

Particulars

About Your Organisation

Organisation NameProForest

Corporate Website Address<http://www.proforest.net>

Primary Activity or Product

- Affiliate Member
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Related Company(ies)No

Membership

Membership Number	Membership Category	Membership Sector
8-0061-07-000-00	Affiliate	Organisations

Affiliates Members

Operational Profile

1.1. What are the main activities of your organisation?

Proforest helps people manage the world's natural resources sustainably. We are an independent, international organisation that works alongside producers, industry, governments, NGOs and communities to help them understand and address their sustainability challenges, bridge their differences and arrive at effective, integrated solutions. Our expertise delivers sustainable natural resource management – from policy, investment and procurement to production on the ground. Our vision is to achieve Sustainable Livelihoods in Sustainable Landscapes, and our approach to responsible sourcing aims to contribute to this transformation agenda.

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

Proforest provides responsible palm oil sourcing services, gives practical support to companies - processors, buyers and traders - to develop and implement their responsible sourcing policies, and we continue to support sustainability initiatives, such as RSPO, and provide training and capacity building services to a range of stakeholders. In addition, Proforest works directly with growers and smallholders, helping them to meet the RSPO P&C. Our work includes: palm oil policy development; spatial analysis and mapping of oil-palm production zones; coordinating RSPO gap assessments and site-based verification of compliance by mills and plantations against buyers' policy requirements; subsequent engagement with companies to improve practices; and technical services such as High Conservation Values (HCV) and High Carbon Stock (HCS) assessments. We have been working with many of the world's leading companies who are RSPO members, and either participate in or provide technical support for several multi-stakeholder initiatives concerned with sustainable palm oil. As a working group member of the HCS Approach, Proforest have been involved in industry-wide efforts to align methods and definitions concerning HCS and to integrate the principles of HCS, HCV and FPIC. Proforest also continue to provide support services directly to the RSPO, which in 2015 included facilitation of the Group Certification document, facilitating consultations regarding the revised New Planting Procedure, technical input into the new Certification Systems document, facilitating public consultations on the Compensation Procedure in Colombia, and supporting consultation for National Interpretations of the RSPO P&C in Honduras and Gabon. We are RSPO-endorsed training providers for the Lead Auditor P&C and during 2015 delivered RSPO lead auditor courses in Colombia, Malaysia and Indonesia, and producer training courses in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. Using programmatic funding from RSPO, Proforest is working on online training elements for RSPO Lead Auditor Production and RSPO Lead Auditor Supply Chain. More broadly Proforest is leading the Africa Practitioners Network for building the capacity of auditors in Africa through training and mentoring: <http://www.proforest.net/en/programmes/africa/africa-practitioners-network>. During 2015, we continued to support public-private processes aimed at sustainable palm oil. Proforest is coordinator of the Africa Palm Oil Initiative, launched by the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 (TFA) in 2014, whose focus is the development of principles for responsible palm oil production in West and Central Africa: <https://www.tfa2020.org/activities/african-palm-oil-initiative/>. Proforest is also the secretariat for the SHARP programme, a multi-stakeholder partnership which is working with the private sector to support sustainable smallholder development: www.sharp-partnership.org. SHARP's RSS framework is a tool for smallholders and their partners in palm oil supply chains to use as a stepwise approach towards RSPO certification. Proforest have been working with Jaremar and other partners in Honduras to help smallholders become certified, using tools such as RSS and benefiting from funding from the RSPO Smallholder Support Fund. And in 2015, we oversaw the transition of the HCV Resource Network from a secretariat hosted by Proforest to an independent company, helping to broaden application of the HCV approach through workshops, technical guidance and an assessor licensing scheme: www.hcvnetwork.org.

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

Yes

If yes, please give details:

As detailed above, part of our work involves collaboration with private-sector actors in the palm oil industry, providing them with support services towards achieving production and sourcing of CSPO.

If not, please explain why:

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

Yes

1.5. What percentage of your organization's overall activities focus on palm oil?

50

1.6. How is your work on palm oil funded?

Through private companies or through grants, depending on the nature of the work.

Actions for Next Reporting Period

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

Continuation, development and expansion of activities as listed in Section 1.2.

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?

As stated, the work of Proforest specializes in developing and implementing practical solutions to obstacles surrounding CSPO, at all stages of the supply chain. Progress in CSPO production in West Africa has been affected by the ebola crisis and there was a knock-on effect for some fieldwork planned for 2014/15. Where possible we maintained relationships remotely and the confidence level improved throughout the year; going forward, Liberia and Sierra Leone are both engaged in the Africa Palm Oil Initiative.

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

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Cost Effective:

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Robust:

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Simpler to Comply to:

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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)

As listed in the previous section, Proforest's work specializes in developing and implementing practical solutions to obstacles surrounding CSPO and CSPKO, at all stages of the supply chain. This includes engagement with and support for companies at all stages of the supply chain (including producers and FMCG companies), programme work to support inclusion of smallholders in supply chains, and various training and outreach events.

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

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