set about arranging this.

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:**

- Ethical Conduct
 - Stakeholder engagement
-

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

This question is not applicable to us, as an eNGO, yet there is no option to say so.

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 have put forth the RSPO as being one potential option for the procurement of sustainable palm oil; however we also take care to highlight that there are other potential sources that may be of a higher or more responsible standard, such as the Palm Oil Innovation Group.

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

We do not own any concessions, so we are unable to provide any such map.

We are pleased that this concession map section is finally mentioned, with this marking the first such time that we are aware of.

However, per the above, we had a motion passed in Resolution 6g entitled 'Transparency in plantation concession boundaries' (<http://www.rspo.org/file/resolutions/GA10-Resolution6g.pdf>) at the RSPO GA10 in 2013.

This passed resolution stated:

"We therefore call on the 10th General Assembly of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, to resolve that:

- 2a) It is mandatory for grower members to make their existing concession boundaries publicly available in digital format (shapefile) via the RSPO website.
- b) Data must be provided by each grower member by the 2014 ACOP deadline, although early submission is encouraged."

This resolution states that it is MANDATORY, so it is disappointing to see that it now stated that it is voluntary just for those that choose to share this information. The RSPO members voted to pass this resolution, and make this data mandatory for public consumption.

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?

An RSPO member company, PT Sisirau / Ibris Palm, was found to be actively clearing HCV, and despite the acknowledged presence of a population of orangutans on their land, continued clearance. The RSPO's complaints procedure has, to date, been inadequate to deal with this grave violation.

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

--

Cost Effective:

No

Robust:

No

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)

Political lobbying, engagement with key stakeholders

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

Without an effective complaints panel to adequately deal with confirmed, problematic members then the reputation and viability of the organisation and the RSPO brand as a whole is severely threatened.

To quote the RSPO itself: "By and large, any one or anybody can certify anything, there being little legal restrictions on that, and, indeed, there are already a plethora of certificates and standards being awarded these days. The crux of the matter is the credibility and usefulness of the certification – basically, who will believe or use it."

RSPO, 2012d. Why RSPO Certification. Available at: http://www.rspo.org/en/why_rspo_certification [Accessed May 20, 2014].
