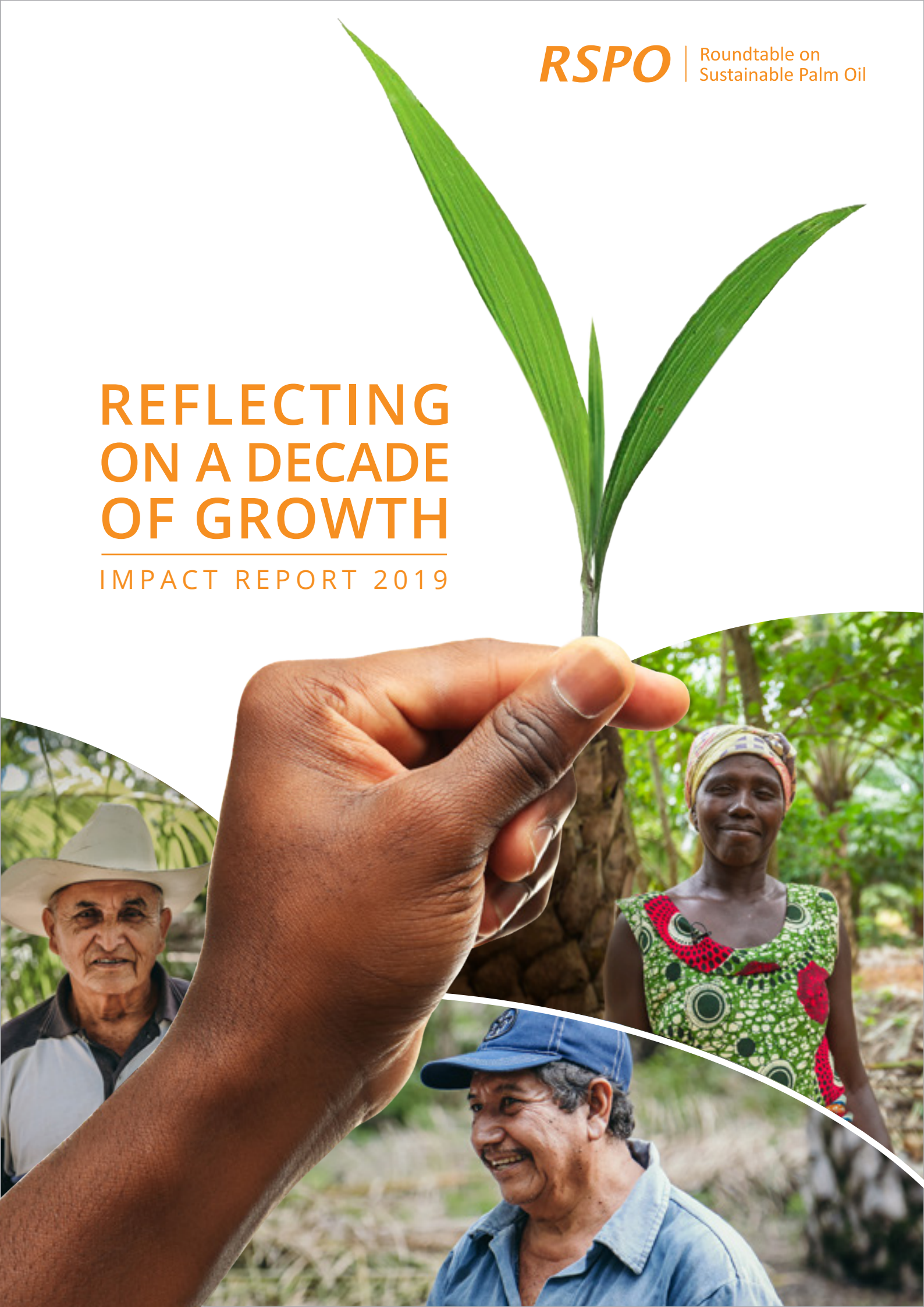


REFLECTING ON A DECADE OF GROWTH

IMPACT REPORT 2019



ABOUT THIS REPORT

“Reflecting on a Decade of Growth”

is the driving theme of our 2019 Impact Report, documenting our efforts and achievements over the past decade. We have certainly come a long way – our members have grown from just over 550 members in 2010 to over 4,500 members as at the end of 2019 and RSPO certified area has also seen growth of 579% to 4.2 million hectares (ha) in the same period.

Today, the 2018 RSPO Principles and Criteria (P&C) is more refined and our strategy towards achieving our vision is clearer through RSPO’s Theory of Change (ToC). We have also developed and adopted a new Independent Smallholder (ISH) Standard this year to support greater inclusion of smallholders into the sustainable palm oil supply chain. In this report, we have included lessons learnt over the years and efforts in place to thrive to deliver impacts as we move into 2020.

2019 IMPACT REPORT

Our Impact Report is published bi-annually, covering the performance and efforts of the RSPO members throughout the reporting period. This report serves as a platform for us to communicate our environmental and social initiatives and performances to our stakeholders. From this report onwards, our reporting year-end will be adjusted from 30 June to 31 December. Therefore, this report covers our impact progress from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019. All data included in this report have been adjusted retrospectively unless otherwise stated. All references made in this report to “RSPO”, “us” and “we” refers to RSPO.

This Report has been prepared in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals 12.6 requirement to adopt sustainable practices and to ensure it is an integral part of our reporting cycles. Our approach in reporting includes disclosures of the performance of our members, demonstrating our commitment to making meaningful impacts. As we progress further with our reporting journey, we will continue to improve data monitoring and increase the transparency of our members’ impact and performance.



All RSPO Impact Reports can be accessed on our [webpage](#).





Photo credit: RSPO & Jonathan Perugia

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RSPO IN BRIEF



CEO'S FOREWORD



Impact Report Presented by Beverley Postma RSPO Chief Executive Officer

As the incoming Chief Executive Officer of the RSPO, I am inspired and humbled to see how much impact has been achieved in the last 10 years.

I am very much looking forward to working with our talented Secretariat team and our energetic membership base, who are deeply committed to protecting and enhancing the three key pillars of sustainability - people, planet, prosperity.

As I read this 2019 Impact Report, I take great encouragement for the journey ahead. There is clearly much to be celebrated and, while we still have more to do, this report offers a valuable opportunity to share and reflect on these achievements and milestones.

During the course of my career, I have witnessed the rapid growth of the RSPO - as a keen observer from Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. I am honoured to now have this opportunity to join the RSPO family and be part of this unique, global collaboration that has played such a vital role as a pioneer and champion of the sustainability movement.

The RSPO has taken some giant leaps forward in the last two years - the adoption of an enhanced set of standards on No Deforestation, No Peat and No Exploitation; an inclusive Independent Smallholder Standard that I sincerely hope will encourage more small-scale farmers to come on board; and the Board's recent adoption of the Shared Responsibility requirements, that reinforce and build on the commitments of our downstream members. These are three key milestones that bring us closer to achieving our vision of market transformation.

As I take up my role, I am committed to listening carefully to civil society organisations, both within and beyond our membership base who are calling for improvements to our assurance systems. The recent commissioning of a review of the Assurance Task Force, and the formation of a special Assurance Standing Committee (a sub-group of the Board of Governors) are important steps in this journey. Our mission is to achieve even greater cohesion throughout the sustainable palm oil supply chain by listening to all of our stakeholders. This will propel us towards our goal of making sustainable palm oil the norm.

As with all transitions, this process will not be without its challenges. As I write this, our staff and members are adjusting to the social and economic realities of the COVID-19 pandemic. The RSPO family has shown tremendous resilience in the face of this challenge, which is testament to the pioneering spirit of the organisation and its passion for innovation and technology. I am confident that together, we shall ride out this storm and emerge stronger and wiser. I am looking forward to hearing your thoughts on how we can build on this legacy together.

Thank you,
Beverley Postma



Photo Credit: RSPO & Jonathan Perugia

CO-CHAIRS' LETTER

by Anne Rosenbarger and
Dato' Carl Bek-Nielsen

Dear fellow members and stakeholders,

“

More than 10 years after its establishment, the RSPO has seen exponential growth and achieved much success on our collective journey towards transforming the market to make sustainable palm oil the norm. Therefore, for this year's Impact Report, we have chosen the theme *“Reflecting on a Decade of Growth”* to document our efforts and achievements over the past decade. ”

It is no doubt that we have come a long way. Our membership has grown from just 558 members in 2010 to 4,577 members as at 31 December 2019; and from merely 41 member countries/territories to 94 countries/territories. RSPO certified area has also seen significant growth of 579% to 4.2 million hectares during this period. During this time, the RSPO Secretariat has also grown significantly in order to better serve and support our members and stakeholders, and to help us all edge closer to achieving our shared vision. Though we fully acknowledge and accept, we still have a ways to go.

One of the major highlights of 2019 was definitely the endorsement of the landmark rules that signify the urgent call for Shared Responsibility (SR), a concept that is made more urgent now with the adoption of the 2018 RSPO Principles and Criteria (P&C). While this is not an entirely new concept - it was previously referred to as “commensurate effort” in the RSPO Code of Conduct, members across all categories throughout the supply chain are now mutually accountable and need to work together to ensure the supply and demand of RSPO certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO) is more evenly weighted. With these rules, we expect to see more active participation from downstream stakeholders in joining us on this journey, not only in promoting the production of CSPO but also in increasing its uptake. As growers have already committed to a much tougher standard, largely to meet the expectations of buyers with No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation (NDPE) policies, it is only fair for buyers to step up in a similar way in both their sustainable sourcing policies and procurement decisions. The P&C must be thoroughly embedded in how all members conduct business or engage with the palm oil supply chain.



↑ 4,577

Reaching 4,577 registered members across 94 countries/territories as of 31 December 2019.

↑ 579%

P&C certified area grew by 579% to 4.2 million hectares in the last decade.

In 2019, we also achieved two of our main milestones in the Smallholder Strategy - the launch of the RSPO Smallholder Trainer Academy (STA) programme and portal, and the endorsement of the RSPO Independent Smallholder (ISH) Standard. This new and separate standard, produced exclusively for independent smallholders, responds to their needs with a simplified approach to certification that better considers the diversity and incentives, as well as challenges faced by smallholders globally. The inclusion of smallholder farmers is indeed fundamental for RSPO to achieve our desired impact and we will continue to strive to create a supportive environment that empowers smallholders to achieve sustainable livelihoods.

The formation of the Assurance Standing Committee (ASC) in 2019 is another needed initiative to help ensure robust assessment, verification and certification against the RSPO standard. Yet, we heard stakeholders loud and clear that a new structure is needed to strengthen this system further.

Besides that, the endorsement of the RSPO Dispute Settlement Facility (DSF) Framework, Principles and Terms of Reference (ToR) by the Board of Governors (BoG), further demonstrates our commitment to ensure transparency and maximum disclosure of our reports and outcomes while respecting the right to confidentiality of the parties involved.

Following the adoption of the 2018 P&C in November 2018, it is crucial that all our procedures and standards are updated accordingly to cater to an increasing degree of distributed management for it to keep pace. In a move to enhance the assurance of the chain of custody of RSPO certified materials along the supply chain, we also kickstarted the revision of the 2017 RSPO Supply Chain Certification (SCC) Standard and Systems in 2019, as well as the RSPO P&C Certification System and New Planting Procedure (NPP) document.

Besides that, the BoG has also endorsed the RSPO Governance Review for Reorganisation of Standing Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups, where four standing committees have been established - Assurance, Market Development, Smallholder, and Standard. Through the working group and task force under each standing committee, we encourage members to address complex and difficult challenges and work towards developing solutions.

2020 will see us welcome a new CEO as the head of the RSPO. The end of 2019 also saw the announcement of the departure of our longtime CEO Datuk Darrel Webber, who after eight years, first as Secretary General then Chief Executive Officer, grew the RSPO from 300 members to well over 4,000. Before this, Darrel was also instrumental in the role he played as a member of an environmental NGO, prior to joining the organisation. On behalf of the RSPO Board of Governors and membership, we thank Darrel for these contributions that will have a lasting impact on the industry.

In the second half of 2020, we will welcome Beverley Postma, an experienced CEO and scale-up strategist who thrives at the interface of business, government, and civil society. She joins RSPO from GreenOcean Group, a Singapore-based sustainable business consultancy to take the lead of our organisation at this pivotal juncture. Beverley is also the Founder and Executive Director of Food Industry Asia, the leading industry association for food companies in Asia, and was Chief Executive Officer of HarvestPlus based in Washington, D.C., where she managed a global team of more than 170 staff across fifteen countries.

We and the board are delighted to welcome Beverley as the new Chief Executive Officer of RSPO. We are confident that with her more than 20 years of experience in the global food industry, Beverley will help RSPO reach new heights and create a greater impact on the sustainable palm oil value chain.

Moving forward, we will continue to work closely together with Beverley, and our valued members and stakeholders to implement the requirements of the 2018 RSPO P&C, and actively implement the shared sustainability requirements and obligations to achieve our vision and goals. We also expect to see our members throughout the supply chain to work together to increase the uptake of CSPO. We are leading the way, and as we go along, we will continue to review and improve the SR requirements and mechanisms.

ABOUT RSPO



RSPO is a non-profit, multi-stakeholder organisation with the objective to promote the growth and use of sustainable palm oil products. It involves engaging all stakeholders across different sectors of the palm oil industry, throughout the supply chain, including oil palm growers, processors and traders, consumer goods manufacturers, retailers, banks/investors, and environmental and social non-governmental organisations (NGOs), to cooperate and implement credible global standards into practice.

17th Annual Roundtable Conference on Sustainable Palm Oil (RT17)

From 4 to 6 November 2019, we held our RT17 in conjunction with our 16th Annual General Assembly (GA16) at the Bangkok Marriott Marquis Queen's Park, Thailand. GA16 was attended by 160 Ordinary members, the RSPO Secretariat, and other affiliate members and observers. As a part of RT17, we also presented the 2019 RSPO Excellence Awards to our deserving members who have demonstrated exceptional efforts in their commitment to the production, promotion and/or procurement of sustainable palm oil.



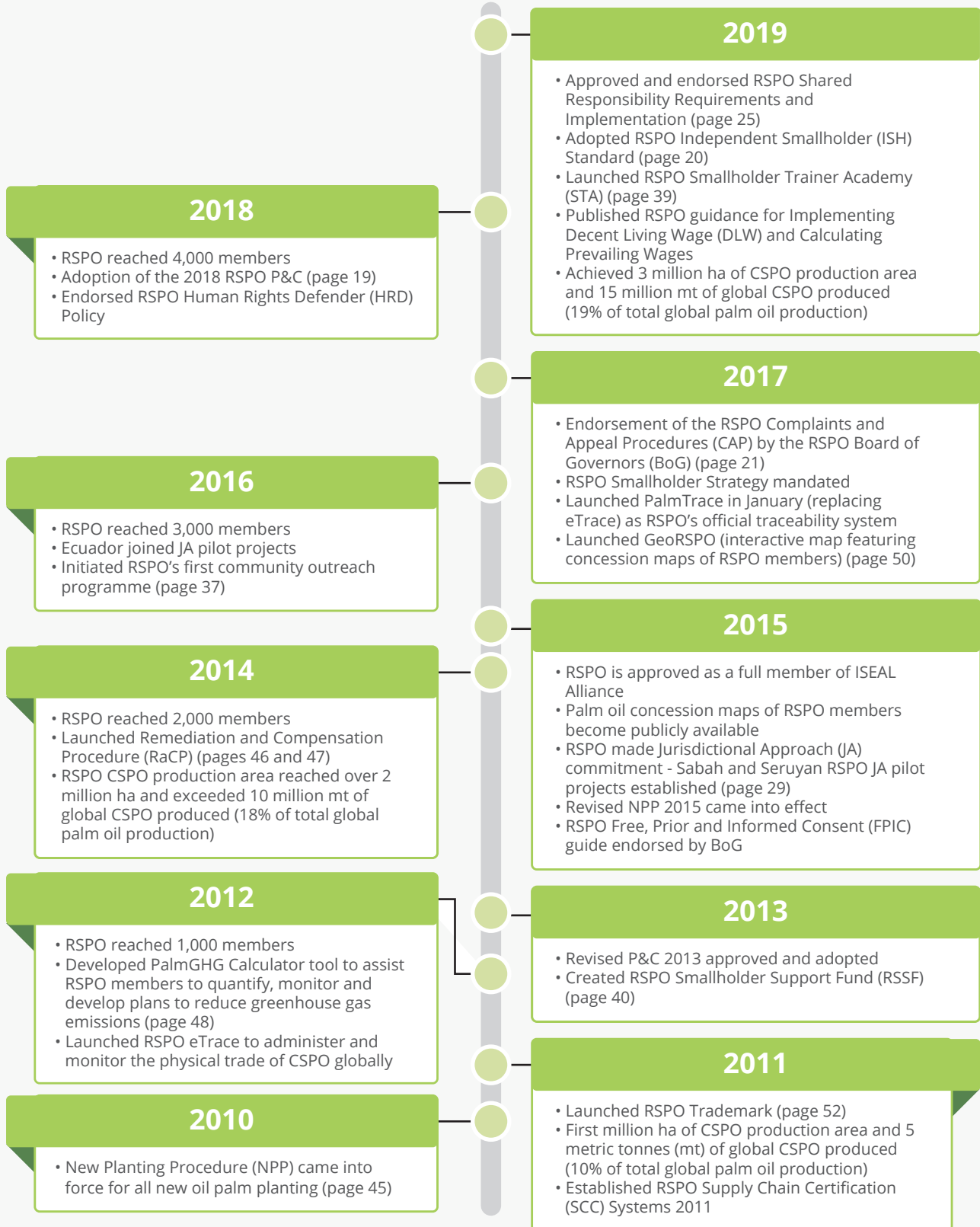
For more information on the 2019 RSPO Excellence Awards, please refer to our [webpage](#).



OUR JOURNEY THROUGH THE DECADE



RSPO Throughout the Years



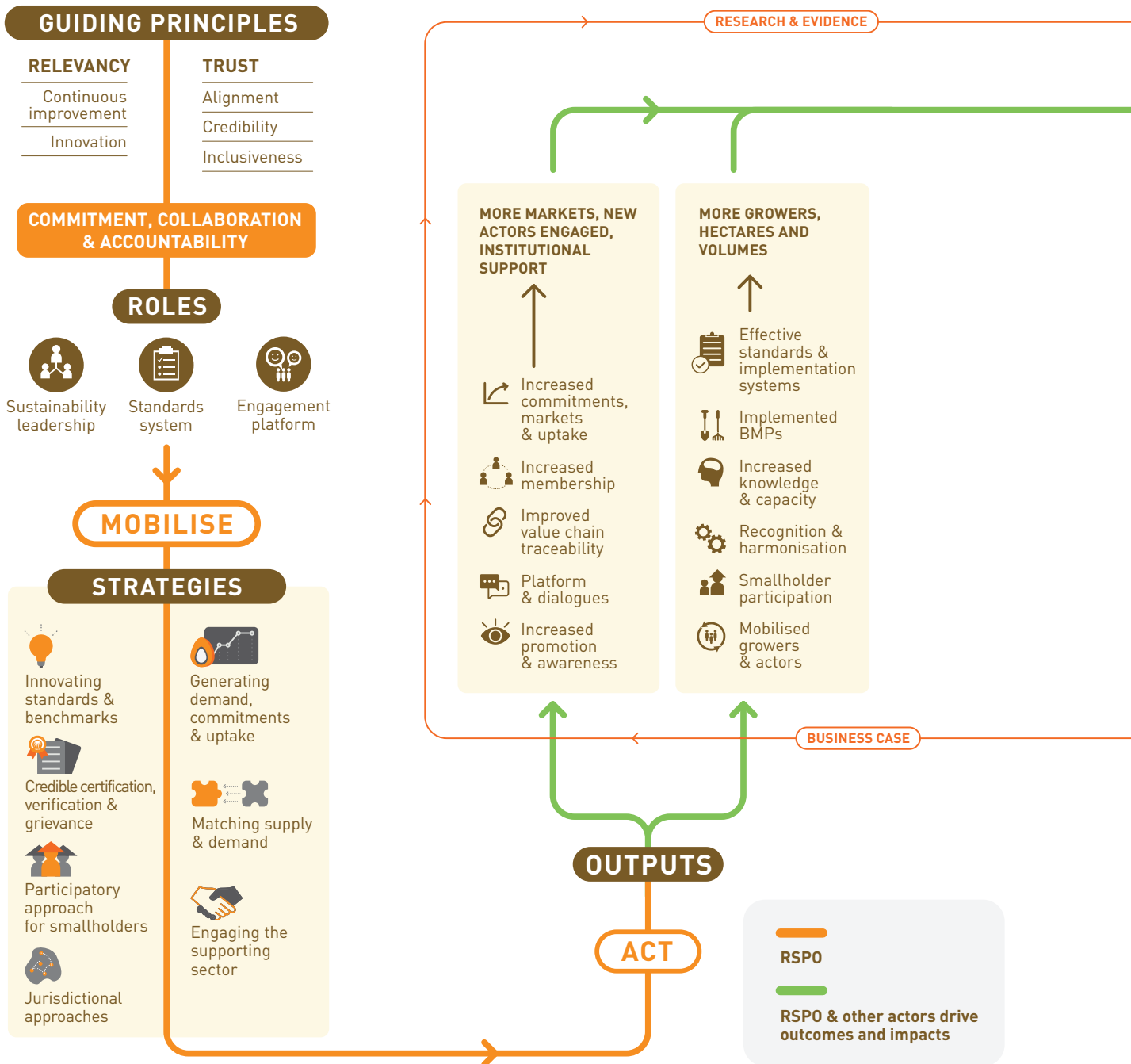
OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

RSPO Theory of Change (ToC)

Our Roadmap to Achieving Sustainable Palm Oil

The RSPO Theory of Change (ToC) is a roadmap that exhibits how we strive to achieve our vision of transforming markets to make sustainable palm oil the norm.

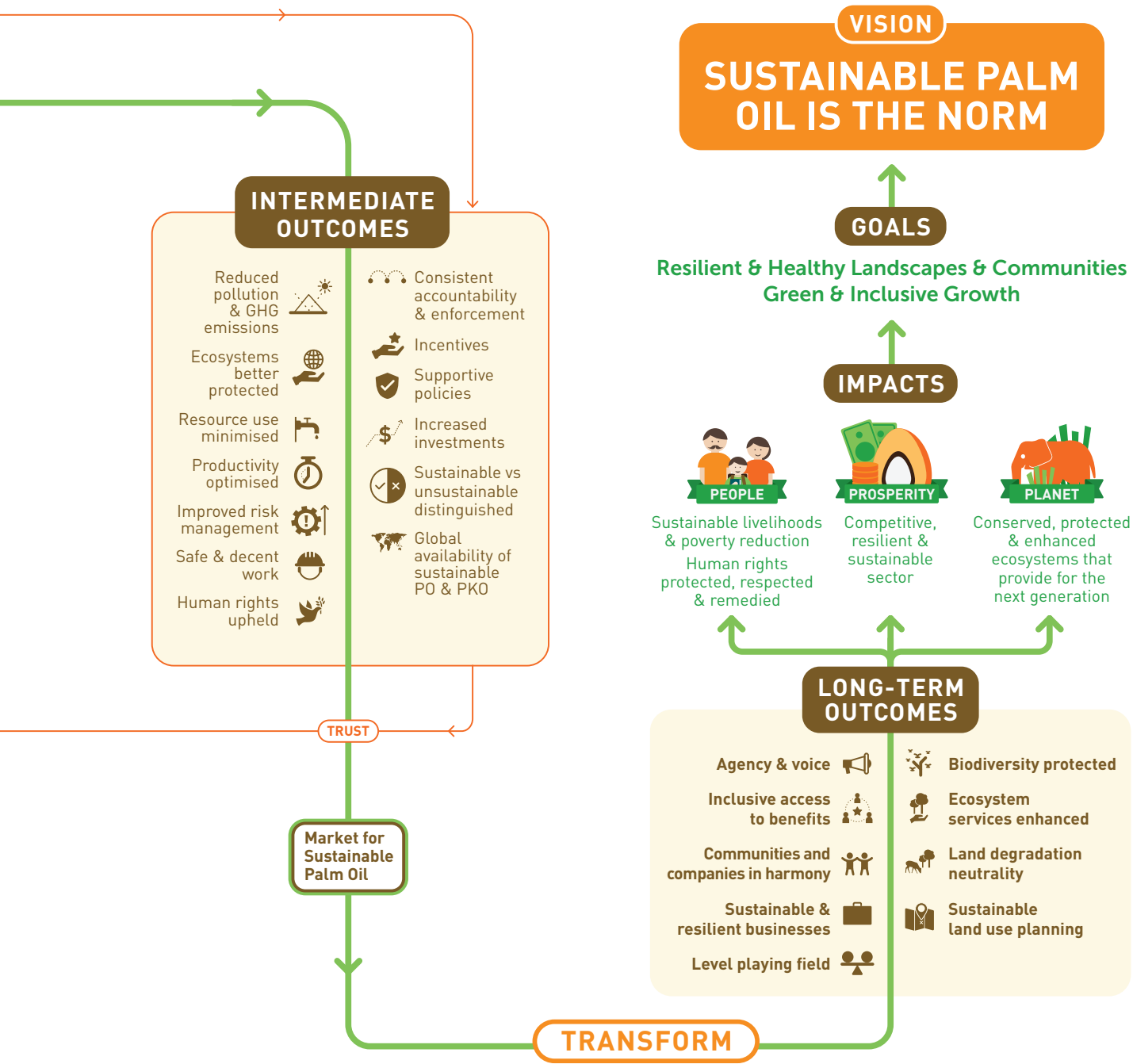
RSPO | Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil





More information on the RSPO ToC is available on our [webpage](#).

THEORY OF CHANGE RSPO'S ROADMAP FOR SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL



rspo.org

WORKING TOWARDS CHANGE

A summary of the highlights of our performance update as at 31 December 2019.

Our Strategies and Approach



Innovation in standards and benchmarks

- Working with stakeholders and other systems to define the principles, criteria and practices that make sustainable palm oil production happen.
[Read more about the 2018 RSPO P&C on page 19.](#)



Credible certification, verification and grievance

- Developing a framework of assurance that builds stakeholders' confidence and trust that sustainability requirements are met.
[Read more about the RSPO's Certification System on page 17-23.](#)



Participatory approach for smallholders

- Ensuring the inclusion of more smallholders in the RSPO system to produce sustainably and benefit from sustainable palm oil production and trade.
[Read more about smallholder inclusion on page 39.](#)



Jurisdictional approaches for collective impact

- Catalysing platform for collective impact.
[Read more about our jurisdictional approach to certification on page 27-30.](#)



Demand generation, commitments and uptake

- Furthering commitments and uptake of sustainable palm oil to incentivise sustainable production.
[Read more about our market outreach activities on page 52-58.](#)



Matching supply and demand

- Increasing and diversifying the supply base and market to ensure the long-term security demand and market access for growers.
[Read more about our market outreach activities and uptake on page 53-58.](#)



Engagement of supporting sector

- Creating an enabling environment through being a catalyst, advocate, and partner for policies and incentives, investment, regulation and enforcement.
[Read more about how we engage with market actors, government bodies and other key stakeholders to support progress on national commitments and uptake of CSPO on page 53-58.](#)

Outputs



Pg.14

Increased membership

4,577

registered members across 94 countries/territories as of 31 December 2019, recording an annual increase of

13%

since 2018.



Pg.52

Increased commitments, market and uptake

7,068,932

metric tonnes (mt) of CSPO taken up by the market from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019, with overall sales increased by

13%.



Effective standards and implementation systems

27

certification bodies (CBs) accredited to conduct RSPO certification audits.



Pg.15

Implemented BMPs

4,160,925

hectares of plantations across 17 countries are RSPO certified, a 9% increase compared to 2018.

There are 412 RSPO certified mills with the production volume of 15.19 million mt of CSPO and 3.38 million mt of CSPK.



Pg.53-58

Platform and dialogues

Find out more about the progress of country/region-specific commitments towards market uptake of CSPO.

Outcomes



Pg.48-49

Reduced pollution and GHG emissions

1.4 million

tCO₂e/year of carbon emission savings from avoided land clearance, peat avoidance and conservation area sequestration in new development by RSPO members.



Pg.47

Biodiversity protected

230,195

hectares of HCV area identified and managed by RSPO certified members within their certified concessions.



Pg.40

Inclusive access to benefits

The RSPO Smallholder Support Fund (RSSF) has provided financial support for 43 smallholder projects in 11 countries since November 2013, benefitting

28,542

individual smallholders.

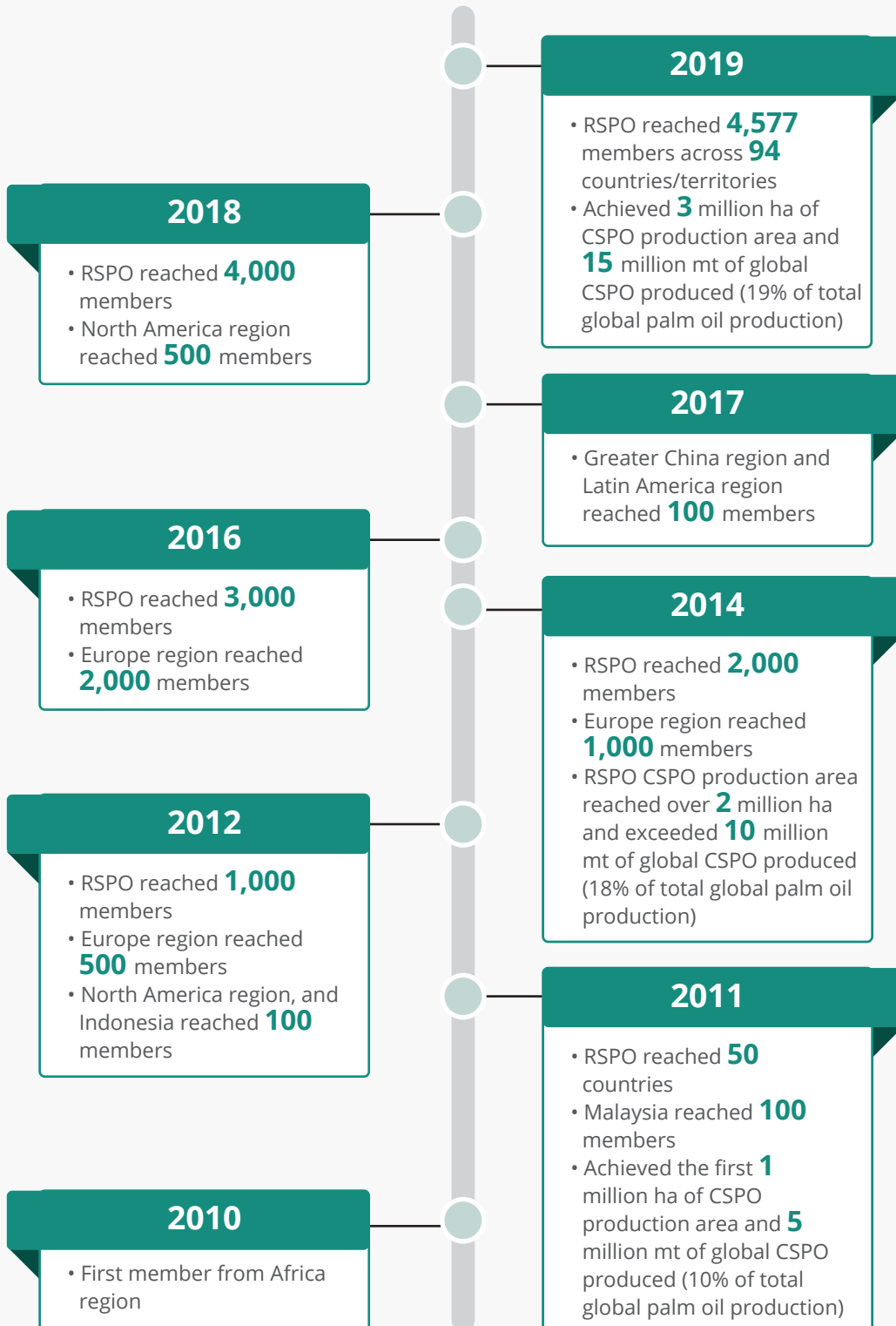
GROWING OUR MEMBERSHIP AND CERTIFICATION



RSPO MEMBERSHIP AND CERTIFICATION IN 2019



Key highlights from
2010 to 2019



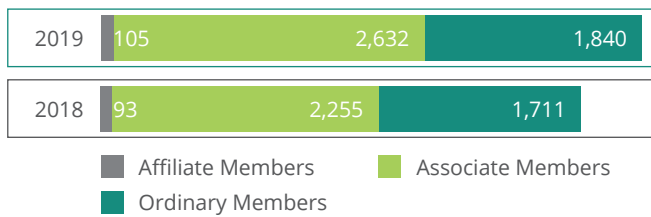
RSPO MEMBERSHIP IN 2019

The RSPO membership has been garnering positive growth on a yearly basis since the inauguration of RSPO. Looking back on the past decade, RSPO membership has grown by eightfold with just 558 members in 2010 to 4,577 as at 31 December 2019. We grew from 41 member countries/territories to 94 and we are committed to continuously working to support the growing number of members across the world.

Moving forward, RSPO will place efforts on enhancing the member’s portal, i.e. MyRSPO, to empower members in updating their profile and database effortlessly. We will also continue our efforts in building the capacity and knowledge of our members regarding the RSPO sustainability journey via the membership toolkit and short tutorial videos.

During the reporting year, we are proud to have achieved positive net growth in membership across all sectors, which has not been recorded since 2011. Below is our membership growth for this reporting period.

Our Membership



Top 13 Countries of RSPO Membership

(as at 31 December 2019)



Ordinary Membership



RSPO CERTIFICATION IN 2019

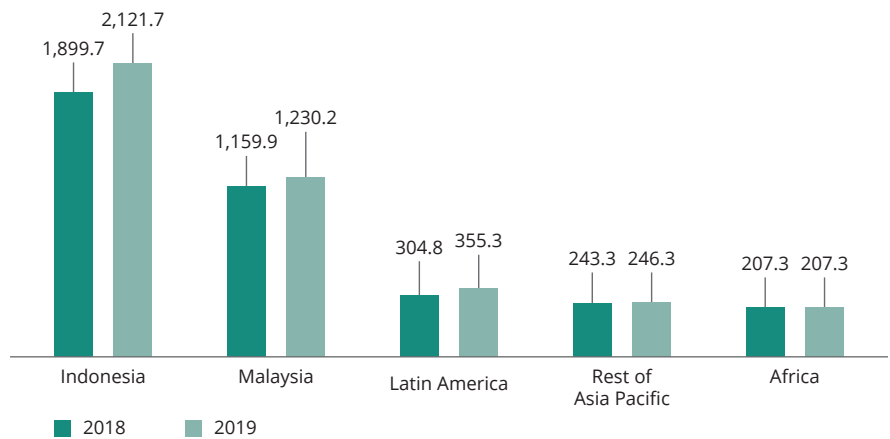
RSPO provides a global certification system for oil palm products to stipulate best practices and offer assurance to customers that the palm oil in the product has come from a sustainable plantation. To ensure a credible and transparent certification system, all RSPO members that physically produce or handle RSPO certified sustainable oil palm products will need to be certified through the following means:

<p>Oil palm growers</p> <p>Oil palm growers are certified through strict verification of compliance with the RSPO P&C.</p>	<p>Individual growers</p> <p>Individual growers who wish to certify their Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFB) against the 2018 RSPO P&C can do so under the Group Certification Scheme.</p>	<p>Independent Smallholder Groups</p> <p>Independent Smallholders shall comply with the RSPO Independent Smallholder (ISH) Standard with a transition period of one year from the date of adoption (6th November 2019).</p>	<p>Supply chain actors</p> <p>Supply chain actors that use RSPO certified sustainable oil palm products are audited against the RSPO Supply Chain Certification Standard (SCCS).</p>
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RSPO P&C certified area grew by over 9% year-on-year to 4,160,925 ha across 17 countries by the end of 2019. Both Indonesia and Malaysia remained the largest oil palm producing countries collectively, covering a total of 81% of RSPO's total certified area. In Latin America, the certified area has increased by 16% since the last reporting period.

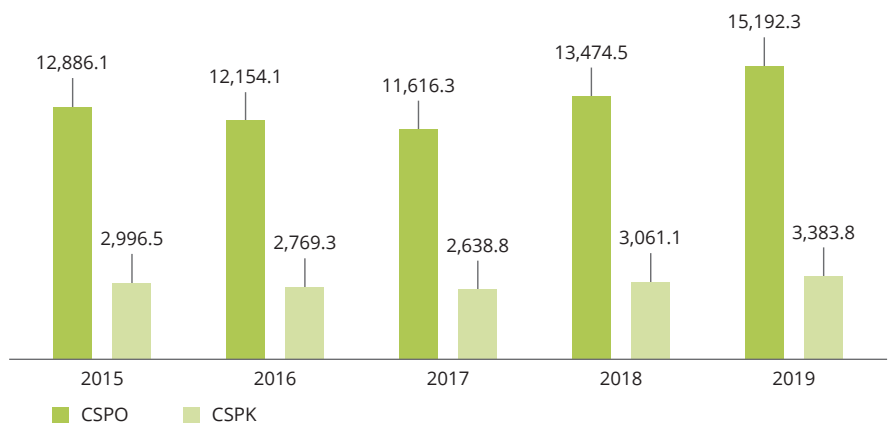
As at 31 December 2019, there were 412 certified palm oil mills with an annual certified production volume of 15,192,356 mt of Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO) and 3,383,788 mt of Certified Sustainable Palm Kernel (CSPK), reflecting a 13% and 11% year-on-year increase respectively. Total certified production area cultivated by RSPO members is recorded at 3,051,930 ha, which is a 9% increase from 2,807,377 ha in 2018.

RSPO Certified Area by Region ('000 ha)



Note: All figures are inclusive of certified area for smallholders certified under group certification. Certified area data are representative of the calendar year (1 January to 31 December).

Certified Volume of CSPO and CSPK ('000 mt)



Note: Data is based on the projected annual production of certified mills. All figures are cumulative of the calendar year (1 January to 31 December).

DELIVERING ASSURANCE AND CREDIBILITY





Key highlights from 2010 to 2019

2019

- Endorsement of the RSPO Governance Review by the RSPO BoG
- Formed the Assurance Standing Committee (ASC) (page 18)
- Kickstarted the revision of the RSPO Certification System for P&C and NPP document
- Endorsement of RSPO Dispute Settlement Facility (DSF) Framework Principles and the ToR
- Kickstarted the review of RSPO SCCS and SCC Systems document 2017

2018

- Adoption of the 2018 P&C
- Developed the new Complaints portal
- Established the Investigation and Monitoring Unit (IMU) (page 23)

2017

- Revised RSPO P&C
- Endorsement of the RSPO Complaints and Appeal Procedures (CAP) by the RSPO Board of Governors (BoG)
- Revised RSPO SCCS 2014 and SCC Systems 2014 for the second time

2016

- Reviewed RSPO P&C, RSPO SCCS 2014 and SCC Systems 2014

2015

- Revised the NPP document to align with P&C 2013
- Formed the Assurance Task Force (ATF)
- Introduced the Assessor Licensing Scheme (ALS) to strengthen High Conservation Value (HCV) Assessment

2014

- Divided SCC into two documents: RSPO Supply Chain Certification Standard (SCCS) 2014 and RSPO SCC Systems 2014
- Appointed Accreditation Services International (ASI) as sole accreditation body for RSPO

2013

- Reviewed RSPO Complaints System

2011

- Established RSPO Supply Chain Certification (SCC) Systems 2011

2010

- New Planting Procedure (NPP) came into force for all new oil palm planting

As a standard-setting body and a member of the International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling (ISEAL) Alliance, RSPO places continuous effort in moving towards our goal of being a trusted and credible assurance system. This fits our purpose of being transparent in driving the support and increasing the uptake of sustainable requirements, as well as to serve as a channel for system improvement and learning. We endeavour to achieve this goal through quality management of our assurance and oversight processes, alongside effective grievance mechanisms that provide fair resolutions. Additionally, improving our standards for consistency and effectiveness, while embracing the application of new verification methods to improve our assurance system. We also ensure that we continue to work closely with all our stakeholders through a robust and efficient operating structure made up of the RSPO BoG, Standing Committees, Working Groups, Sub-Groups and Task Forces.

Our efforts in the past decade in these approaches are demonstrated through various channels, including but not limited to the consistent reviews and improvements to our certification standards and systems, with the latest implementation of the 2018 RSPO P&C and review of the RSPO SCCS; setup of an Assurance Standing Committee to further elevate our assurance system (refer to page 18); continuous improvement to our complaints system throughout the years, which resulted in the establishment of the RSPO Complaints and Appeals Procedure (CAP) in 2017 (refer to page 21); and establishment of the RSPO Investigation and Monitoring Unit (IMU) (refer to page 23). To further maintain the integrity of our assurance system, we are

aware that consistent and transparent communication with our stakeholders is paramount. Therefore, we have also worked on the publication of all assurance-related documents on relevant web pages where they are updated periodically to remain relevant.

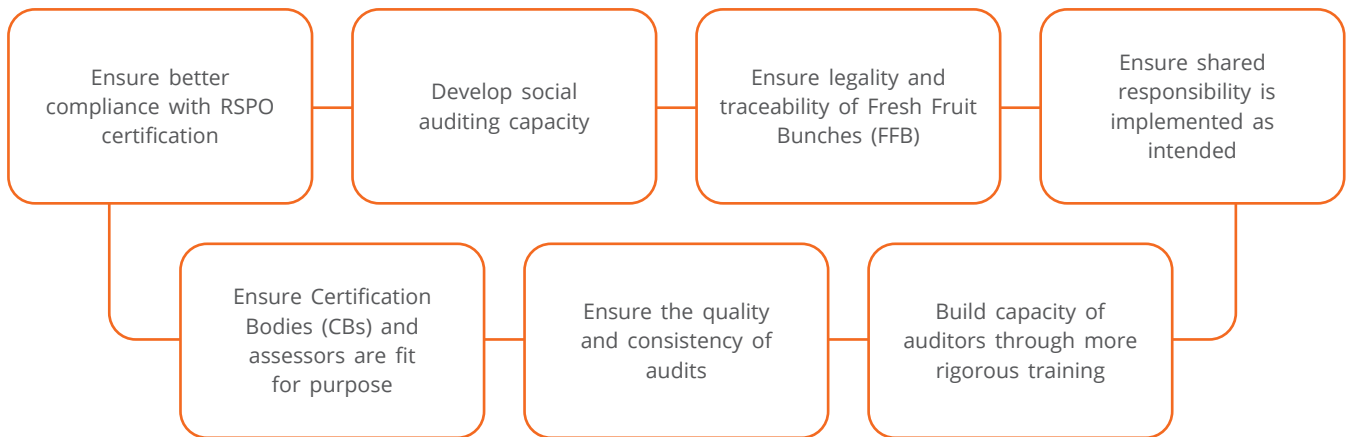
As we move into 2020, we will continue to work closely with all our stakeholders to move towards our goal of delivering quality and credible assurance that builds stakeholders' confidence and trust that sustainability requirements are met.

RSPO ASSURANCE STANDING COMMITTEE (ASC)

The Setup and Mandates

In 2015, RSPO passed a resolution that led to the formation of the Assurance Task Force (ATF). The ATF is in place to identify all necessary steps to ensure robust assessment, verification and certification against the RSPO standard. In 2019, RSPO made way for the ASC to provide direction in contributing to the credibility and accountability of the RSPO Assurance System, effectively replacing the RSPO ATF, which was then dissolved. The first physical meeting of the ASC was held in Bangkok in November 2019, in conjunction with the RSPO RT17. A new Assurance Integrity Unit (AIU) was also set up within the RSPO Secretariat to mobilise and assist the facilitation of the ASC.

In order to deliver credible certification, verification and grievance, we seek to achieve the following with the ASC:



Moving forward in 2020, RSPO's ASC will also utilise a risk-based approach in delivering a credible assurance system. The intention of the risk-based approach is to give the RSPO and auditors upfront information that could lead to focus oriented audits, possible reduction in man-days, and updated information at the unit of certification. All of these are fed from a series of data gathered by IMU and other technologies available. Among others, efforts will be placed to strengthen the requirements for auditors and to develop and update relevant guidance and system documents.



More information on the ASC, including the ToR and its responsibilities, can be found on our [webpage](#).

CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS AND STANDARDS

2018 Principles and Criteria (P&C)

Following the endorsement and implementation of the 2018 P&C, we have carried out roadshows globally in an effort to increase RSPO certification in 2019. The first ever CB-growers workshop was also conducted to align the understanding of the 2018 P&C by both parties. The P&C is adapted for further use by some countries through National Interpretations (NIs) as different countries may have different laws for the same criteria. We have started working on NIs for Nigeria, Gabon, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ecuador, Honduras, Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire since the endorsement of the 2018 P&C. As of 2019, NIs of the new 2018 P&C for Papua New Guinea and Solomon Island, Malaysia, Ghana, and India have been endorsed by the BoG.

For more information and highlights from the 2018 P&C, please refer to page 18 of our Impact Update 2019.



The 2018 P&C is also available for download from our [webpage](#).

Roadshows conducted globally in the following countries in 2019:

MALAYSIA

- Kuala Lumpur, Johor, Sabah and Sarawak

MADAGASCAR

- Toamasina

COLOMBIA

- Bogotá

HONDURAS

- San Pedro Sula

INDONESIA

- Jakarta, Palangkaraya and Medan

GHANA

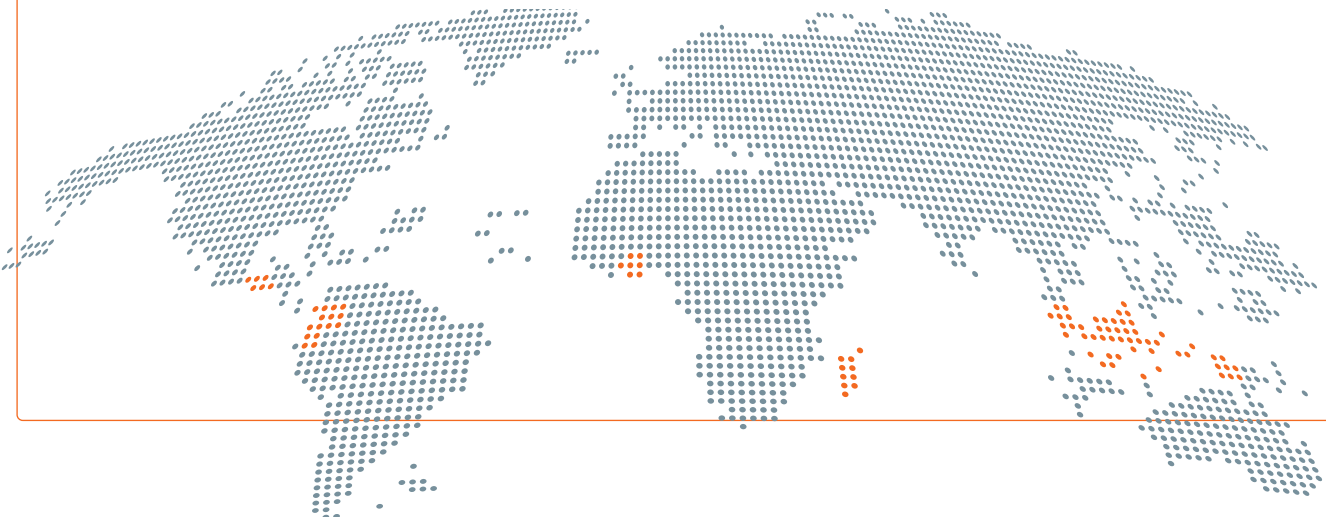
- Accra

ECUADOR

- Quito

GUATEMALA

- Ciudad de Guatemala



Supply Chain Certification Standard (SCCS) and Systems

In ensuring the traceability of the certified palm oil from the certified plantations and mill, all supply chain actors including independent mills are required to be certified under the RSPO Supply Chain Certification Standard (SCCS). With this certification, companies that have been successfully audited against the RSPO SCCS are able to claim the use of (or support of) RSPO certified sustainable oil palm products and employ the use of the RSPO Trademark on their product packaging.

Since 2010, the RSPO SCCS has undergone a series of revisions. In 2014, the SCCS documents were divided into two separate documents to address the requirements to certificate holders and certification bodies. Following the review and enforcement of the 2018 RSPO P&C, we also kickstarted the review of our SCCS and SCC Systems in 2019 with a public consultation for 60 days. The SCCS public consultation was held from 5 July 2019 to 4 September 2019 while the SCC Systems ran from 18 July 2019 to 17 September 2019. During this period, we conducted:



CBs Workshops:

Indonesia
(July 2019)

Bogota, Colombia
(September 2019)

Documents Revised for SCCS:

1. RSPO Supply Chain Certification Standard 2014 (Revised 2017)
2. RSPO Supply Chain Requirements in P&C 2018
3. Guidance Document for RSPO Supply Chain Certification of Food Service Company/Companies (single/multi-site/group certification) (2018)
4. RSPO Rules for Oleochemicals and its Derivatives (2016)

Document Revised for SCC Systems:

1. RSPO Supply Chain Certification Systems 2014 (Revised 2017)

Face-to-Face Consultations:

Netherlands
(20 August 2019)

Malaysia
(27 August 2019)

Indonesia
(29 August 2019)

Webinars:

15 August 2019 (in Spanish)

22 August 2019 (in English)



More information on our SCCS and SCC Systems can be found on our [webpage](#).

RSPO Independent Smallholder (ISH) Standard

During the revision process of the 2013 RSPO P&C, a new subgroup of the RSPO Review Task Force, called the Smallholder Interim Group (SHIG) was formed to provide recommendations to revise the approach to smallholder inclusion by simplifying the RSPO standard.

This led to the development of a separate standard, the RSPO Independent Smallholder (ISH) Standard, which responds to the needs of independent smallholders with a simplified approach to certification that better considers the diversity and incentives of smallholders globally.

The RSPO ISH Standard underwent a few rounds of public consultations and was adopted at the RSPO 16th General Assembly in November 2019.

To Whom Does the RSPO ISH Standard Apply?

- Total combined plots of an individual smallholder that are under oil palm production
- Total area belonging to the individual member that does not exceed the size threshold (50 hectares or as defined in the National Interpretation)
- Existing plots under oil palm production
- Plots that are allocated for replanting or new plantings of oil palm
- Plots that are, or may potentially, be allocated for new plantings of oil palm

How does the new Smallholder Standard propose to simplify certification?

- Easier entry into the RSPO system
- Phased approach to compliance
- Criteria are tailored to smallholder context
- Simplified assessment and verification
- Easier and quicker access to markets - RSPO Credits
- Group Certification System

In this reporting period, two (2) physical meetings of the SHIG with balanced representation from all stakeholder groups, and with several subgroups working in between the physical meetings, were held. Workshops were conducted across six (6) countries including Ghana, Honduras, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Colombia. Three (3) rounds of public consultations lasting 60 days each were carried out during which public consultations were also organised globally across all regions. Comments were received in seven (7) different languages through online surveys.



More information on our ISH Standard can be found on our [webpage](#).

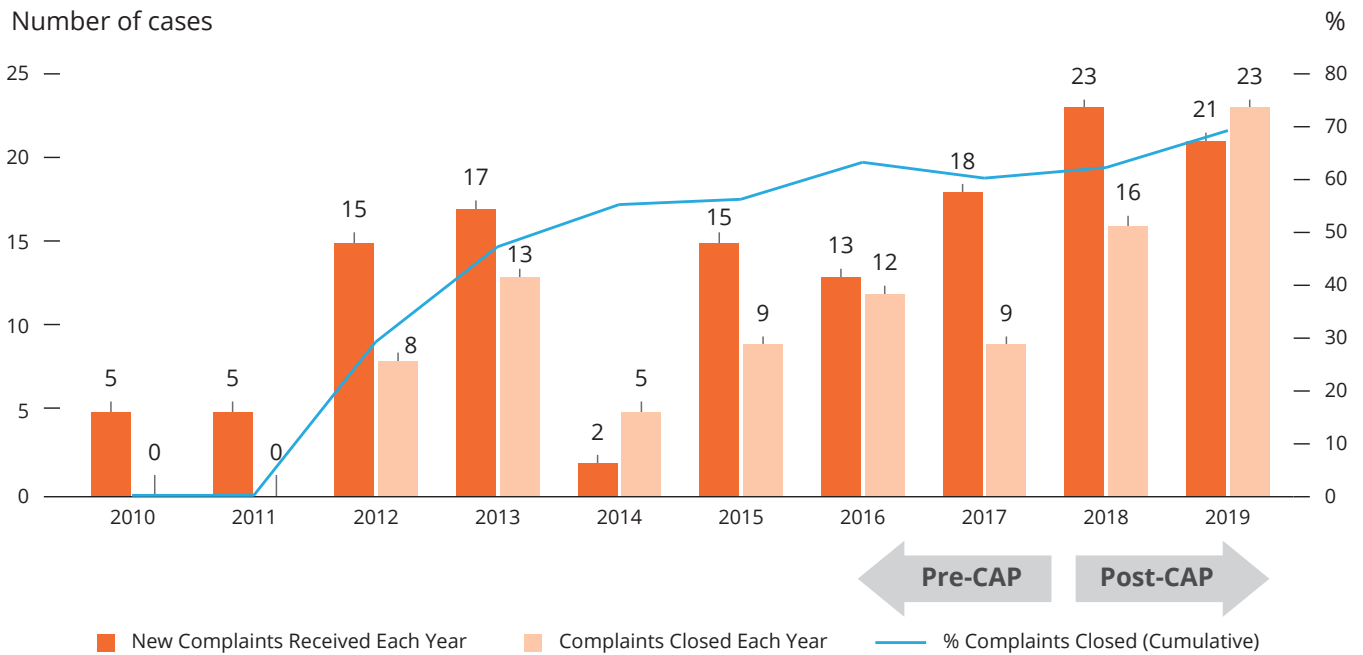
COMPLAINTS

Our Complaints System is an impartial and transparent process providing stakeholders with an avenue to address complaints against RSPO members. It provides a framework and mechanism for us to handle complaints. However, it is not a replacement for legal requirements and mechanisms that are in place.

Throughout the years, we have continuously worked on the improvement of our Complaints System. The key achievement of the past decade was the endorsement and implementation of our Complaints and Appeals Procedures (CAP) in 2017. Following the CAP, we have also developed a new Complaints portal ([webpage](#)), which is in line with the RSPO's efforts to improve our services and strengthen our credibility. The following are some of the improvements made to the Complaints portal:

- A new look for the case tracker, which includes a progress bar to monitor the progress of a complaint and the Complaints Reference number for transparency of process and clarity.
- The introduction of an online complaints submission process to improve accessibility and efficiency.

Complaints Cases by Year (2010-2019)



*Note: The recorded total number of complaints closed includes complaints that were filed in previous years.

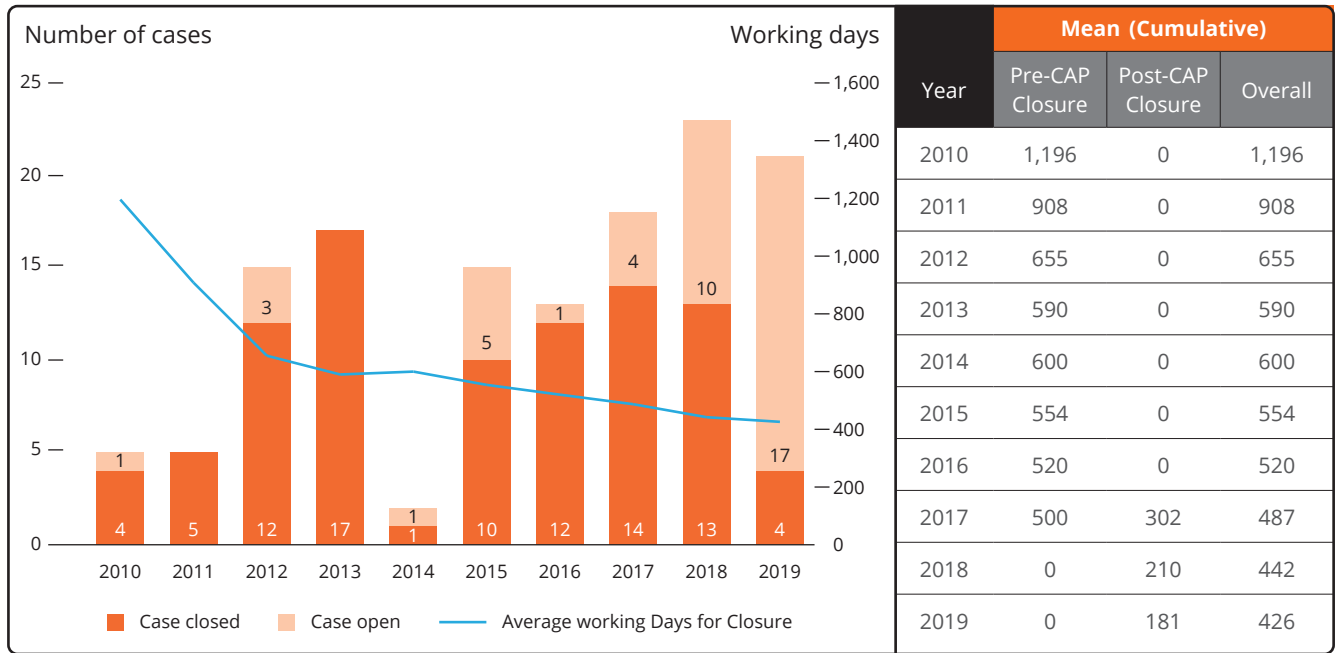
After the implementation of the CAP, the number of complaints closed each year increased by 78% from 2017 to 2018, and further increased by 44% from 2018 to 2019.

Across the years, it can be seen that the percentage of total complaints closed (cumulative from 2010 to 2019) has been improving year-on-year. In 2019, a significant improvement was observed whereby 69% of our total complaints received were closed, indicating further improvement on the closure of complaints.



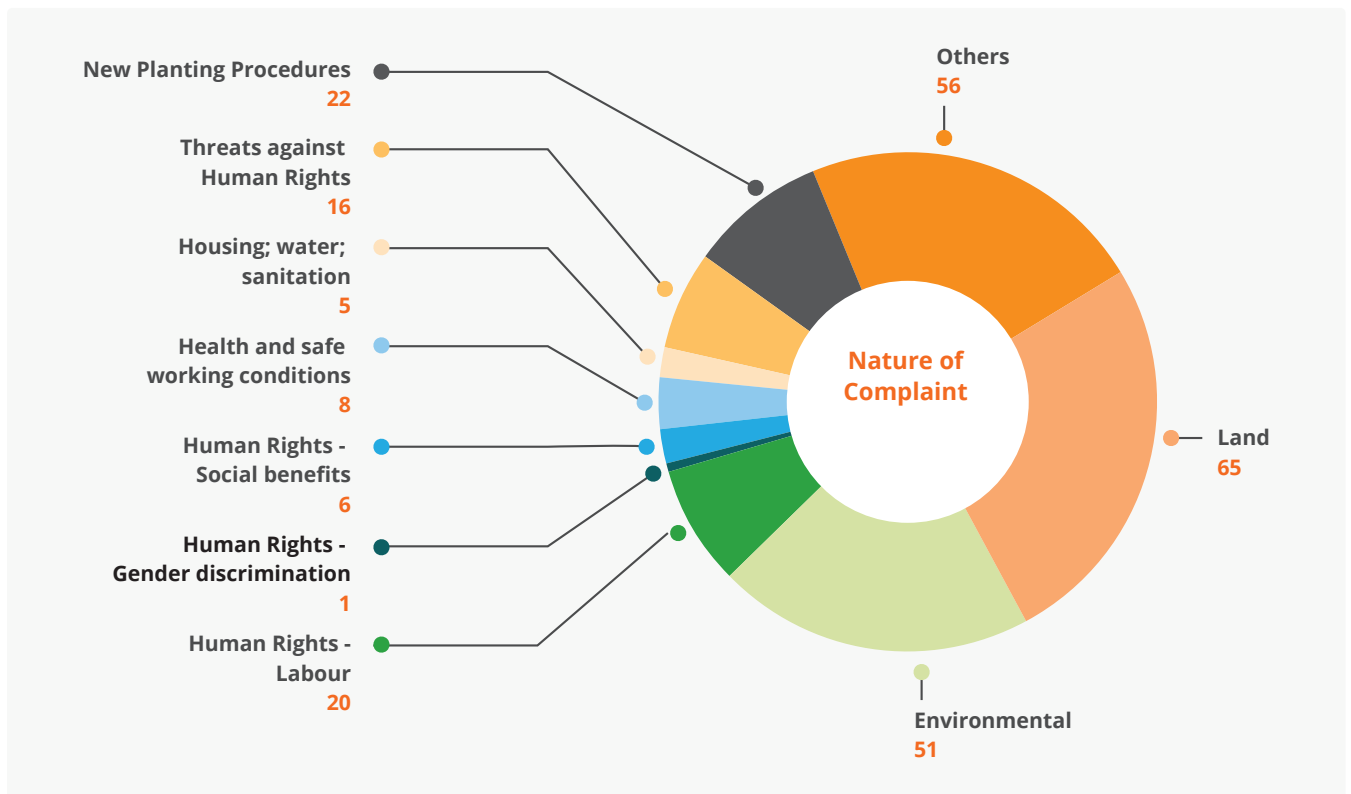
Photo credit: RSPO & Ernst Young

Average Work Days to Close Complaints and Open/Closed Cases by Year



Note: Average working days to close complaints and open/closed cases are clustered based on the date of case submission.

Average working days to close complaints have also reduced/improved significantly for new cases submitted since the implementation of the CAP as recorded in 2018 and 2019.



Quotes from the Complaints Panel (CP)



The Complaints Panel (CP) first started operations in 2010. Since then, the Panel has, particularly in the last few years, improved significantly in the efficiency of its operations. This is largely due to the work of the Secretariat in establishing standard SOPs in the way it operates and communicates with complainants and complainees, as well as the members of the CP. As a result, the new complaints are now dealt with far more efficiently and expeditiously. At the same time, credit must be given to our CP members. They devote a significant amount of time every month, not only at our monthly online meetings, but also between meetings, answering questions and commenting as required on questions posed by the Complaints Secretariat. We are lucky to have such a harmonious team.

HENRY BARLOW, Honorary Member



Since I joined the RSPO CP in 2013, a lot has changed. The adoption of the RSPO CAP in 2017 has enabled the Panel and the Secretariat to deal with cases in a more systematic and professional way, respecting clear timelines. Nevertheless, some things have also remained the same. An important aspect to me is the multi-stakeholder character of the panel. Each panel is usually composed of a combination of industry and NGO perspectives so the case can be seen from different perspectives and often also from various geographies. Even though the decisions are sometimes challenged, people can trust that each and every case will be seriously investigated and get the attention it deserves.

MARIEKE LEEGWATER, SNGO Solidaridad



In recent years, the Complaints process has seen vast improvements, resulting in a more effective system that can react to allegations of non-compliance with efficiency, rigour and transparency.

MICHELLE DESILETS, ENGO Orangutan Land Trust

RSPO INVESTIGATION AND MONITORING UNIT (IMU)

Our Investigation and Monitoring Unit (IMU) was established in July 2018 and reports to the RSPO Secretariat's Chief Operating Officer (COO). The IMU comprises of an Investigation Manager, a Risk Management and Monitoring Manager, and a Geographic Information System (GIS) Manager. The primary objective of the IMU is to conduct investigations and facilitate risk mitigation through close collaboration with other departments within the RSPO Secretariat and relevant stakeholders. The IMU works closely with the Complaints Unit for Post Complaints Monitoring to ensure the appropriate implementation of the CP's order and the Membership Unit to review the concession boundary submission for membership application and submission during the Annual Communication of Progress (ACOP). We also collaborate with other departments to monitor risks from public domain and investigation. To ensure our continued progress, a risk-based approach to investigation and monitoring is to be adopted given the dynamic nature of RSPO's assurance system, and as it more readily facilitates continual improvements in implementation and adherence to the RSPO principles and standards.

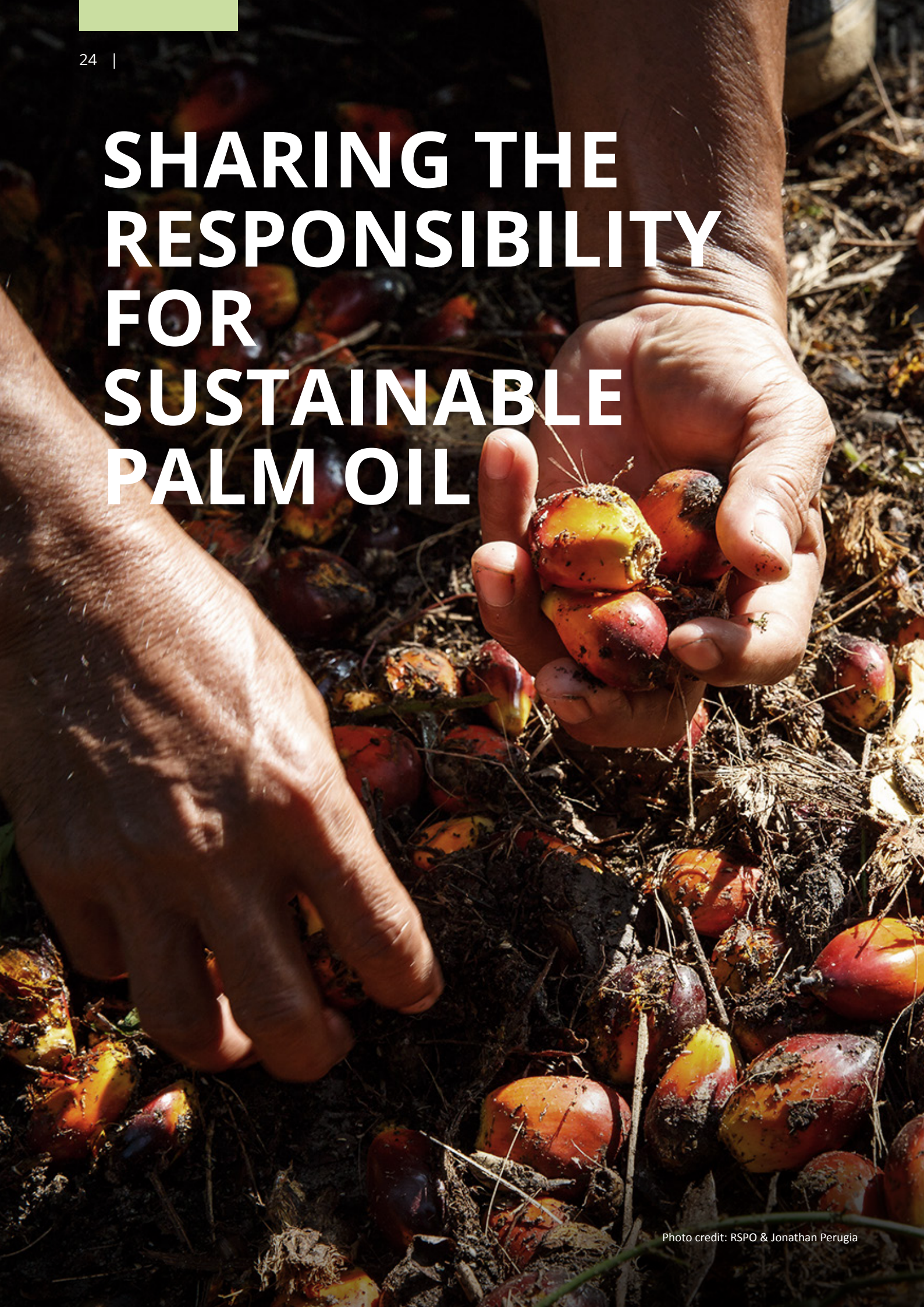
One of the key efforts to note is that the IMU has been actively monitoring, with satellite technology, all detected fire hotspots within both RSPO certified and non-certified concessions in Malaysia and Indonesia since 2018.

Refer to page 50 for further information on RSPO Hotspot Fire Monitoring.



Photo credit: RSPO & Ernst Young

SHARING THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL



KEY CONCEPTS UNDERLYING RSPO'S SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

COMMITMENT

All the actors commit to their contribution to transforming markets.

COLLABORATION

Recognise the need to work together and make that happen: transformation of markets cannot happen without collaboration.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Commitment and collaboration are to be fulfilled with a shared responsibility for impact. The expectation of partners and members is that they commit to participate and there is mutual and agreed accountability for results.

All RSPO members have a role in making sustainable palm oil the norm and this recognition is the underlying driver of the concept of 'Shared Responsibility (SR)'. The beginnings of the RSPO SR concept can be traced back to 2008 as a result of a resolution during the 5th General Assembly that calls for RSPO members to annually report their time-bound plan progress to produce, trade, process, purchase or use certified sustainable palm oil via their ACOP report. From then on, the concept of SR has evolved and improved based on two other resolutions (resolution 6m and 6d) in 2012. In 2018, the SR concept was once again revisited during the review of the 2018 RSPO P&C. The revision exercise eventually led to a call for an SR Task Force (SRTF) to be established to develop a set of indicators that are required to be implemented by RSPO non-producing ordinary members as aligned with the new RSPO P&C.

The SRTF was officially established in March 2019, completed its objectives in October 2019 and was formally retired in November 2019. In October 2019, the RSPO BoG approved the landmark rules calling for SR by endorsing a document produced by the SRTF known as the **RSPO Shared Responsibility Requirements and Implementation** ([webpage](#)). The final SRTF work was then promoted at the RSPO RT17 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Following the retirement of the SRTF, the BoG has proceeded with a recommendation from the SRTF to set up a working group to review the Year 1 implementation of SR and to continue to develop technical documentation to support the implementation of SR.



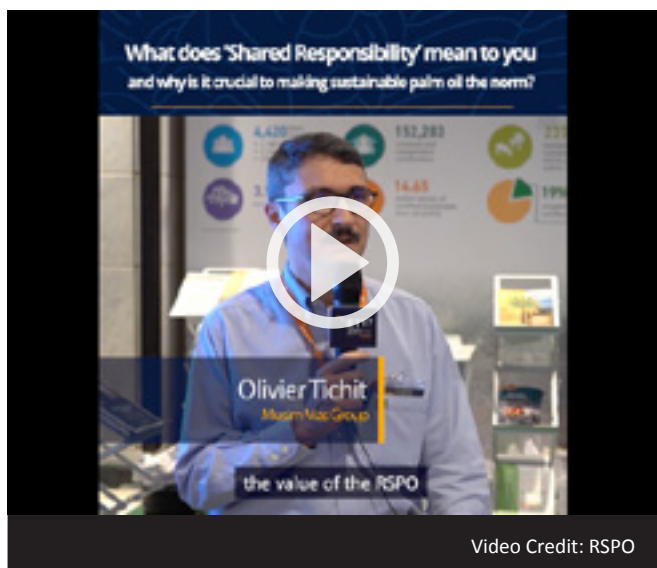
More information on the Shared Responsibility Working Group (SRWG) is available on the RSPO [webpage](#).

Highlights of SR in 2019:

- Our biggest highlight for SR is the final document of the RSPO Shared Responsibility Requirements and Implementation that was produced by the SRTF and endorsed by the BoG. The document sets out a list of indicators with themes from the 2018 RSPO P&C and the specific requirements for non-producer members. These indicators will then be incorporated into the respective existing RSPO standards and systems accordingly. Within the document, targets for our supply chain actors have also been set up in Year 1 and subsequent annual targets will be developed based on the data collected in Year 1.
- Our achievements with SR to date are due to the support and collaboration of all our members. RSPO members have made a bold commitment to step up their efforts through the implementation of the new SR rules. Mutually accountable, members throughout the supply chain will now work together to increase the uptake of CSPO.

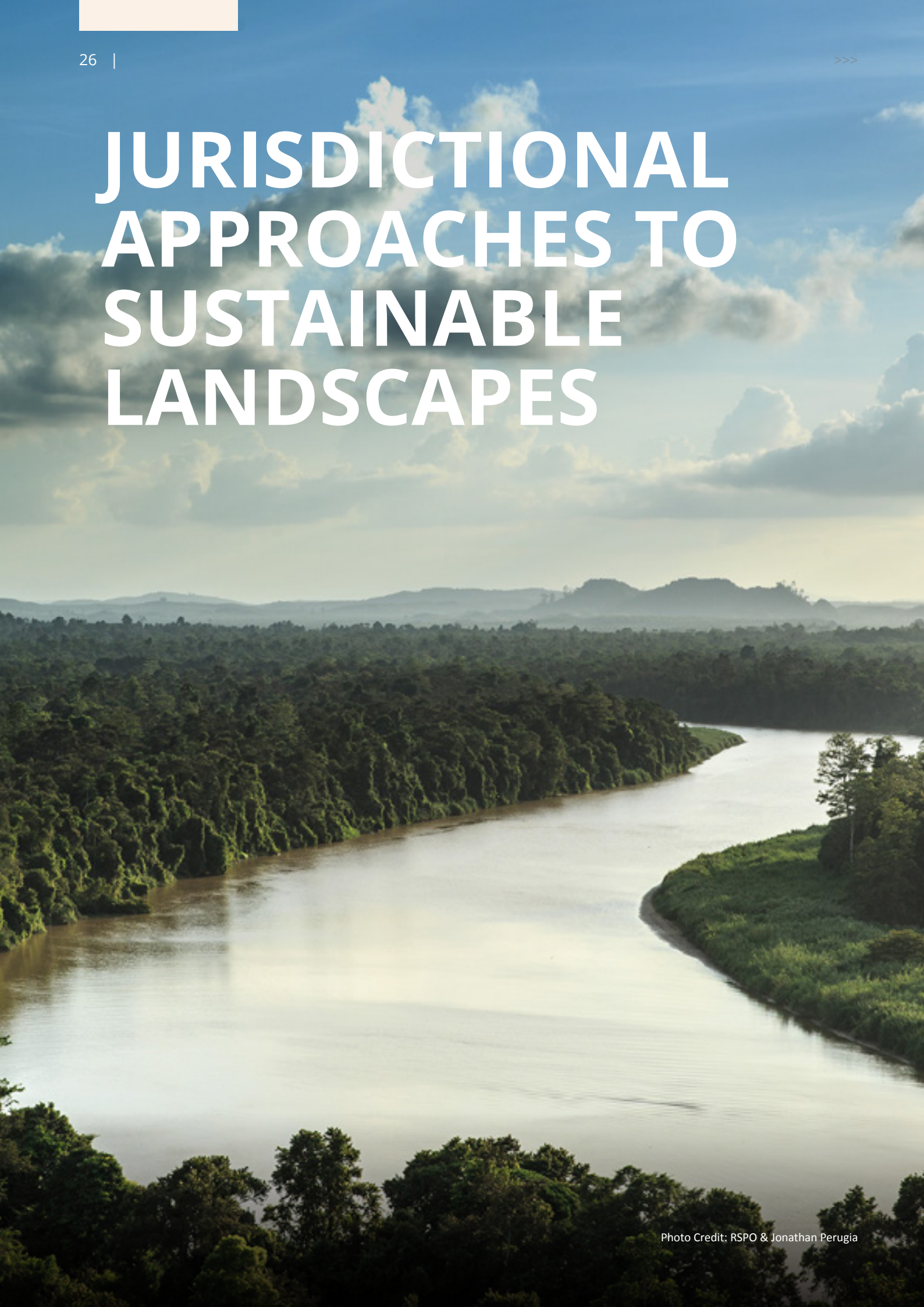
SR is an innovative way of driving uptake and there is no other framework available among Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS) for reference and we are taking the leadership role in this journey. As such, there will be continuous innovation and learning throughout the journey and we will work to review, revise and improve our SR requirements and mechanisms as we move along.

Since the implementation of SR in this reporting period, we will now be able to start collecting impact data and report this for each of our membership sectors. This enables us to further expand our impact delivery in the future, not just in promoting the production of sustainable palm oil, but also in increasing the uptake of sustainable palm oil.



Video Credit: RSPO

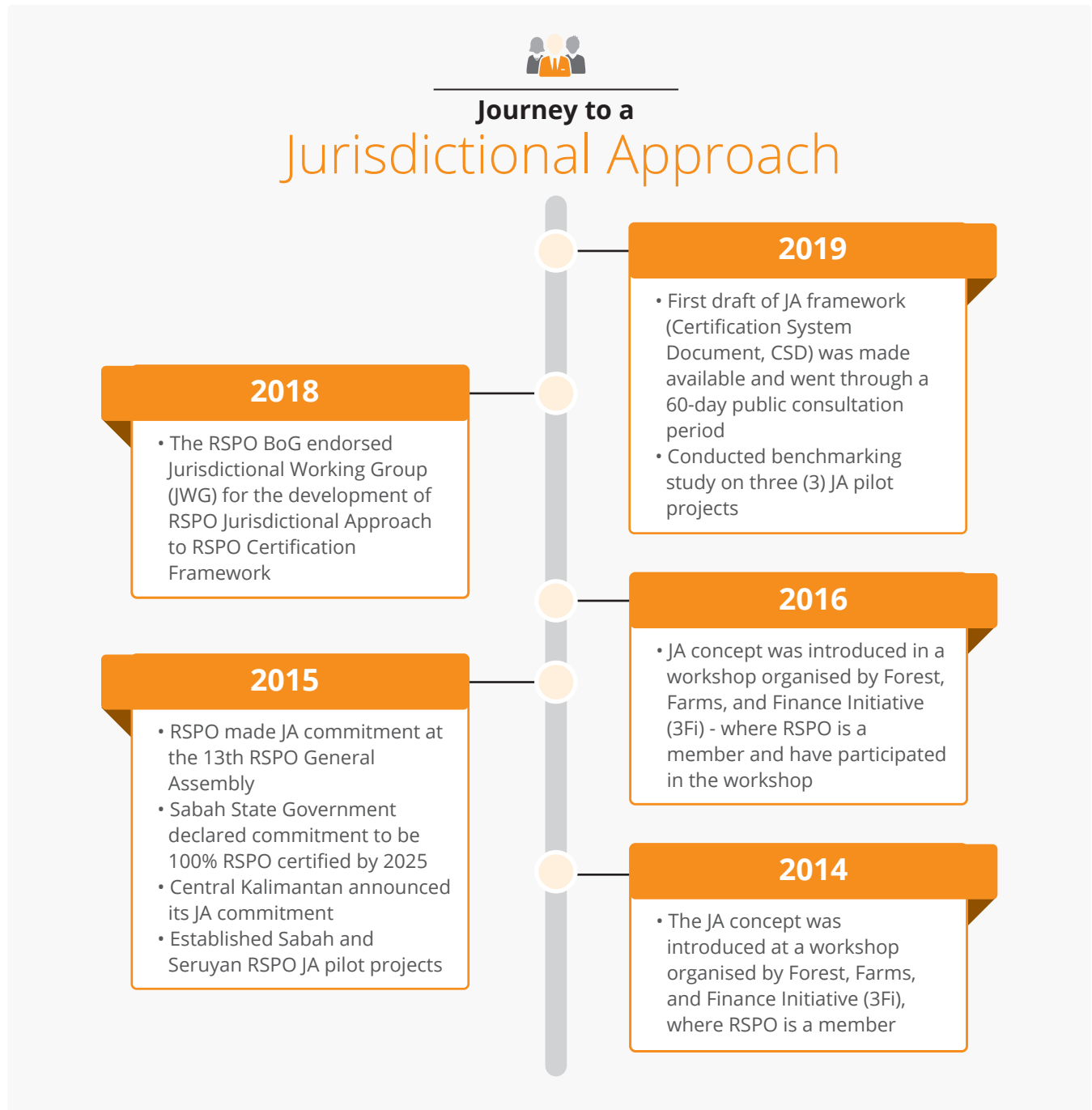
JURISDICTIONAL APPROACHES TO SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES



JOURNEY TO A JURISDICTIONAL APPROACH TO CERTIFICATION

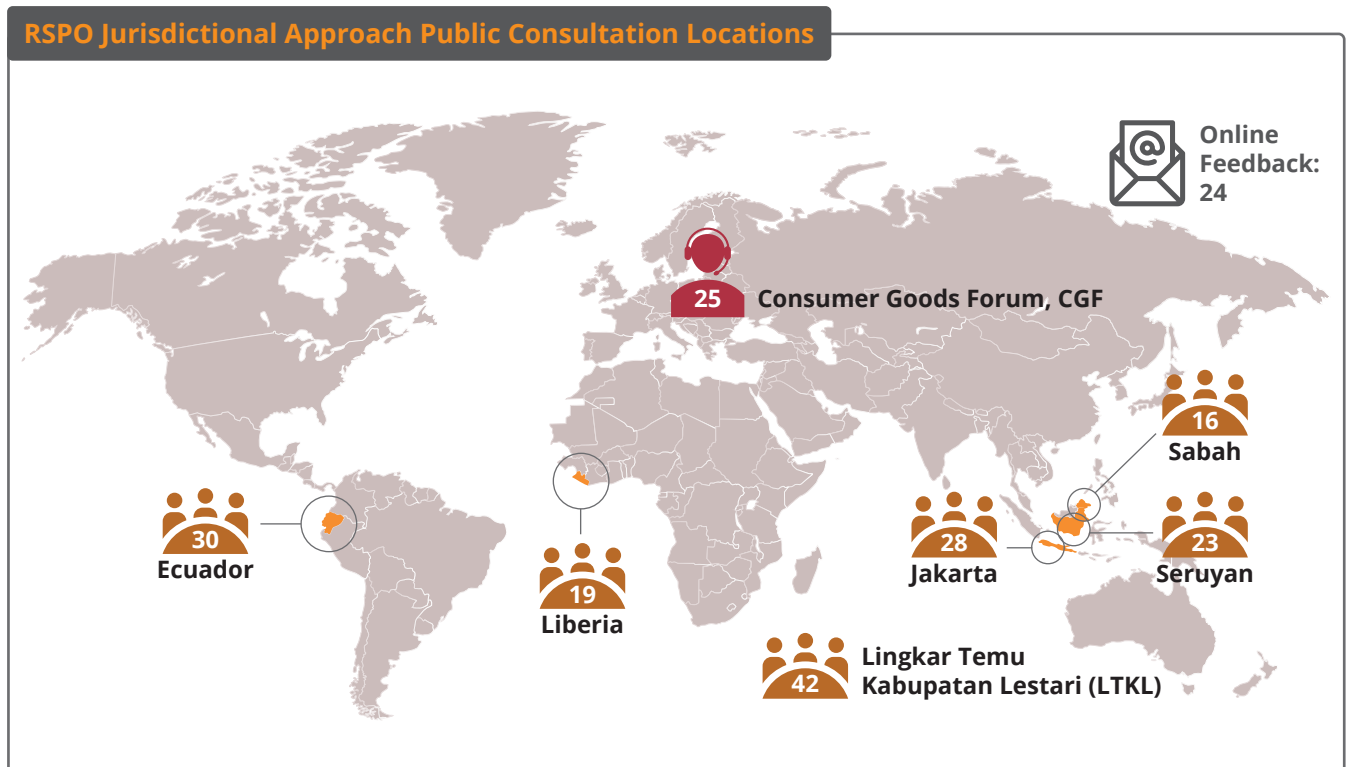
The Jurisdictional Approach (JA) aims to address environmental and social issues by strengthening stakeholders' engagement and ensuring the inclusion of all producers, focusing on smallholders, through committed government involvement, and creating a wider impact area than that of a single producer certification. Continuous effort is required to progress towards achieving: i) landscape level of no deforestation, no new planting on peat, ensuring safe and decent working conditions, and upholding of human rights, and ii) the certification of sustainable production and processing of oil palm products, managed and supported through a multi-stakeholder governed entity called the Jurisdictional Entity.

Below is a snapshot timeline of our journey with JA:

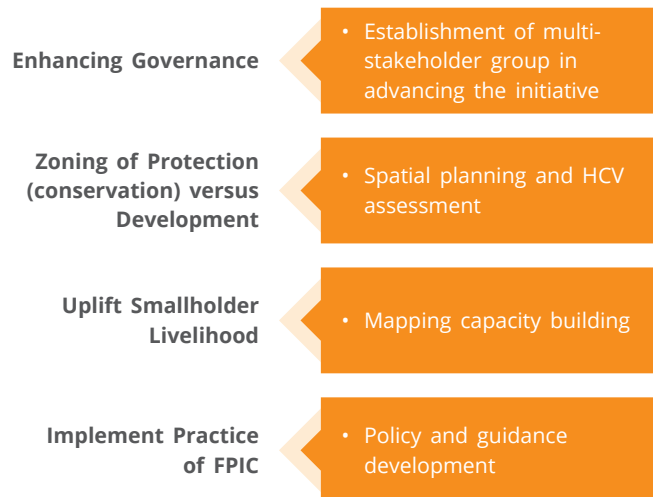


In 2019, significant progress has been made towards finalising the RSPO JA framework. Our key highlights and achievements with the first draft of the JA Certification System Document (CSD) framework include the following:

- Identification of requirements that can be upward delegated (conducted at the jurisdictional level), such as HCV 1, 2 and 3, and requirements that need to be done on the ground locally (management unit level), such as FPIC and HCV 4, 5 and 6.
- Introduction of a stepwise approach to certification in the JA framework
- Introduction of Jurisdictional Entity as the central facilitating body for the jurisdictional certification process.
- Conducted six (6) face-to-face consultations in Malaysia, Indonesia, Liberia and Ecuador. A total of 177 individuals, representing various stakeholder groups, participated in the public consultation to provide comments on the first draft of the framework.
- Conducted and received online feedback for the JA framework.



Over the years, various efforts and achievements have led to the jurisdictional level:



Our journey towards JA certification is not without its challenges, such as cost effectiveness, the assurance around assessment and auditing quality, practicality at a landscape level, and support of donors and buyers. Positive market signals are crucial in ensuring the efforts are worthwhile and should be expanded.

In progressing towards a more impactful JA, RSPO recognises the importance of stepping up on local and international-level collaborations to develop an enabling environment for effective implementation. The RSPO JWG will continue to place efforts in establishing and/or enhancing relevant infrastructures for Jurisdictional Approach for Certification.

JA PILOT STUDIES – SABAH (MALAYSIA), SERUYAN (INDONESIA) AND ECUADOR

In 2019, a benchmarking study was conducted to take stock on the progress and efforts in advancing the initiative and to learn from the challenges and opportunity to ensure the development of a more comprehensive and practical RSPO framework. Some of the key updates to our JA pilot projects are as follows:

Malaysia

On 21 October 2015, the Sabah State Cabinet approved a multi-stakeholder proposal to move Sabah to 100% RSPO CSPO production by 2025. The Implementation of the Year One Action Plan is almost completed. The WWF Living Landscape Programme (LLP) ([webpage](#)) targeting 60,000 ha of middle-sized holders within the Sugut and Tawau landscapes for certification by 2023 is at the initial stage. In this reporting period, we have carried out the advancement of the three (3) goals:

GOAL 1

To achieve no loss of High Conservation Value (HCV) and High Carbon Stock (HCS) forests for all oil palm producing landscapes in Sabah

Progress in 2019:

- Completed methodology review
- Write-up of report (ongoing)
- Conduct stakeholder consultation sessions when report and HCV maps are ready.

GOAL 2

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) to enable zero conflict in oil palm producing landscapes in Sabah

Progress in 2019:

- Completed field-testing of the FPIC Guide within the pilot areas
- Revision and finalisation of the FPIC Guide
- Identification of suitable department or ministry in Sabah to ‘house’ FPIC – the Ministry of Law and Native Affairs have agreed to co-convene on this matter.

GOAL 3

To strengthen smallholder sustainability and uplift livelihoods

Progress in 2019:

- Smallholder Certification Roadmap 2025 developed
- A collaboration with the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) and Wild Asia to increase independent smallholders’ capacity for sustainable farming practices and ultimately RSPO certification
- Ongoing finalisation of the Facilitated Land Application Process (FLAP) model developed to assist smallholders with land legality issues.

Indonesia

In 2015, one of the largest palm oil producing districts in Kalimantan Tengah, Seruyan, declared their commitment to jurisdictional certification of oil palm according to RSPO standards. Since then, 352 smallholders covering 619 ha have received RSPO certification, and consequently, the pilot districts have taken a stepwise approach to jurisdictional certification that emphasises the importance of independent smallholder farmers and to address ongoing challenges to achieve sustainable and inclusive palm oil development.

In 2019, the Seruyan district has:

- Built a multi-stakeholder board and a governance platform, and developed a strategy for implementing JA
- Piloted ecosystem restoration activity in one village
- Finalised an ecologically sustainable spatial plan (RTRWK) and environmental protection and management plan (RPPLH)
- Established an Agricultural Facility (AF) to provide agricultural inputs, training and eventually financial assistance to independent smallholders

Ecuador

The Ecuadorian Amazon has started its journey to becoming one of the first three regions worldwide to obtain RSPO certification under a jurisdictional approach. The successful creation of the Interinstitutional Steering Committee for Sustainable Oil Palm (CISPS) in 2017/2018, led to a committed Action Plan. The underlying agreement of the 10 principles covers human rights, labour rights, environment and sustainability covering zero deforestation by 2022 in the Amazon region, transparency, and the fight against corruption.

The Pro Amazonia UNDP project will end in 2022, with priority to complete the Amazon JA and consequently launch to the rest of the country. Engagements with local governments and the introduction of landscaping in their land-use planning will need to take place. Currently, we are advancing the implementation and monitoring of more than 80 activities within the Action Plan.

In 2019, we realised the importance of prioritising our strategies in order to achieve our goal to complete the jurisdictional certification. The following are some of the key plans that we have identified:

- HCA and HCS studies and compensation where necessary
- Align with environmental permits and land tenure titles
- Advise local governments (provincial and municipal levels) to include HCA and HCS vision in land planning
- Participate in the JA Working Group
- Adapt to FPIC requirements
- Work on a traceability scheme
- Strengthen local producer's associations and capacity building programmes
- Design an auditing system and a Jurisdictional Entity

IMPROVING SMALLHOLDER INCLUSION

JA is also a significant step towards working collaboratively to improve the livelihoods of small-scale farmers. Through the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Supporting Smallholders Towards Improved Livelihoods and Sustainable Production project was initiated to explore effective mechanisms to increase the capacity of smallholders to adopt agricultural practices that improve productivity while reducing negative environmental and social impacts, which can be implemented at landscape or jurisdictional level.

Upon the completion of the project by December 2019, a total of 1,902 smallholders benefited, which included 1,219 smallholders in Telupid, Tongod, Beluran and Kinabatangan districts (TTBK) of Sabah and 683 smallholders in Seruyan. Specifically, the project has successfully:

- Identified smallholder needs and established the relevant capacity building infrastructure
- Developed a roadmap for effective interventions for smallholders moving towards RSPO Jurisdictional Certification
- Established a government-led Agricultural Facility (AF) providing input, capacity building and supports on financial management
- Conducted knowledge exchange and Train the Trainer (ToT) programmes between and across Seruyan and Sabah.

The results and findings of the project helped shape the jurisdictional approach for certification initiatives in Sabah and Seruyan; and furthermore, the development of the RSPO JA for Certification system. The project also contributed to the overall RSPO Smallholder Strategy, and the implementation of the RSPO Smallholder Trainer Academy (STA). The design of the Agricultural Facility in Seruyan can be replicated in other regions and host further RSPO Train the Trainer programmes; the Facilitated Land Application Process methodology in Sabah can be replicated in areas with similar legal requirements; and the knowledge exchange programme can be extended to areas beyond the South East Asian region for wider knowledge sharing.



Photo credit: RSPO

IMPACT 2019

Our work does not stop at standard-setting, research and advocacy. We are committed to monitoring and reporting on our members' impacts across three (3) impact areas according to the RSPO ToC:



Impact Goal PEOPLE: Sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction

Offers insights on members' progress in raising the quality of life for both plantation workers and indigenous residents in the vicinity of oil palm operations.

Principle 4. **Respect community and human rights, and deliver benefits**

Principle 5. **Support smallholder inclusion**

Principle 6. **Respect workers' rights and conditions**



Impact Goal PLANET: Conserved, protected and enhanced ecosystems that provide for the next generation

Demonstrates growers' sensitivity to both landscape and species conservation, as well as the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity for the next generation.

Principle 7. **Protect, conserve and enhance ecosystems and the environment**



Impact Goal PROSPERITY: Competitive, resilient and sustainable sector

Identify active steps taken to optimise productivity, efficiency and resilience of sustainable palm oil production and distribution.

Principle 1. **Behave ethically and transparently**

Principle 2. **Operate legally and respect rights**

Principle 3. **Optimise productivity, efficiency, positive impacts and resilience**

OUR IMPACT





IMPACT FOR PEOPLE









Sustainable palm oil production can only be achieved with equal opportunities extending to all individuals engaged in palm oil production. Our commitments are not solely to improve the livelihoods of oil palm smallholders and plantation workers, but also their family members and the wider local and indigenous communities impacted by the production of palm oil. The RSPO's effort to support people aims to contribute to sustainable livelihoods and human rights as aligned with United Nations Declaration of Human Rights the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

Over the decade, we have continuously heightened our efforts to demonstrate our commitments and our impact as we continue to identify ways to further assess, monitor and improve our approach. We thrive to strengthen the foundations of sustainable palm oil worldwide, providing insights, knowledge and expertise that our stakeholders can trust. Every person engaged in palm oil production should have access to equal opportunities to fulfil their potential in work and community with dignity and equality, under a healthy working and living environment.

One of the key approaches that we have in place is through the RSPO P&C where improvements have been made to strengthen social development across the sustainable palm oil value chain. Our latest 2018 P&C saw further strengthening of social elements as well as human and labour rights whereby topics such as Decent Living Wage (DLW), and gender inclusivity, as well as additional indicators to ensure food security, and comprehensive protection of local communities and indigenous peoples' wellbeing, through stronger Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) requirements, were strengthened.

Aside from this, we have also continuously worked to improve our engagement and support for oil palm smallholders. Our efforts can be reflected through the development and endorsement of a new standard for independent smallholders, as well as various outreach and training initiatives for smallholders.

Some of the tools, guidelines and initiatives that we have developed across the years to assist our members with the implementation and compliance with our standards, and to support greater inclusion of oil palm smallholders, are as follows:

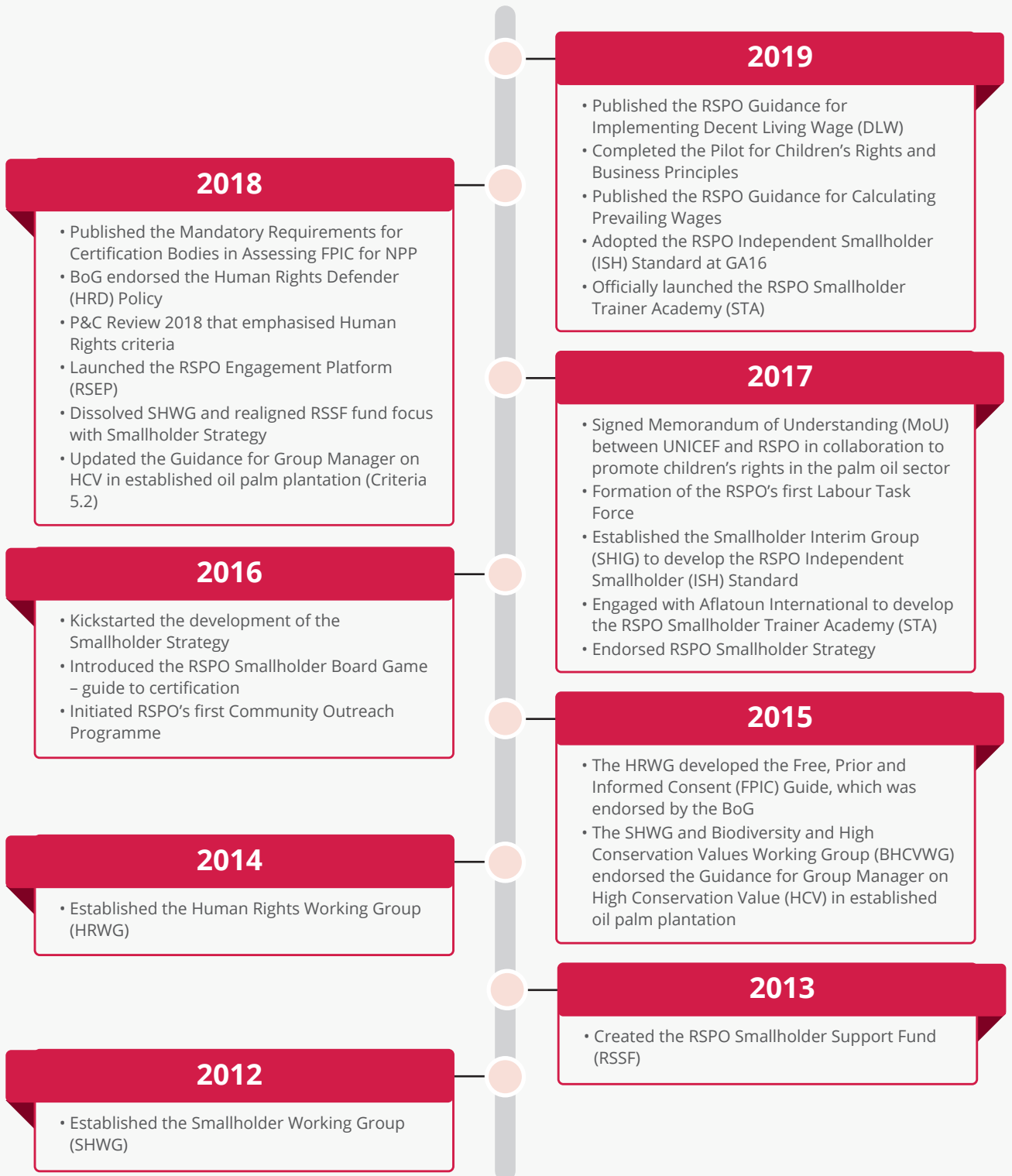
 <p>Community Outreach Programme (refer to page 37-38)</p>	 <p>Decent Living Wage (DLW) guidance document webpage</p>	 <p>Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) guide webpage</p>	 <p>Human Rights Defender (HRD) Policy webpage</p>
 <p>RSPO Smallholder Strategy (refer to page 39)</p>	 <p>RSPO Independent Smallholder (ISH) Standard (refer to page 20)</p>	 <p>RSPO Smallholder Trainer Academy (STA) (refer to page 39)</p>	 <p>RSPO Smallholder Support Fund (RSSF) (refer to page 40)</p>

[Note: For more information and updates on the above, please refer to its respective pages or click on the icons to be directed to the respective webpages]

Moving into 2020 and beyond, we will continuously review our policies and procedures to enable inclusive access to benefits and create harmony between communities and the organisations.



Key highlights from 2010 to 2019



SUMMARY OF IMPACT

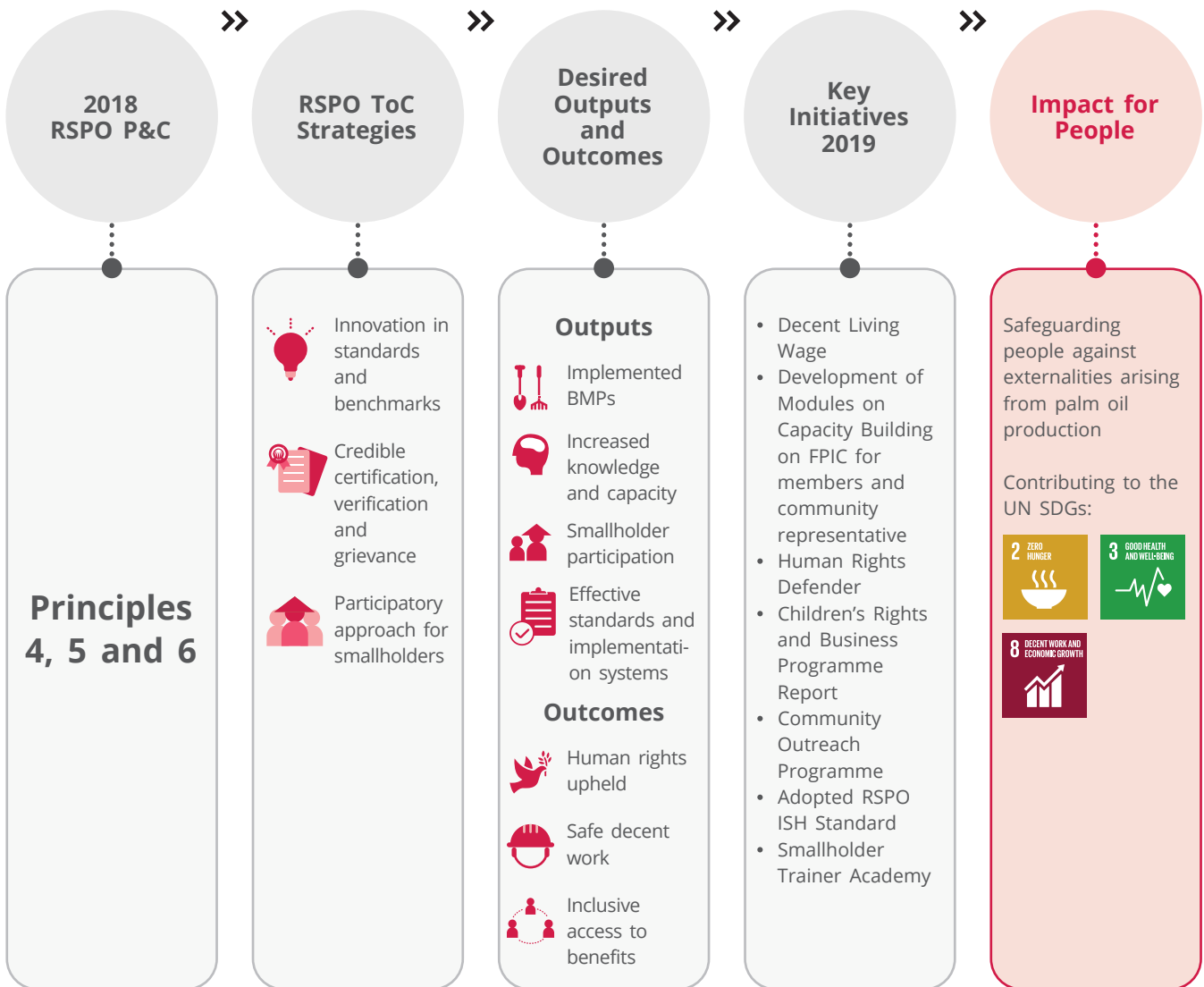


Photo credit: RSPO & Jonathan Perugia

WORKERS' RIGHTS AND CONDITIONS

Protecting workers' rights and ensuring safe and decent working conditions remains one of the key priorities for RSPO.

Ulula - Worker Voice Technology

Ulula is a mobile-based communication solution to engage directly with workers for continuous monitoring and improving working conditions. In 2018, RSPO partnered with Ulula to pilot the tool during an independent field verification related to a complaints case in North Sumatra. Through this effort, RSPO saw the potential to further collaborate with Ulula. In 2019, RSPO then collaborated with Ulula and Wilmar International Limited (Wilmar) to initiate a pilot programme that was aimed at testing the applicability of the Worker Voice tool to assist with risk monitoring of working condition and labour issues, and to develop a more standardised set of worker engagement tool in support of labour management practices and RSPO's verification process. The programme was launched in Lahad Datu, Sabah, within the certified units of Wilmar.

Since its launch in 2019, a series of outreach and promotional activities have been conducted with the support from Wilmar, resulting in wide-reaching participation. After the programme, it was found that workers utilised the Feedback Line to provide their feedback to their management. Mixed categories of feedback were issued by workers, including positive feedback about leadership portrayed by their immediate superiors. Through the usage of the feedback line, high risk issues were identified, which after further investigations, could lead to effective impactful corrective actions. The initial reaction has been very positive, as the platform is easy to use, and trust built on anonymity of the platform.

Based on the lessons learned from the first pilot, we are extending our collaboration with Wilmar to further investigate the tool's applicability. In 2020, we are also collaborating with downstream players, such as Cargill and PepsiCo, in other oil palm growing regions to investigate regional tool applicability and the roles of downstream players in tool application.



Photo Credit: RSPO

Story from the ground

Wilmar International Limited

Wilmar International Limited (Wilmar) actively participates in various partnerships, collaborative endeavour and multi-stakeholder platforms to promote, respect and provide support for human and labour rights. Through their sustainability commitments, they carried out a comprehensive company-wide programme covering a wide range of human rights and labour initiatives, including efforts to promote women's rights, safeguarding the rights of children in oil palm plantations, and improving workers' rights and welfare.

In 2019, Wilmar, alongside major companies such as Colgate-Palmolive, Nestlé, Procter & Gamble and PepsiCo, among others, collaborated with Business for Social Responsibility (BSR) to drive a programme to protect the rights of children living in oil palm plantations. The programme, which will be running till the end of 2020, has published a manual on Child Protection and Safeguarding Implementation in December 2019.



Photo Credit: Wilmar



We have a deep understanding and appreciation that prioritising our employees is critical to a responsible and sustainable business. There are over 12,000 children who live in our plantations with their parents, and it is important to us that they are provided with the safeguards and protection of their rights to education and a secure childhood. We believe that thriving children equals thriving families, and this in turn creates a stable and healthy environment for our employees.

JEREMY GOON, Chief Sustainability Officer of Wilmar International

FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) has been endorsed by RSPO as a key principle in our 2018 P&C. The principle that best practice goes beyond the minimum requirements of national laws is central to RSPO. It guides the way companies engage with local communities (including indigenous peoples), provide information, carry out impact assessments, acquire land, handle payments and benefits, resolve conflicts, and pay compensation. Communities have the right to refuse and say “no” and can carry out negotiations on the terms where they can decide on a proposed development on their lands.

To help members and impacted communities to understand this concept and its implementation, the RSPO had undertaken the development of training modules in 2019 to equip members and representatives of members of the communities affected by RSPO members’ operations. The modules were endorsed by the Human Rights Working Group (HRWG). Three workshops to pilot the use of the modules were organised in 2019, which were attended by RSPO members, community representatives, NGOs and other stakeholder groups.



Workshops conducted in 2019:

Bogota, Colombia
(25-27 June 2019)
49 participants

Monrovia, Liberia
(16-18 July 2019)
41 participants

Medan, Indonesia
(15-17 October 2019)
71 participants

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

The Community Outreach Programme aims to contribute to the achievement of RSPO’s mission and vision based on the ToC, particularly by engaging the supporting sector in creating more platforms and dialogues. Our approach in engaging with Intermediary Organisations (IMO) helps RSPO to connect with stakeholders that are under the radar, to facilitate better collaboration between both parties.

In 2014, RSPO commissioned an assessment of RSPO’s status on its capacity to engage with communities that are impacted by palm oil development and requested for a plan on how RSPO can enhance its community outreach. Two years later, RSPO initiated its first Community Outreach Programme; the pilot was operated from Indonesia as an implementation phase. The Community Outreach Programme for Malaysia and Africa commenced in 2018.

The success of these programmes in palm oil producing regions is attributed to RSPO’s continuous commitment to improve the capacity and knowledge of civil society on sustainable palm oil. It also upheld inclusivity by improving the opportunity for grassroots stakeholders to access our system.

Working to improve the knowledge and capacity of communities is a long and continuous process as every location has its own characteristics, where different audience groups may also require different approaches. We need to ensure that the concept or materials produced by the programme are replicable and can be adopted by other civil society organisations to help them promote sustainable palm oil. We have learned that there are limited options for organisations that can be engaged as an IMO

and this remains a challenge for RSPO. It is important to elect a local body with an extensive network, a relatively neutral position and one that possesses good capacity to work on sustainable palm oil issues. Over the years, we have invited more parties to be involved through a transparent tender process to allow us to identify greater potential entities.

In the future, we hope to create more RSPO ambassadors from civil society and NGOs. To ensure we attain our goals, RSPO will need to conduct continuous engagement, even after the completion of the IMO programme, and render positive exposure on collaboration between RSPO and the IMOs, closely working together to improve capacity and knowledge of the affected communities.



Photo Credit: RSPO

Community Outreach Programme for Latin America

In 2019, RSPO initiated the Community Outreach Programme for Latin America, primarily focused on the work in Colombia. The objective is to secure informed and vigorous engagement with communities in RSPO across all levels, through establishing a strengthened outreach of RSPO through IMO in Colombia, and to enhance RSPO's credibility with civil society.

The programme entitled *Enhancing the Position of Local Communities, Smallholders and Labourers Through Capacity Building for IMOs in Accessing and Using the RSPO System* was originally designed to progress for 30 months (June 2019 until December 2022).

The main objectives of the programme include providing less complex and more effective accessibility for local communities to engage with the RSPO system, facilitating local communities' needs, priorities and rights through the use of the RSPO system, and enhancing RSPO's ability to engage and facilitate local communities in supporting their needs and rights.

Instituto de estudios para el desarrollo y la paz (INDEPAZ) was engaged and contracted as the IMO in the implementation of the programme for Colombia.

Story from the ground

Agroaceite S.A.

Agroaceite is one of the leading companies in the production and marketing of tropical oil in Latin America, located in the southwest of Guatemala. As part of their commitment to be a socially responsible company, Agroaceite donated 10 hectares of their plantation for the construction of the Human Development Centre (HDC) facilities. The HDC forms part of their comprehensive vision to provide access to high quality education and health coverage in their area of operation. It is a holistic and financially sustainable community development programme that has generated significant positive impact for their employees and their families, as well as the surrounding communities.

Since 2014, the medical clinic at the HDC has treated over 31,000 patients. An innovative component of the project is the promotion of a model of family self-management, which builds and strengthens families and communities.



Photo Credit: Agroaceite S.A.

The HDC School for Children and Workers.



Photo Credit: Agroaceite S.A.

The HDC Medical Clinic.



Some time ago I had the opportunity to visit Agroaceite's medical center, which is managed in collaboration with the University of Colorado. I was pleasantly impressed by the high quality service offered to the surrounding community. This is a good example of the kind of impact that RSPO certification aims to achieve: to improve people's quality of life within the company's area of influence.

FRANCISCO NARANJO, RSPO Representative for Latin America

SMALLHOLDER INCLUSION

RSPO recognises the importance of smallholders and the need to increase smallholder inclusion. By the end of this reporting period, we now have a total of 157,580 certified smallholders – a 39% increase in 2019 as compared to 2018.

Underpinned by the broader philosophy of smallholder inclusion, our Smallholder Strategy that was mandated in 2017, had an overall goal of creating a supportive environment that empowers smallholders to achieve sustainable livelihoods. Our roadmap towards this goal for greater smallholder inclusion is demonstrated in our ToC. In 2019, two of our main milestones in the Smallholder Strategy were achieved.

- 1 **Launch of RSPO Smallholder Trainer Academy (STA) programme and portal**
- 2 **Endorsement of RSPO Independent Smallholder (ISH) Standard**
Refer to page 20 of the Report for more information.



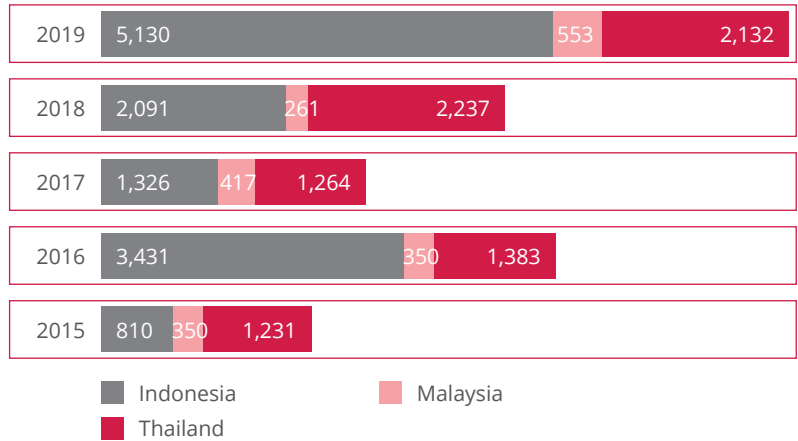
Note: Data above cover both independent and scheme smallholders.

In March 2019, a Smallholder Standing Committee was formed to oversee the execution of the RSPO Smallholder Strategy whilst also ensuring a more comprehensive representation of smallholder interests with allocation of responsibilities to deliver the strategy held within one single body.

For more information on the RSPO Smallholder Strategy, please visit our [webpage](#).

Throughout the reporting period, we have also carried out market engagements through the RSPO Smallholder Engagement Platform to increase the uptake of smallholder certifications. Moving forward, we will work on mapping smallholders globally and identify their baseline conditions to allow us to better evaluate how we can step in and carry out effective engagement and help smallholders. We will also work towards developing a smallholder hub to offer one-stop information in multiple languages to encourage more inclusive knowledge sharing amongst smallholders.

Number of Certified Independent Smallholders



Note: Any decrease observed is due to licence expiry.

RSPO Smallholder Trainer Academy

The RSPO Smallholder Trainer Academy (STA) is an initiative to empower oil palm smallholders to enhance the transition towards more sustainable livelihoods through the support of organisations. High quality training and training guides and materials are available and accessible to build a global trainer community. The RSPO STA provides a series of training modules for group managers and smallholders through a system of "Train the Trainer" approach. The type of training offered to smallholders varies and is dependent on the individual smallholders' needs. A range of topics around sustainability (people, planet and prosperity), which is available in six (6) languages (English, French, Indonesian, Malay, Spanish and Thai), are offered to train smallholders, group managers and smallholder programme managers. In 2019, a total of 72 Master Trainers from 34 partners were trained across these three regions - South East Asia, Latin America and Africa.

The RSPO STA was officially unveiled at the RSPO RT17 in Bangkok.



For more information on the RSPO Smallholder Trainer Academy, please visit our [webpage](#).

RSPO Smallholder Support Fund

RSSF was initiated to assist smallholders in getting RSPO certified, reducing cost implications through funding that could be used across three main categories: Certification, Audit and Impact. RSPO certified and reducing cost through funding. In achieving this, the RSPO BoG has approved the setup of the RSSF governed by the RSSF Governing Policy. This is funded through the annual allocation of 10% of the revenue generated from the trade of Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO) to support smallholder certification. To date, the RSSF has benefitted 28,542 smallholders, covering a production area of 90,584 ha of land in 11 countries.

Moving forward, with the RSPO Smallholder Strategy document becoming the reference document for all RSPO smallholder work, there is a need to align the current RSSF Governing Policy with the document. Updates on this will be communicated via RSPO channels accordingly.

Story from the ground



RSSF-Smallholder Supported Project in Sierra Leone

The partnership with NedOil, a Crude Palm Oil (CPO) mill owned by Natural Habitats, has provided smallholders a ready market and regular income. Through RSSF funding, Natural Habitats was able to improve productivity of their farms with the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) training, which was facilitated by Solidaridad West Africa. During a visit to some smallholders' farms, a clear difference could be seen between the health of the farms of the smallholders benefiting from the RSSF-support and other smallholders who are not part of the RSSF group.

According to NedOil and the farmers, there has been at least

50%

yield improvement as a result of BMP implementation.



NedOil collects our fruit every Monday and payment is received on the spot. As such, we are assured of a market for our fruit, and weekly income.

HASSAN FORNAH, farmer of Natural Habitats



RSSF-Smallholder Supported Project in Nigeria

Since 2015, Solidaridad West Africa, through RSSF funding, has been providing Best Management Practices (BMPs) training to a group of smallholders in Nigeria. Four poorly maintained farms have been used as demonstration plots to carry out training on pruning, ring/circle weeding, safe herbicide handling and use, frond stacking, and Empty Fruit Bunches (EFB) application, and more. The farmers, seeing at first-hand how BMPs implementation has improved the overall health and productivity of the demonstration farms, have eagerly adopted and implemented the same practices on their individual farms, with similar results.



Photo Credit: RSPO



Our farms were in a sorry state, overgrown with weeds and woody shrubs and trees. We used to wade through the thickets to harvest the fruit once a month.

SUNDAY ONYEAMA, one of the members of the smallholder group in Obrenyi



Within three years of BMPs implementation, yields have increased from 2.7 tonnes/ha to 7.4 tonnes/ha, without the use of inorganic fertilisers.

EGONG EJUNO, Solidaridad Agronomist



RSSF- Smallholder Supported Project in Cote d'Ivoire

Acquah Takyi Phillip is a 58-year-old smallholder farmer who owns close to 50 ha of oil palm, and about four ha of rubber plantations; oil palm constitutes his major source of income. He is a member of Cooptosa (a smallholder co-operative in Cote d'Ivoire) and a beneficiary of ongoing BMPs training being delivered by Solidaridad West Africa, with support from the Dutch Government-funded Sustainable West Africa Palm Oil Programme (SWAPP), and RSSF.



Photo Credit: RSPO



Within four years of BMPs implementation, my yield has increased to 23 tonnes/ha. With the improved income, I am able to afford hired labour to work on my farms, thereby keeping my children in school.

ACQUAH TAKYI PHILLIP, smallholder farmer and member of Cooptosa



Photo Credit: KUD Tani Subur



RSSF-Smallholder Supported Project in Ghana

For more information on our interviews with smallholders in Ghana, please refer [here](#).



Smallholder Impact Programme at KUD Tani Subur

KUD Tani Subur was the first independent smallholder farmer group to be RSPO and ISPO certified in Kalimantan, Indonesia. They are part of the jurisdictional approach programme in Kotawaringin Barat and Seruyan districts in Central Kalimantan that has become an exemplary model in demonstrating not only the benefits of good oil palm plantation cultivation practices but also the importance of leadership on the journey to sustainability.

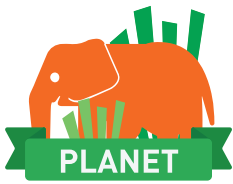
Since 2016, the collaboration between KUD Tani Subur and Unilever, INOBU, the district government of Kotawaringin Barat, Central Kalimantan and RSPO has greatly improved the responsible farming capabilities of their farmers, which resulted in better palm oil yield and subsequent income. The collaboration has resulted in the certification of 708 smallholders covering 1,425.42 ha.

Self-initiated and sustained approach implemented by KUD Tani Subur has drawn many smallholders to join the Smallholder Impact Programme. The income from the premiums have supported KUD Tani Subur to obtain a more diversified business portfolio, which includes a small supermarket, travel agency, a recreational facility, and a collaboration with village-run enterprises (BUMDES) that benefits the local community and cooperative members.



Thank God, as long as I am a villager of Pangkalan Tiga Village, our businesses will continue to increase because the RSPO and ISPO programmes have benefitted us. KUD Tani Subur and INOBU have facilitated very helpful training not just on better cultivation, but also on how to safeguard our health as smallholders and workers while farming, such as the use of fertiliser, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), etc. Smallholders are very enthusiastic about this project and are grateful for the rewards it gives us.

PAK YADI, smallholder farmer of KUD Tani Subur









IMPACT ON OUR PLANET

Some of the most pressing issues facing palm oil producing countries are halting deforestation, preventing fire on oil palm concessions, protecting peatlands, and the associated destruction of biodiversity. These have always been an important focus area for RSPO and our stakeholders, and we have continuously worked together to improve our efforts in addressing these concerns within the last 10 years. The collaborative work with our stakeholders can be seen through our working groups and task forces that involve representatives from each stakeholder group who will feed into the decision-making process.

RSPO's efforts in addressing these issues are reflected by the continuous improvement of the RSPO P&C, which involves requirements for growers to protect and conserve High Conservation Value (HCV) areas, High Carbon Stock (HCS) forests, and rare, threatened or endangered (RTE) species, minimise greenhouse emissions, and prevent fire. The RSPO P&C has also specified the requirements for grower members to practice responsible new plantings that do not negatively impact forests, HCV and HCS areas, fragile and marginal soils, and local people's lands.

The RSPO P&C is considered to be the strictest criteria regarding deforestation for any standards on soft commodities, as evidenced by a 2019 benchmarking report by IUCN Netherlands entitled "Setting the Biodiversity Bar for Palm Oil Certification". By incorporating the High Carbon Stock Approach (HCSA), the RSPO standards require the identification, maintenance, and enhancement of HCV-HCS forests.

Some of the tools, procedures, and guidance materials that RSPO has produced in alignment with the requirements in the RSPO P&C include:

 <p>Remediation and Compensation Procedure (RaCP) (refer to page 46-47)</p>	 <p>New Planting Procedure (NPP) (refer to page 44)</p>	 <p>PalmGHG Calculator and New Development GHG Calculator (refer to page 48)</p>
 <p>Hotspot Monitoring (refer to page 50)</p>	 <p>Peat Inventory Template and Peat Audit Guidance</p>	 <p>Peat Drainability Assessment (refer to page 48)</p>

[Note: For more information and updates on the above, please refer to its respective pages]



RSPO & Jonathan Perugia

Along with the above, we have also continued to strengthen our assurance system to ensure that our standards for sustainable production and procurement of palm oil are upheld. For more information on RSPO's efforts with regard to our assurance system throughout the years, please refer to the chapter on Delivering Assurance and Credibility on page 16-23.

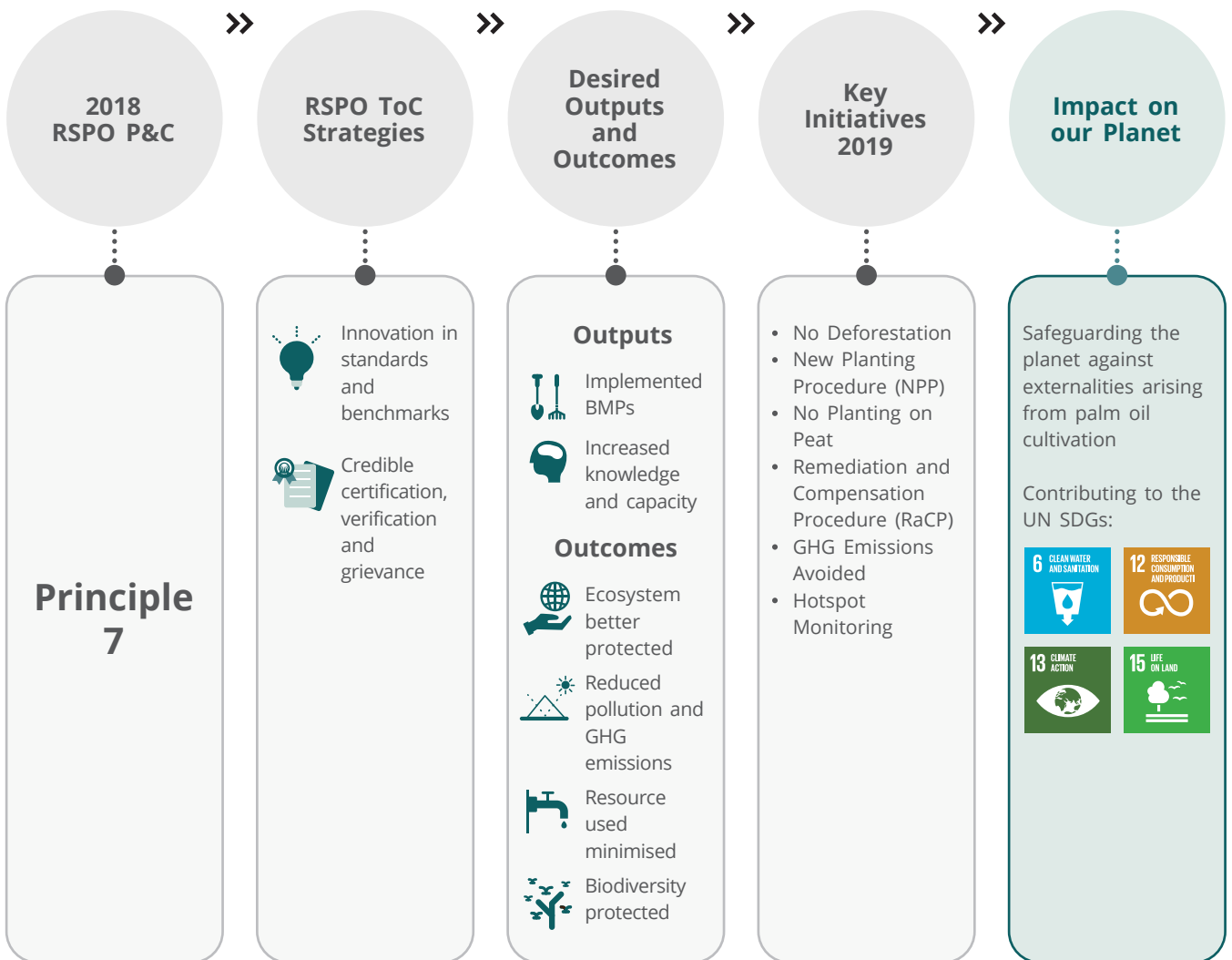
RSPO's standards work to protect forests, ensuring the habitats of wildlife are not harmed in oil palm producing regions. Yet, we recognise that alone we cannot solve the challenges of the palm oil sector and deforestation to drive changes where it is needed. To amplify the progress, the RSPO together with business and governments must proactively work to respond to emerging challenges, as the landscape continually evolves. At RSPO, we have collaborated with our members on two key initiatives, namely the Jurisdictional Approach (refer to page 26-30) and Shared Responsibility (refer to page 24-25), in hopes of bringing our efforts on deforestation to a higher level. We believe that collaboration and a shared effort across agricultural commodity industries and supply chains with governments and NGOs is fundamental to halting deforestation and protecting forests, wildlife habitats, and areas of biodiversity.



Key highlights from 2010 to 2019



SUMMARY OF IMPACT



HCV AREAS AND HCS FORESTS

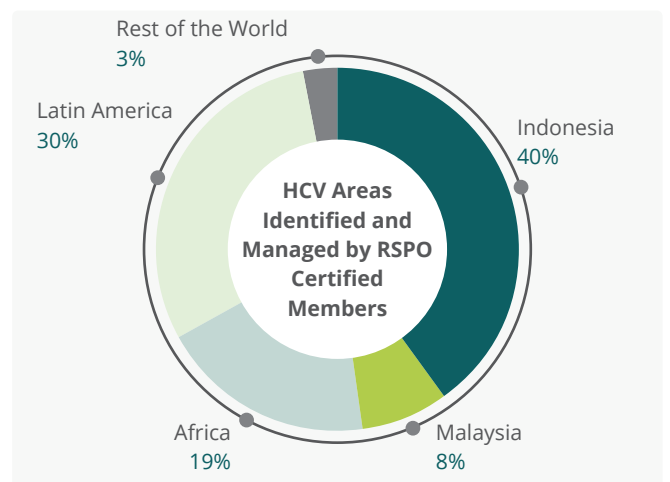
Criteria 7.12 of the 2018 RSPO P&C outlines the prohibition of deforestation or damage of any area(s) required to protect or enhance HCV areas or HCS forests, including secondary and peat forests, for oil palm plantations. This upholds RSPO’s commitment towards environmental protection and minimising the negative impact of palm oil production. Within the managed area, HCV and HCS forests are identified and protected or enhanced.

As of 31 December 2019, our HCV areas in certified units are as follows:

230,195 ha

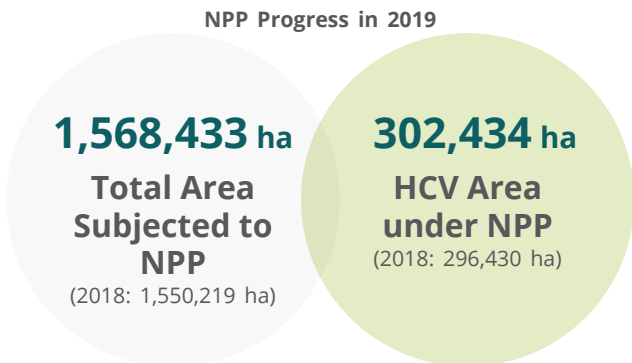
of HCV set-aside area identified and managed by RSPO members within their certified concessions

(2018: 221,019 ha)



NEW PLANTING PROCEDURE

NPP Milestones



Note: Data is cumulative from 2010 to 2019.

The RSPO New Planting Procedure (NPP) comprises a set of assessments and verification activities to be conducted by growers and Certification Bodies (CBs) prior to a new oil palm development, to provide guidance on responsible planting. The intention is to ensure that new oil palm development complies with the new planting criteria in the standards and does not negatively impact primary forest, HCV areas, HCS forests, fragile and marginal soils, or local people's land.

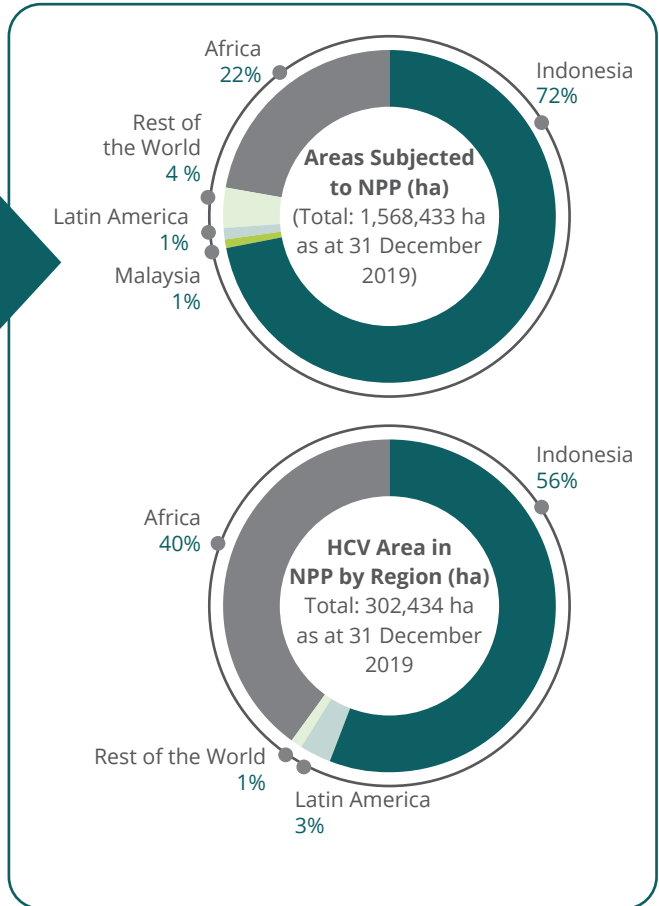
Following the adoption of the 2018 RSPO P&C, the RSPO Secretariat is currently revising the NPP document to align the requirements with the new standards. This includes the requirement that for any NPP submission that takes place after 15 November 2018, there will be no new planting on peat and no clearance of any HCV-HCS areas.

In 2019, six (6) NPP was completed and approved, covering a total NPP and HCV areas of 18,214 ha and 6,004 ha, respectively. As of December 2019, the total area subjected to NPP was 1,568,433 ha across 14 countries. As compared to the previous reporting period, there has been a 2% increase in the HCV area under NPP.

Bringing the NPP Revision to Another Level

The 2018 RSPO P&C is now fully effective and all audits after 15 November 2019 shall be carried out against this standard or the endorsed National Interpretation that is aligned with the 2018 P&C. The RSPO Secretariat has evaluated the needs to update the NPP to align with the current standard to ensure consistency in its application. Preliminary inputs were gathered since the beginning of 2019 through various platforms such as CB workshops, CB-Growers Alignment workshops, various RSPO working groups, RSPO roadshows and RSPO Technical Team workshops.

In this reporting period, the NPP revision had gone through a 60-day public consultation workshop from 13 December 2019 to 12 February 2020. The consultation period was carried out concurrently with the RSPO Certification Systems for P&C. During this public consultation period, several face-to-face consultation workshops were organised in Malaysia, Indonesia and Latin America. Additionally, webinars were also arranged for those who are not able to attend the face-to-face consultation.



The revised documents aim to:

- Improve NPP submission by ensuring credible verified reporting
- Improve the accuracy of information with regard to areas that are planned to be developed
- Implement a proper mechanism on the sanction system and post NPP monitoring.

The NPP document also has an additional GHG Assessment Procedure for New Development guidance in meeting the NPP requirement.



More information on the RSPO NPP Draft for public consultation is available on our [webpage](#).

Story from the field

Landscape HCV Conservation in Olam Palm Plantation in Gabon, Central Africa

Olam Palm Gabon (OPG), a joint venture between Olam and the Republic of Gabon, has a strong commitment to establishing sustainable palm oil production through their efforts in forest and species conservation as well as emission reduction at significant scale in Gabon.

To achieve this, OPG has focused on identifying and conserving HCV forest and HCS area. This has been demonstrated through the set aside of over 50% (72,000 ha) of their total concession area (144,000 ha) in Gabon as HCV area. In the region where OPG operates, there is also a significant population of wildlife, including great apes and forest elephants. For the protection of these species, OPG has applied the use of advanced and innovative instruments for monitoring and prevention of human-wildlife conflict, while also actively engaging and involving local communities in a meaningful manner at every stage of the conservation programmes.



Photo Credit: Olam

Hippopotamus, presumably extinct in the region, last seen in 1949, spotted in Olam's HCV area

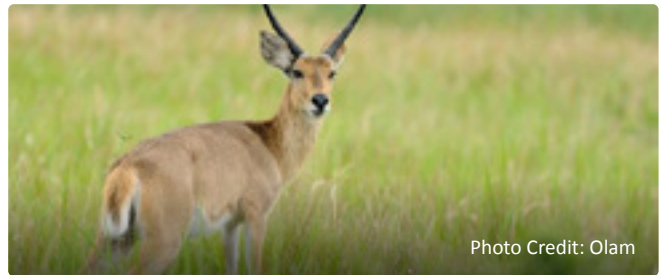


Photo Credit: Olam

Southern Reedbuck, last reported in 1961, found in 2016 in Olam's HCV savannah and protected areas



Since our operations began, we have committed to protecting high conservation lands alongside the sustainable development and operation of our palm plantations. We are honoured that our efforts have been recognised by the RSPO in its 2019 Excellence Awards. Makouke marks another step towards achieving RSPO certification for all our plantations in Gabon and cements our ambition to be the leading certified producer of palm oil in Africa.

DARSHAN RAIYANI, President and Head of Gabon Plantations

REMEDIATION AND COMPENSATION PROCEDURE

The Remediation and Compensation Procedure (RaCP) was established to address land clearance and plantation development undertaken since November 2005 without prior HCV assessment. The procedure requires growers to disclose any new land development that took place without conducting HCV assessment, to calculate environmental liabilities through a Land Use Change Analysis (LUCA), and to carry out onsite or offsite remediation for the affected sites or remediation with the affected parties.

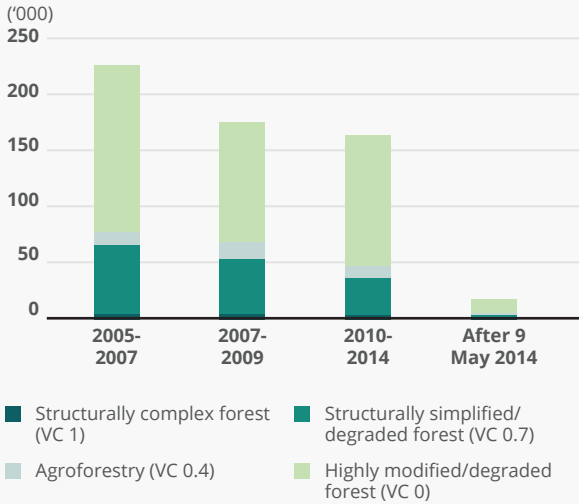
Since the official endorsement of the RSPO RaCP (2015), we have processed more than 1,400 disclosures from both existing growers and independent smallholder groups, and those applying for new membership applications and/or group consolidations (including new acquisitions). Out of these disclosures, over 500 operations have submitted their LUCA for land clearing since 2005 without prior HCV assessments.

As of 31 December 2019, a total of 874,216.85 ha of non-compliant land clearance (NCLC) have been disclosed by 546 management units. The increase in the number of management units with disclosed liabilities can be attributed to several reasons, i.e. new membership applications, consolidation of management units under Group Membership rules that were endorsed with immediate effect in July 2017, and new acquisitions.

The table below shows the disaggregated information on non-compliant land clearance or land clearance prior HCV assessment since November 2005 (NCLC) and final conservation liability (FCL) data of all disclosed liabilities by region, compiled from all LUCA reports (i.e. reports reviewed as satisfactory and those that are in the various stages of review by external GIS specialists). To date, an increase of 16% LUCA reports have fulfilled the requirements for satisfactory analysis of land cover change and liability assessment (since the last reporting period of 30 June 2018).

Region	NCLC (ha)	FCL (ha)
Africa	40,864.46	6,548.50
Latin America	156,161.20	15,889.34
Oceania	9,863.59	1,024.83
South East Asia	667,327.60	58,188.76
Grand Total	874,216.85	81,651.43

Land Cover Change from 2005 in areas developed without prior HCV assessment (by vegetation coefficient)



- The bar graph summarises the land cover change during the development of land areas from November 2005 without prior HCV assessment
- The bulk of non-compliant clearance involved degraded or highly degraded vegetation (e.g. open grassland and scrub) and existing agroforestry plantations
- Less than 5% of land cleared without HCV assessments involved the loss of high-quality forest (VC 1)

Note:
The data used for the stacked bar graph are of existing RSPO members, with "Passed" LUCA status. Data in previous reports are based on disclosures that have not been reviewed, under reviewed and completed review.

In addition to disclosure of NCLCs and submission of LUCAs, growers have either chosen to submit revised standard operating procedures (SOPs) or opted for the submission of declaration of SOP verification by an accredited certification body during the disclosure of liability to demonstrate commitment to prevent further non-compliant land clearing.

Of the 179 operations that have submitted the plans, 107¹ have been reviewed by the Compensation Panel and independent evaluators and approved as satisfactory (cumulative since 2017). The table below is a summary of the compensation projects proposed by the various management units for the conservation projects.

Approved Conservation Projects	%
Offsite avoided deforestation and/or avoided degradation of high-quality habitats	43.4
Offsite restoration of degraded forest on land with clear ownership and legal status to high quality habitats	27.3
Species-based conservation measures	15.2
Community and livelihood development	13.1
Onsite forest/high-quality habitat re-establishment	1.0

Growers who are implementing remediation and compensation plans are required to provide an annual progress report following a standard reporting template to the RSPO Secretariat. In 2019, the RaCP Annex 9 – Monitoring Report Template ([weblink](#)) has been formally approved by the Biodiversity and High Conservation Working Group (BHCWVG).

The RSPO RaCP is one of the few (if any) remediation and compensation procedures available for commodity crops at present. Some of the elements may be revised as more experience accumulates.

¹ Submissions consist of environmental remediation plans where FCL = 0 but oil palm has been planted on riparian buffer zones, steep slopes, fragile soils, peat areas; and the remediation and compensation plans where FCL has been established and companies have to contribute toward biodiversity conservation projects.



Photo Credit: RSPO & Jonathan Perugia

PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF PEATLAND

Since the 1980s, large areas of tropical peatlands have been converted for oil palm planting. However, the negative impact of poor management of peatland over the years has since prompted RSPO grower members to adopt policies of no new planting on peat. In 2018, RSPO strictly enforced this requirement in our revised 2018 P&C and made further efforts to ensure proper care and application of best management practices in existing plantations on peat to minimise GHG emissions and potential impacts to the environment.

Peat Inventory Template and Peat Audit Guidance

In 2019, the Peatland Working Group 2 (PLWG2) developed the RSPO Peat Inventory Template for RSPO members to document areas of peat, planted or otherwise, within their managed area and submit to the RSPO secretariat for monitoring.

To further guide RSPO growers, the PLWG2 has also developed an ‘associated audit guidance’, highlighting the minimum requirements to ensure compliance with the peat requirements found within the 2018 P&C.



For more information on the Peat Inventory Template and Peat Audit Guidance, please refer to our [webpage](#).

Peat Drainability Assessment

In the same year, RSPO introduced the RSPO Peat Drainability Assessment (DA) Procedure, which was developed by the PLWG2 to support oil palm growers to assess future subsidence and flood risks of peatlands, as well as to adjust their management processes to reduce subsidence rates and prolong workable lifetime of their existing plantations on peat. This procedure is conducted five (5) years prior to replanting oil palm planted on peat, thus providing ample time for growers to improve peat management and/or phase out oil palm within the assessed area.



For more information on the DA procedure, please refer to our [webpage](#).



Photo Credit: RSPO & Katingan Mentaya Project

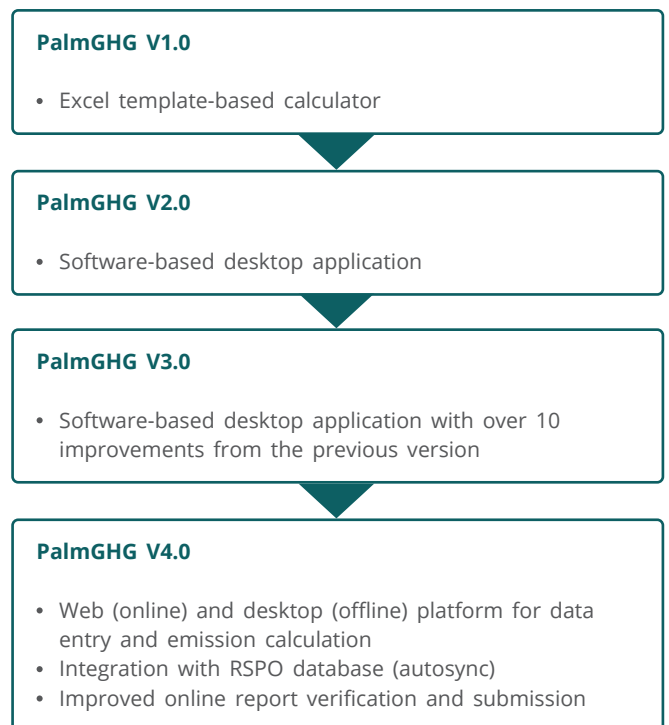
GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG)

PalmGHG Calculator Update

RSPO recognises its role and importance in addressing the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions issue that has been gaining attention. For the purpose of quantifying emissions and identifying ‘hotspots’ in order to implement mitigation measures, there is a need to come up with a tool. Between 2009 to 2011, two (2) working groups, the GHG WG1 & GHG WG2, were established to develop a monitoring tool and ways to reduce GHG emissions. The second GHG WG developed the PalmGHG, which is a GHG calculator used to quantify the sources and sink of GHG from plantation to mill. The intent behind the development of the calculator was to provide a tool specifically tailored for palm oil cultivation and milling.

RSPO intends to ensure that certified growers plan to reduce pollution and emissions, including GHG, are developed, implemented and monitored by using the PalmGHG. The purpose of the PalmGHG is to allow GHG emissions to be identified, and plans to reduce them can be implemented.

Since its introduction, the PalmGHG has been updated and revised based on gaps identified and feedback received from its users. Some of the key updates of the PalmGHG calculator can be found in the figure below.



RSPO acknowledges that the PalmGHG tool is a software that requires close maintenance as much as any other software out there. RSPO commits to continuously monitor and work towards improving this tool to ensure a smooth user experience. Feedback is welcomed and can be emailed to ghg@rspo.org.

Since the last reporting period as per Impact Update 2019, the new NPPs approved did not consist of HCV and conservation set aside areas contributing to carbon emission savings. Hence, the data on carbon savings remained the same as per the previous report. For more information on GHG savings from NPP, please refer to page 32 of the RSPO Impact Update 2019.

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) study shows RSPO CSPO poses lower environmental impact

In 2019, Jannick Schmidt and Michele De Rosa, the 2.-0 LCA consultants from Denmark, conducted and published a comprehensive LCA study to compare the environmental impact of RSPO certified versus non-certified palm oil between 2017 and 2019. **They found that RSPO certified sustainable palm oil has a 35% lower global warming impact and 20% lower biodiversity impact.**

The key reasons for the 35% lower global warming impact (GHG emissions per kg of RSPO certified palm oil) were reported to be due to:

- A lower share of peat soils under certified palm oil leading to lower CO₂ emissions
- A higher share of Palm Oil Mill Effluent (POME) from certified oil treated with biogas capture leading to lower CH₄ emissions
- Higher yields and better nutrient utilisation for certified FFB leading to lower N₂O emissions
- Higher yields (and part of landbank set-aside for nature conservation) for certified FFB leading to lower CO₂ emissions.

***Note:**

The LCA is a so-called cradle-to-gate study, which means it includes the activities related to the delivery of refined palm oil at the refinery gate. The study was carried out in accordance with ISO 14040/44 on life cycle assessment with a third-party critical panel review and has been submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.



For more information on this study, please visit the [webpage](#). The [next phase](#) of the crowdfunded project to expand the scope of this study will be starting soon.



The results of this study could not be more timely as GHG emissions and biodiversity are the impact areas gaining most of the attention in the public debate on palm oil production and its environmental impacts, worldwide, particularly Europe. We hope that these results will help inform a wide group of stakeholders that we should be pushing for sustainability over a boycott of palm oil. Palm oil is unique compared to all its alternatives in the way that it is associated with significant improvement options. In fact the improvement potentials (reduce peat, reduce peat drainage depth, use biogas capture in POME treatment, and maximise nature conservation) enable palm oil to become the best performing vegetable oil with regard to GHG emissions.

JANNICK SCHMIDT, LCA Consultant



Photo credit: RSPO & Jonathan Perugia

HOTSPOT MONITORING

The RSPO concession map data is directly obtained from members with grower operations upon membership application and via the Annual Communication of Progress (ACOP) submissions. The certification status of concessions has been derived from audit reports of mills and supply bases.

Since 2015, RSPO has been actively monitoring fire hotspots in our members' concessions. The GIS Unit has enabled RSPO to develop a mechanism to retrieve and analyse fire hotspot data, and monitor potential fire occurrences within the concessions, both certified and uncertified. Since January 2018, we have made this satellite information along with the location of other member concession areas publicly available on our [webpage](#).

If fires are detected within a concession area, members are requested to make a submission of the necessary documentation, including the cause of fire, approximate location of the fire, best practices and also photographic evidence.

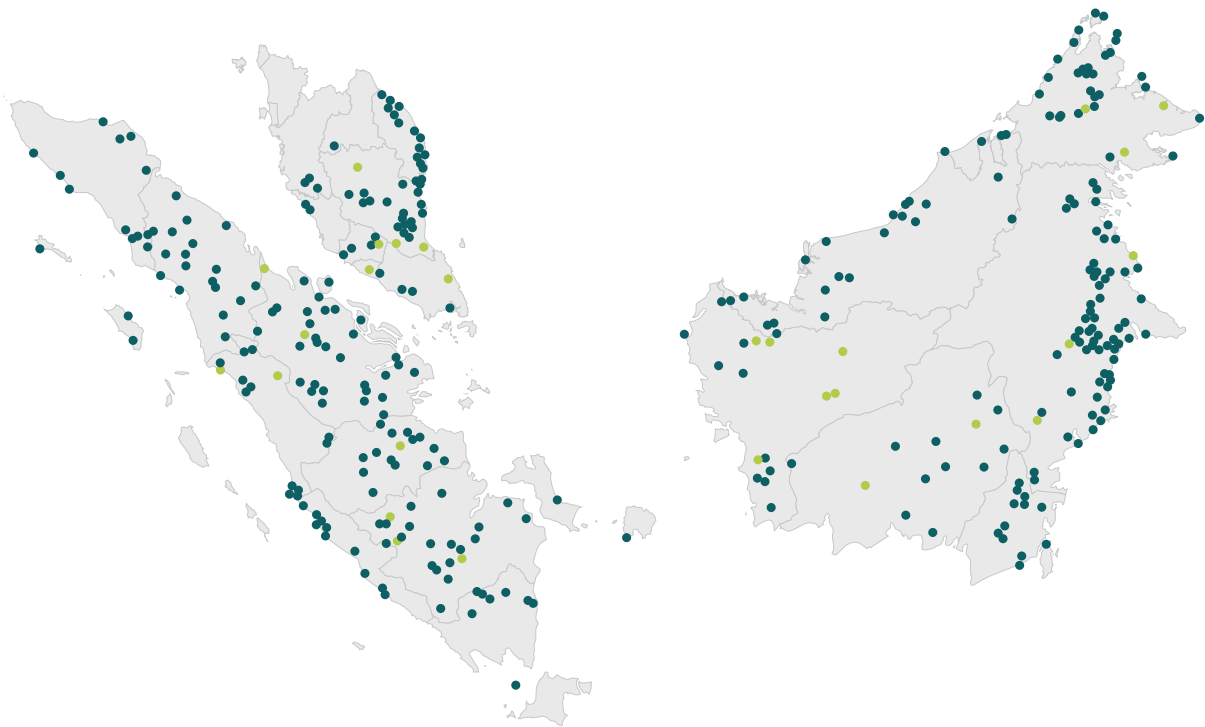
Our interactive map application GeoRSPO is publicly available and displays relevant data relating to members' concessions and land cover, including any active hotspots, to demonstrate our commitment to transparency and accountability. We remain committed to our strengthened P&C relating to fire prevention and a complete ban on the use of fire within RSPO certified units. We applaud our members for committing to these strict standards and encourage them to continue monitoring their concessions.

During the peak of the 2019 South East Asia haze season, the IMU detected 278 hotspots in RSPO members' concessions at the height of the fire season (10 to 16 September 2019) from a total of 73,508 hotspots for the week, which means hotspots in RSPO members' concessions represented just 0.4%. The IMU actively followed up with each member where a hotspot was detected, to verify whether there was an occurrence of fire (and if so, what efforts are being made to extinguish the fire). The IMU also monitored the persistence of hotspot occurrence within our members' concessions. Those concessions where persistent hotspots were detected continuously for more than 10 days will be investigated. The members who were investigated need to provide documentation such as police reports to explain the hotspots and occurrence of fire.

463,952
Total hotspots in Indonesia and Malaysia
 (2018: 285,562)

1,403
Total hotspots within RSPO members' concessions in Indonesia and Malaysia
 (2018: 1,034)

Hotspots are not necessarily actual fire incidences.



● Hotspots detected in non-RSPO members' concessions ● Hotspots detected in RSPO members' concessions



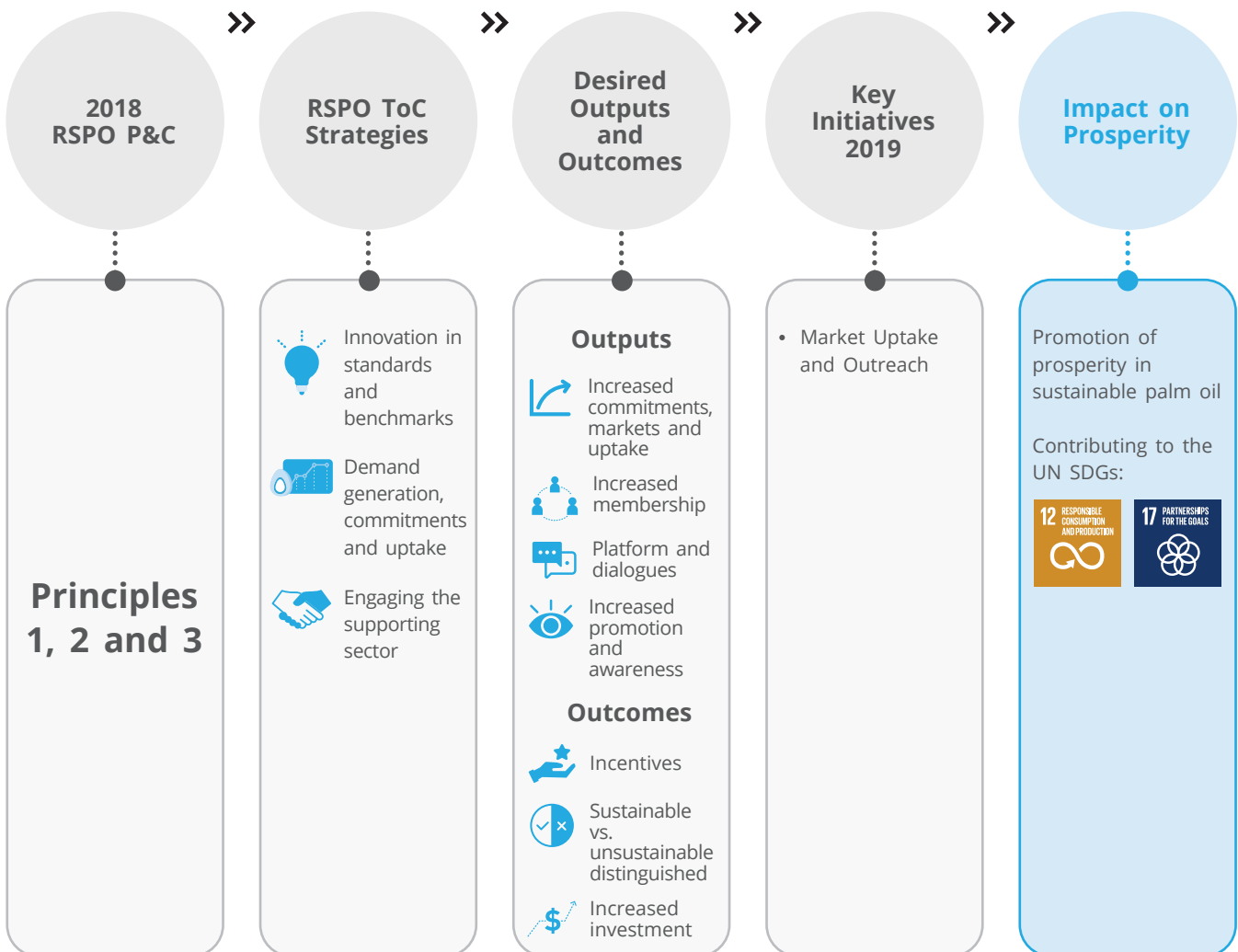
IMPACT ON PROSPERITY

RSPO continuously engages in regionally focused market outreach efforts with the objective to ensure all major consumption markets source greater volumes of CSPO. We work to ensure that effective planning and management systems are in place to address economic viability, environmental and social compliance and risks. These include procedures and systems for ensuring our conformity to the RSPO P&C and SCCS, to support exponential growth in the uptake of sustainable palm oil whilst optimising productivity, efficiency and maintaining ethical conduct in the regions where we operate in.

We have come a long way since our inaugural meeting in Malaysia in 2003, with a respectable 200 participants from 16 countries. As of 31 December 2019, we now have over 4,500 members from almost half of the countries on the planet. In the past decade, we have not only seen a significant growth in our membership, but we have also expanded our operations and outreach globally where we now have representatives and offices in nine (9) countries covering all the major regions where we have a presence. For more information on our regional outreach, please refer to page 53 to 58. Along with the growth in our membership and outreach, we have also recorded growth in our sales of CSPO with a 13% increase from 2018 and an impressive 452% increase from the last decade (2010: 1,281,134 mt vs 2019: 7,068,932 mt).

At RSPO, the increase of market commitment to and uptake of CSPO is a key priority for us. The uptake of CSPO has been steadily increasing over the years, but it continues to require accelerated commitment. In 2019, we have worked together with our members on the initiative known as Shared Responsibility (SR) (refer to page 25) that will hopefully further increase the uptake of CSPO across our membership in the years to come. Through SR, our members will be held mutually accountable to work together to drive the uptake of CSPO.

SUMMARY OF IMPACT

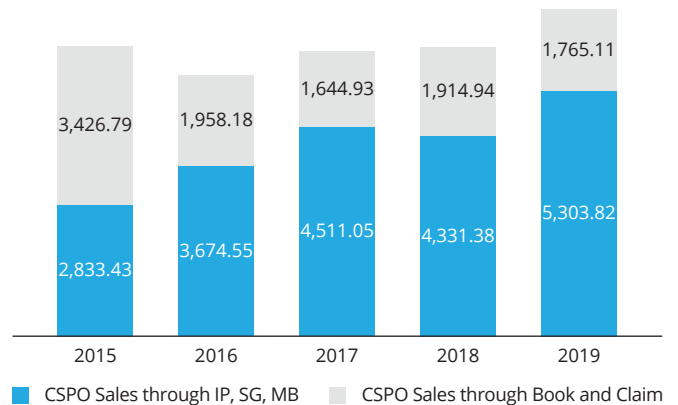


ANNUAL GROWTH IN CSPO SALES

A sustainable, competitive and resilient palm oil market can only be achieved through collaborative approaches of RSPO members and partners. The RSPO SCCS encompasses the requirements of RSPO certified oil palm products in the supply chain, including flows of RSPO certified oil palm products and associated claims. There are four supply chain models which oil palm products can be traded on, and have been approved by RSPO: Identity Preserved (IP), Segregated (SG), Mass Balance (MB) and RSPO Book and Claim (RSPO Credits).

Demand and uptake of CSPO continued to grow between 2018 and 2019, with overall sales increasing by 13% to 7,068,932 mt. An increase was contributed by the sales of CSPO through IP, SG and MB from 4,331,377 mt to 5,303,819 mt; however, there was a decrease in the sales of CSPO through Book and Claim from 1,914,943 mt to 1,765,113 mt for the reporting period.

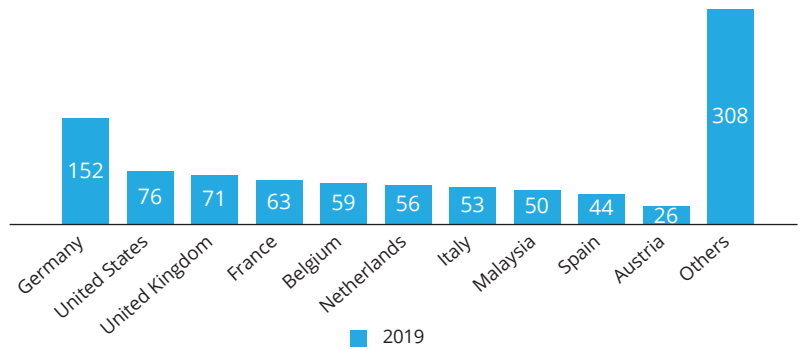
Annual Sales of CSPO ('000 MT)



RSPO TRADEMARK

The RSPO Trademark is a globally recognised ecolabel that signals the use of RSPO certified sustainable palm oil. Since the launch of RSPO Trademark in 2011, it has grown significantly from 12 countries to 60 countries, and now appears on more than 400 consumer products. The RSPO Trademark is now more sought after by the Supply Chain Associates and Ordinary Consumer Goods Manufacturers, indicating that these smaller niche end-producers and those selling to conscious consumers considered that there is a pressing need in the market to demonstrate that they produce products and support organisations that have taken steps to eliminate environmental degradation and human rights issues.

RSPO Trademark Licence by Country (as at 31 December 2019)



Note: Licence data reflects data from supply chain certified members only.

As at 31 December 2019, the RSPO Trademark licence is held by 958 supply chain certified members across 60 countries. This demonstrated a 20% increase in licence holders since the last reporting period. In Europe and the United States in particular, mainstream consumers are beginning to be more aware of where ingredients are sourced and what impact these ingredients may have on the environment, human rights, labour rights, and community rights. The use of RSPO Trademark in Latin America has also gained traction as certification numbers have risen exponentially for both producers and supply chain members - especially with refineries and consumer goods manufacturers in the region. It is evident that the market has started to demand RSPO certified sustainable palm oil products.

958

Supply chain certified members hold RSPO Trademark licence (2018: 797)

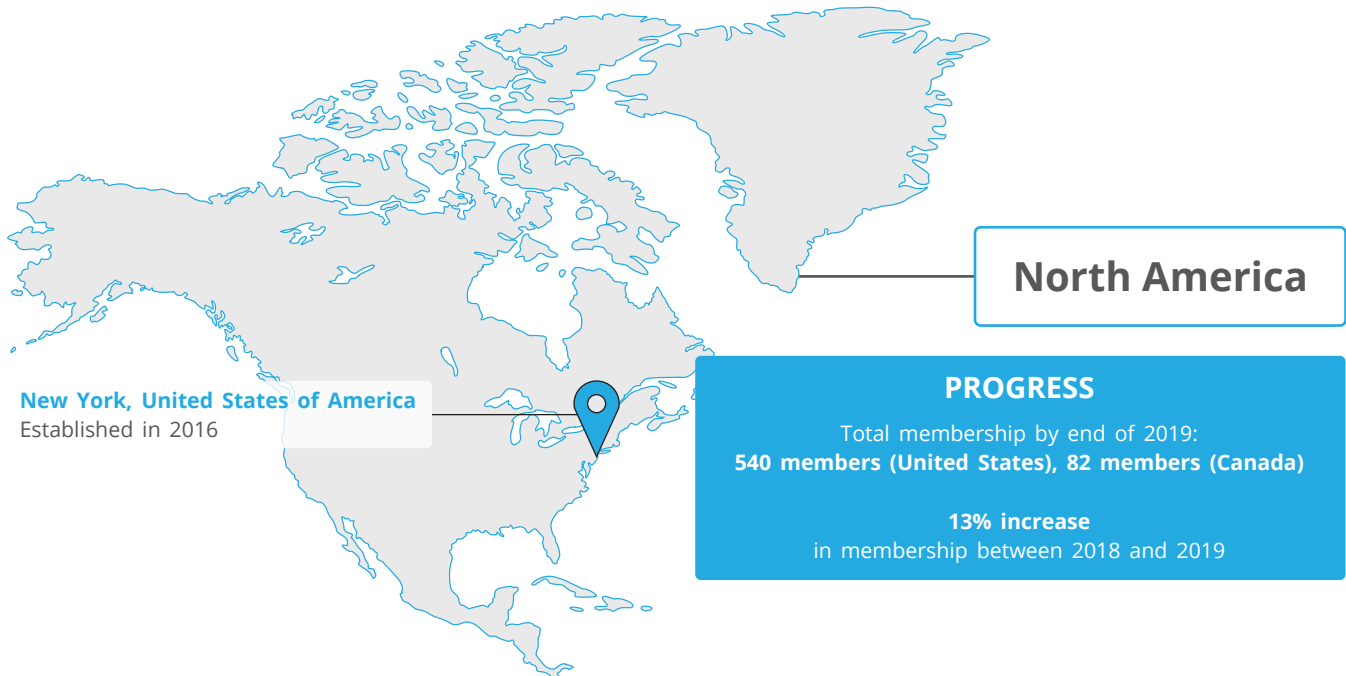


The recent growth in the trademark has been impressive, and it shows that companies are starting to get to a place where they are willing to talk to the consumer about palm oil and the fact that it is in their products. I give credit to our membership for endorsing the 2018 P&C and for their further efforts on transparency. We must shift consumer focus from one of boycotting palm oil to one that actively supports sustainable palm oil. The trademark is an easy way to communicate this message.

DAN STRECHAY, Director of Outreach and Engagement

MARKET OUTREACH AND UPTAKE

The updates for each region are presented as follows:



Regional Outreach Highlights in 2019

- Launched the North American Sustainable Palm Oil Network (NASPON) toolkit

At the start of the decade, the region had 36 members in 2010. By the end of this reporting period, RSPO membership in the U.S. has grown to 540 members and Canada has 82 members. Many RSPO members in the U.S. and Canada have set ambitious targets to source 100% CSPO and there is consistent momentum towards achieving these targets. As a result, over 800 facilities in North America have become supply chain certified as of December 2019, leading to increased availability of CSPO in the region.

Prior to the establishment of the RSPO North American Secretariat in 2016, a majority of North American RSPO members participated in the Book and Claim supply chain in order to support the growth of sustainable palm oil. As the market for sustainable palm oil continues to grow, CSPO uptake has been trending upward as supply chain actors have transitioned from Book and Claim to physical sourcing to meet their 100% CSPO targets.

In 2019, the North American Sustainable Palm Oil Network (NASPON) members launched an initiative to share resources and experiences from their own experiences through a NASPON Toolkit. The toolkit will be instrumental in providing templates to assist surveying suppliers, an in-depth resource to provide support in the identification of ingredients that often contain palm oil/palm kernel oil or derivatives and fractions of palm oil/palm kernel oil, and information regarding achieving a segregated supply chain in North America. The toolkit is

targeted for public availability in July 2020. By including the expertise and learnings from NASPON members in the development of the toolkit, RSPO members that use the toolkit will be able to overcome challenges that NASPON members faced in their own journeys. The NASPON Toolkit will be adaptable to other regions and assist RSPO members globally in achieving their CSPO goals.

Both consumer and RSPO members' awareness of sustainable palm oil continue to grow in the North American market. Although North America is geographically far removed from oil palm growing regions and is primarily composed of downstream supply chain actors, there is a growing awareness that North American actors can play an impactful role in contributing to improving human rights conditions, halting deforestation, and supporting smallholders in the oil palm sector. To convene North American members to discuss roles actors in this region can play, the RSPO hosted the first North America Sustainable Palm Oil Dialogue. The virtual conference in June 2020 provided a first of its kind platform for influential stakeholders to continue discussing the current market, challenges, and opportunities for sustainable palm oil in North America.



Latin America

PROGRESS

Total membership by end of 2019:
147 members

18% increase
 in membership between 2018 and 2019

Regional Outreach Highlights in 2019

- Launched the Community Outreach Programme in Colombia

Latin America has been a region of exponential growth in terms of certification and moving towards CSPO and CSPK sales and uptake. It is also home to approximately one third (34.2%) of the identified and managed HCV areas by RSPO members with a range of diverse conservation projects led by the certified companies themselves. The region started with 21 members in 2010, and by the end of 2019, the region had 147 members, demonstrating an average increase of 57% over the decade.

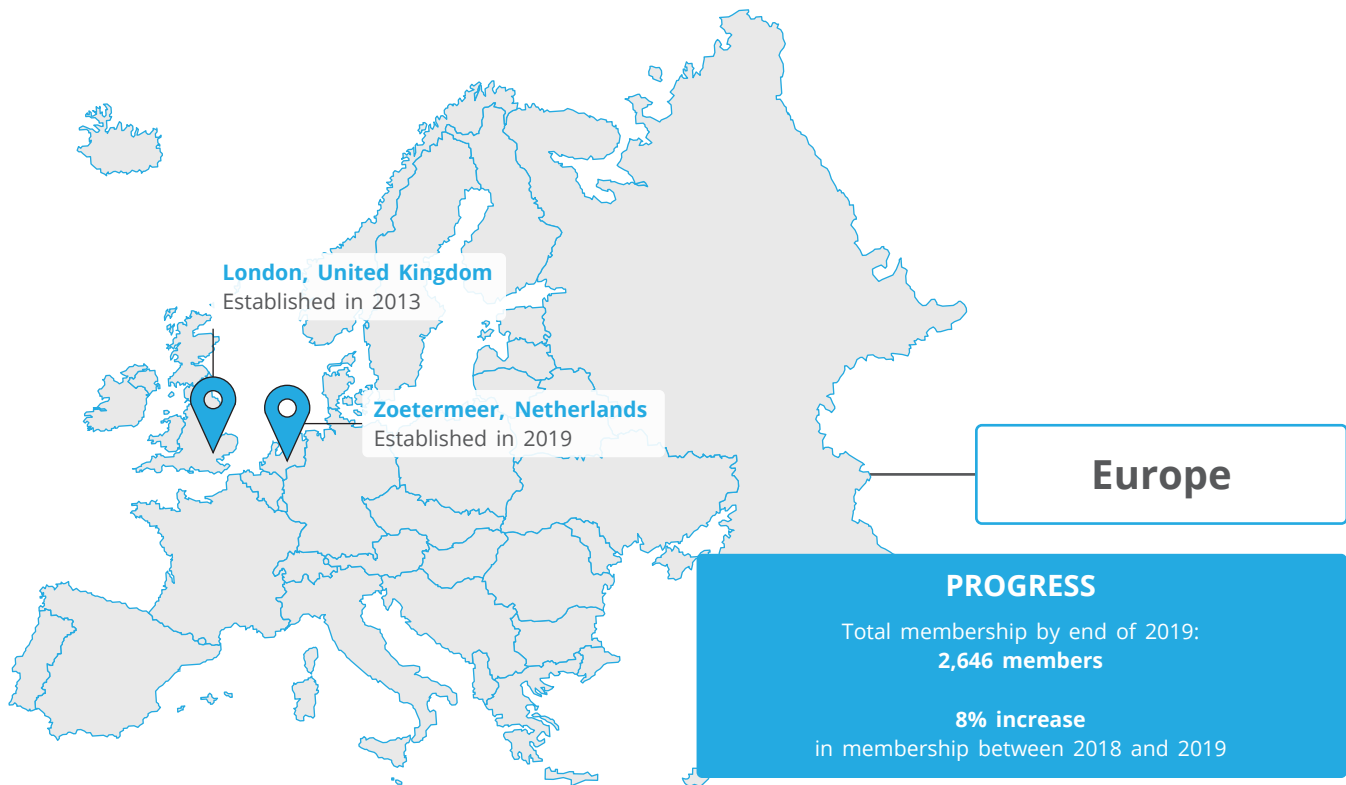
In 2015, the first staff for RSPO Latin America was hired, marking a milestone in the creation of the RSPO Latin American office. In the same year, the NIs of Honduras and Guatemala were endorsed by RSPO. In collaboration with associations of local producers, six (6) regional conferences had been organised in a number of countries in Latin America over the decade. These conferences play a key role in serving as an avenue to present the progress and future forecasts of the sector, enabling experiences among experts and various actors to be shared.

Along with the impressive rate of increase in membership in the region, the increase of CSPO uptake has also been recorded as the fastest growing on a global scale, placing Latin America as a leader in certification. The growth of CSPO in the region from 2009 to the close of 2019 went from 0 mt to 1,057,871 mt, reflecting an average of 105% annual growth in certification. Furthermore, both Colombia and Mexico completed their NI revisions with the new 2018 RSPO P&C, making them leading countries in the Latin American region. In this reporting period, a community outreach programme was also launched with the

objective to enhance the position of local communities, smallholders and workers through capacity building for IMO in assessing and adopting the RSPO system. (Refer to page 38 of this report for more details on the Community Outreach Programme in Colombia).

Some of the challenges faced by Latin America were related to increasing market awareness in a region that has primarily been considered grower-centred. Currently, Latin America is seen as a region of palm oil producers. However, 80% of the palm oil produced is consumed in local markets. Therefore, RSPO needs to develop a mixed strategy to strengthen sustainable palm oil production while boosting domestic demand for sustainable palm oil products.

Another crucial challenge involved the incorporation of smallholders into the RSPO system. Smallholders in Latin America account for nearly 30% of the oil palm planted area, so it is important to promote collaboration of different actors (producers, civil society and national governments) in order to achieve greater participation of smaller-scale producers in the system. Therefore, as we progress into the next decade, promoting further participatory dialogue among various stakeholders at local and regional levels should be emphasised in order to increase and enhance RSPO impacts in the region.



Regional Outreach Highlights in 2019

- Held the First Sustainable Palm Oil Dialogue in Utrecht, Netherlands
- Spoke at events in UK (Naturals in Cosmetic Science, UK Ingredients Show, Sustainable Landscape Conference by the Innovation Forum), Italy (Seeds & Chips, and Sustainable Palm Oil, SANA), Spain (Cosmetic Business Regulatory Summit, Future of Surfactants, The relevance of sustainability in palm oil production – progress, achievements and challenges), and Poland (Launch of the National Initiative)
- Led the revision of the RSPO Supply Chain Certification Standard and Systems documents and held public consultations.

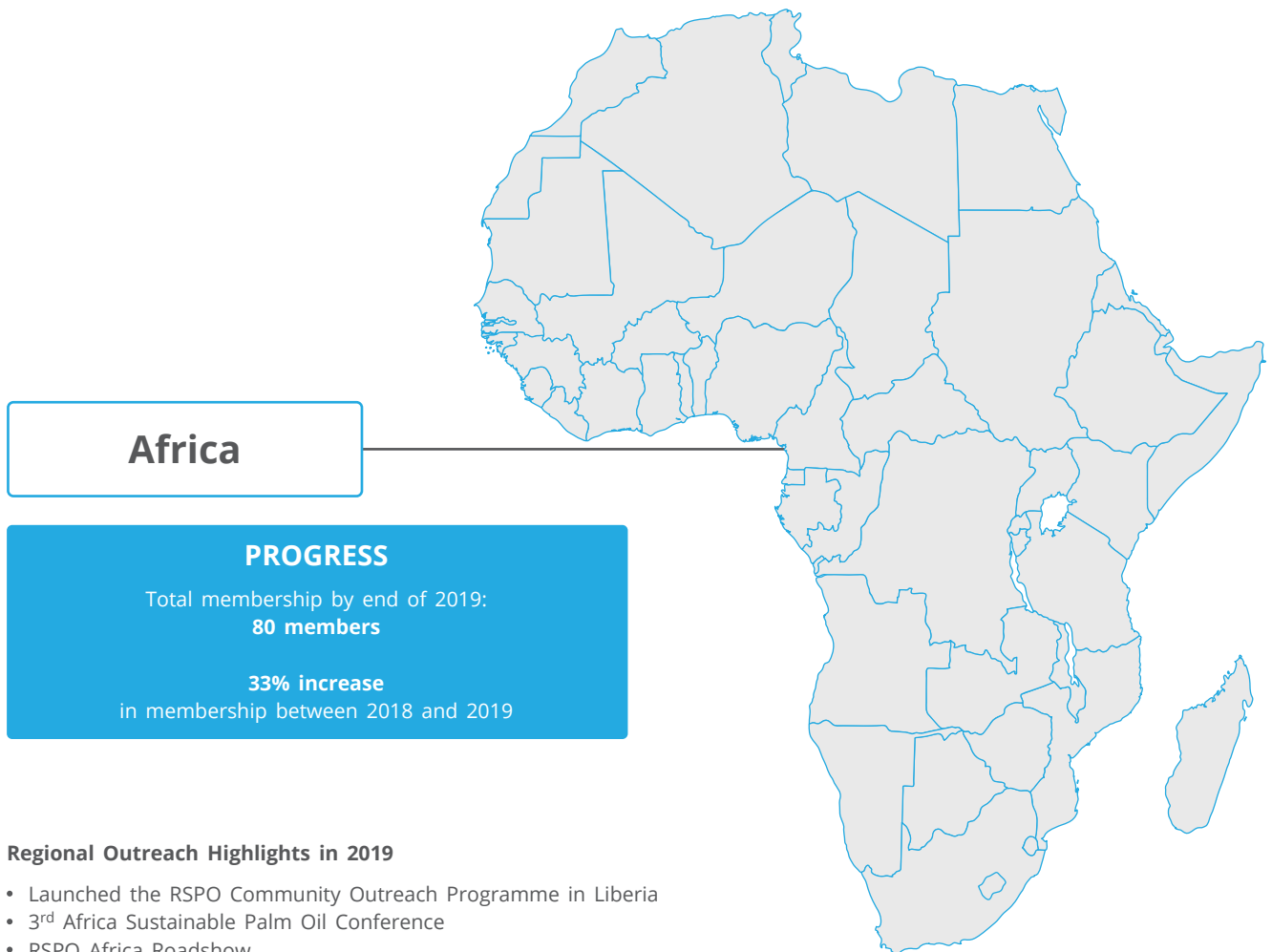
In the past decade, RSPO has seen a progressive move towards the use of sustainable palm oil in Europe. To date, approximately 83% of palm oil entering the European market is RSPO certified sustainable palm oil, for food use and the use in home and personal care products. By engaging with key stakeholders across Europe, RSPO has grown its membership in Europe from 246 in 2010 to 2,646 by the end of 2019, representing over half of the total RSPO membership.

Moreover, the RSPO has welcomed the launch of the Amsterdam Declaration in 2015 by several governments (Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands, United Kingdom in 2015, and Italy in 2017). This engagement at a European level was also supported by the launch of several National Initiatives – the Netherlands in 2010; the UK and Belgium in 2012; France and Germany in 2013, followed by Sweden in 2014; Italy in 2015 and more recently in Spain (2017) and Poland (2019). RSPO's European team works collaboratively with all National Initiatives to host or speak at events, conferences, and to deliver webinars and aligned strategic approaches for these markets.

By delivering a range of communication pieces, media engagements and social media campaigns, along with our members, we have worked to educate and shift public sentiment on palm oil from negative to neutral or positive in key markets. This is an ongoing process that we seek to amplify in the next decade.

In this reporting period, the European team has been more proactive in the strategic communications and outreach activities with existing and potential members. Our participation at events has been selective and focused on reaching new audiences, untapped markets and influential players. The preparation and successful launch of the Sustainable Palm Oil Dialogue, a collaborative event, has helped RSPO to understand and focus on the topics that are most relevant for the stakeholders here, allowing the entire organisation to better serve its membership base. The coordinated work with the Sustainable Palm Oil Dialogue partners has increased the visibility of RSPO in Europe and has served as a base for future engagement with key actors in Europe.

While Europe is a mature market, there is still a significant gap between industry commitment and the delivery of sustainability targets at multiple levels. A multifaceted approach is required to stimulate demand from consumers, instigate regulatory support and continue stakeholder engagement. For example, consumer associations could be a valuable partner in our work to overcome anti-palm campaigns in Europe. Misinformation and negative narratives around palm oil have impacted the possibility to effectively communicate the benefits of sustainable palm oil to some audiences. The European team is focused on engaging with key players at the global and national levels to close this gap.



Regional Outreach Highlights in 2019

- Launched the RSPO Community Outreach Programme in Liberia
- 3rd Africa Sustainable Palm Oil Conference
- RSPO Africa Roadshow

Over the decade, the total number of members in Africa grew by 26% to reach 80 members, as compared to three (3) members in 2010. The region is an emerging market for palm oil where it accounts for at least 70% of edible oil demand. Africa is a net importer of palm oil, and the bulk of CPO produced in the region is consumed domestically.

Since Africa is a net importer region with a relatively low level of awareness, it is crucial to support growers in becoming RSPO certified whilst ensuring high-quality assessments and audits. At the same time, given the low demand for certified palm oil in the region, producers need to be supported to reach international markets, and regional uptake of CSPO and CSPK/Certified Sustainable Palm Kernel Oil (CSPKO) needs to be stimulated.

Appreciable gains have been made between RSPO's established physical presence in the region in July 2017 and the end of the reporting year. These include, among others, 81% increase in CSPO volumes between June 2017 and March 2020; 387% increment in the number of RSPO Credits sold from Africa in 2019 compared to 2017; and a 268% increment in the number of RSPO Credits bought by the Africa supply chain in 2019 compared to 2017.

Despite these gains, a lot more remains to be done in order to nudge the African markets towards making sustainable palm oil the norm. In particular, the downstream supply chain actors need to be continually engaged and encouraged to take up physical certified volumes and credits, certified consumer goods manufacturers have to be engaged on placing the trademarks on products, and consumers sensitised to better understand the need to choose certified sustainable products. In essence, the demand and uptake of certified volumes and credits must be generated or stimulated to match the increasing production of CSPO.



India

PROGRESS

Total membership by end of 2019:
60 members

28% increase
in membership between 2018 and 2019

Regional Outreach Highlights in 2019

- Organised the first Sustainable Palm Oil Dialogue (India-SPOD) in New Delhi
- RSPO spoke at major industry and consumers events in India and the UAE, such as Globoil 2019, India and Sustainability Standards 2019, AIESEC International Congress 2019, and Young India Challenge 2019
- Formed a “National Interpretation” Working Group for the 2018 P&C for India and completed the process within a year
- Launched the “Youth for Sustainability” initiative in India and Southeast Asia
- Co-organised the first edition of the “Asian Youth for Sustainable Palm Oil Summit’ in Bangkok
- Launched the first CSPO story series in collaboration with “Youth Ki Awaaz”, India’s largest user-generated media platform, and ‘India Climate Dialogue’.

RSPO has observed significant growth in the use of sustainable palm oil in India over the past decade. During this period, India became the world’s largest importer and second-largest consumer of palm oil. The current annual consumption is approximately 9 million mt. To date, 2.5% of palm oil entering the Indian region is certified sustainable palm oil. By engaging with key stakeholders across the region, RSPO has grown its membership from a couple of members in 2010 to 60 members in December 2019.

In 2015, RSPO elected an India Representative to drive the market transformation efforts in the region. As a result, a strong foundation has been laid for exponential growth in the next decade. In this reporting period, India’s CSPO uptake increased by 400% from 60,000 mt in January 2019 to 240,000 mt in December 2019.

In 2020 and beyond, RSPO will continue to work closely with the growing number of members, ambassadors, partners and all relevant stakeholders to create a more favourable environment to increase the demand for sustainable palm oil in the Indian region.

Greater China

PROGRESS

Total membership by end of 2019:
186 members

51% increase
in membership between 2018 and 2019



Regional Outreach Highlights in 2019

- Three new members joined the China Sustainable Palm Oil Alliance (CSPOA) in 2019
- Co-organised the China Sustainable Palm Oil Forum with the China Chamber of Commerce of Foodstuffs and Native Produce (CFNA) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in July 2019
- Participated in the Asian Youth for Sustainable Palm Oil Summit 2019 to share the initiatives of China’s youth related to sustainable palm oil
- Participated in the Sustainable Consumption Week with WWF-China in August 2019.

Throughout the years, RSPO has been strengthening our engagement in China, starting from 2015 with the establishment of our outreach office in the region. In the past decade, the number of RSPO members in Greater China grew from one to 186 in 2019, with 34 RSPO Trademark licence holders at the end of December 2019.

Moving into 2020, the RSPO China team will launch the China Youth for Sustainability programme through our collaboration with local NGOs and we will continue to promote and advocate sustainable consumption and increase stakeholders’ knowledge and awareness in the region through campaigns such as ‘Say Yes to Sustainable Palm Oil’. We will also focus on enhancing our partnership (e.g. CSPOA) with Chinese government agencies, industry associations, and Chinese domestic and international enterprises to continue to jointly promote the purchase and use of sustainable palm oil in China.



Malaysia

PROGRESS

Total membership by end of 2019:
145 members

10% increase
in membership between 2018 and 2019

Indonesia

PROGRESS

Total membership by end of 2019:
106 members

4% increase
in membership between 2018 and 2019

Regional Outreach Highlights in 2019

- Participated in and hosted a booth at the 9th International Planters Conference (IPC 2019) and the Palm and Lauric Oils Price Outlook Conference & Exhibition (PIPOC 2019) in Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia has seen a continuous growth in membership in the last decade whereby it started with 92 members in 2010 and has since grown to 145 members. Throughout the years, our outreach activities in the country have largely been focused on raising awareness and support for the RSPO by driving engagement and building relationships with key stakeholder groups, including local government bodies, NGOs, industry bodies and consumers.

While Malaysia is in the top two palm oil producing and exporting countries in the world, a large portion of the palm oil it produces is also consumed in local markets. However, market awareness for CSPO remains low in the country. Therefore, there is a need for RSPO to develop strategies to boost the local demand for CSPO. Moving forward, our team in Malaysia will look to build out its outreach program to better reach smallholder and medium size growers, as well as look to work with regional governments. For example, the work on the Sabah jurisdictional approach to certification with the provincial government, local NGOs and others to incorporate the RSPO standards into the province’s oil palm sector is a key workstream in the country. Additionally, the team will work to get domestic manufacturers and retailers to embrace sustainable palm oil in this important market and a Youth in Sustainability programme is expected to be launched later in 2020/early 2021.

Further, to strengthen engagement in this market, former Director of Technical, Salahudin Yaacob, has been made Director of Strategic Stakeholder Engagement with a primary focus on Malaysia and other key countries, and giving the RSPO a senior member of the executive team to develop and shepherd the strategic implementation of our outreach and stakeholder engagement.

Regional Outreach Highlights in 2019

- Reached approximately 100 Youth in Sustainability members
- Purchased of RSPO Credits by two members
- Regional Representative Office Indonesia initiated the #smartconsumer #recognisethelabel annual event.

Indonesia has seen a growth in membership from 72 to 106 members in the last decade. In 2018, RSPO initiated a youth community programme in Indonesia called Youth in Sustainability (YiS), which is based in Jakarta, Bandung and Yogyakarta with 33 members. It aims to increase awareness about responsible consumption and climate action in Indonesia. In each location, YiS launched a youth-oriented campaign, geared towards encouraging food waste reduction, ecolabel recognition, and waste management. As consumers and future leaders, Indonesia’s youth play a key role in urging their favourite brands to source only sustainable raw materials, such as certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO). As of December 2019, the number of YiS members has increased to around 100 people. With this initiative, in the past year, more than 10,000 youth in Indonesia have been educated about the RSPO, sustainable palm oil and sustainable living practices.

In the same year, the Regional Representative Office (RRO) collaborated with the Indonesia Business Council for Sustainable Development (IBCSO) in the implementation of the Green Lifestyle Initiative Programme for Responsible Consumption and Production. It aims to support the implementation of sustainable consumption and production in Indonesia. Over the decade, we have learned that the majority of the consumers in Indonesia lack the knowledge of ecolabel products, RSPO, and sustainable palm oil. This lack of demand in Indonesia has discouraged our members in adopting the RSPO Trademark.

Moving forward, we will place efforts in strengthening the awareness of sustainability in Indonesia, by developing a sustainable palm oil market in Bali. In order to successfully roll out the platform, RSPO plans to engage and connect the potential market in Bali with the RSPO supply chain members in East Java by designing a business matching event and creating a value proposition for the industry. We will also focus on media partnership to increase awareness, not only to the upstream industry, but also the downstream industry to encourage their commitments to shared responsibility.

Market outreach by our member

Raise Your Palm - driving change through Taronga's Tiger Trek towards a sustainable palm oil future

Taronga Conservation Society went above and beyond their normal organisational or business goals to champion the message of sustainable palm oil in the market for the RSPO. Tiger Trek at Taronga Zoo was designed as an innovative, creative and immersive experience for their visitors to inspire them to take positive actions to protect the remaining Sumatran tiger population in the wild, and to empower them to make consumer choices to support RSPO certified sustainable palm oil.

In a simulated flight onboard Tiger Trek Airlines, guests are transported from Taronga Zoo in Australia to Indonesia, where they have a close encounter with Sumatran Tigers. Guests travel directly over beautiful forest and landscapes that form the habitat of the tigers as well as the land cleared for unsustainable palm oil production. This allows them to not only see the amazing forest and tiger habitat that needs protection, but also the scale of the negative impact of unsustainable palm oil. In transition back to the urban world, guests then enter the 'Choice Mart' - a simulated supermarket where they are empowered to make consumer choices to help protect the remaining tiger population and support RSPO certified sustainable palm oil. Over 115,000 emails have been sent from guests encouraging manufacturers and retailers to use RSPO certified sustainable palm oil, leveraging community action to support the transition towards a truly responsible palm oil industry in Australia.



Photo Credit: Taronga Conservation Society



At Taronga and in Zoos across the world, we believe that we have the responsibility to our wildlife to tell their stories. Through Tiger Trek we have shared the story of the Sumatran Tiger, and with as few as 400 left in the wild it is a critical one. Guests can get up close to the endangered Sumatran Tigers and learn how simple shopping choices can help to preserve their precious, natural habitat. This is where the positive impact of the RSPO is crucial, providing a pathway to drive the transformation to sustainable palm oil, protecting wildlife, forests and communities.

BELINDA FAIRBROTHER, Community Conservation and Engagement Manager, Taronga Conservation Society Australia.



Photo Credit: Taronga Conservation Society



BASE DATA, GLOSSARY AND REFERENCES

Unless otherwise stated, all data presented here are representative of the calendar year (1 January to 31 December) to reflect our new reporting period. Therefore, the data differ from the data presented in previous Impact Reports and Impact Updates.

MEMBERSHIP

Indicator	Breakdown	Unit	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Membership								
Total		Number of Members	4,577	4,059	3,729	3,193	2,645	2,003
By Country	United States	Number of Members	540	482	406	267	166	114
	Germany		477	462	436	386	327	242
	United Kingdom		452	425	428	406	353	277
	Netherlands		233	225	223	201	176	139
	Italy		216	198	179	171	141	80
	France		187	177	148	140	134	119
	Japan		177	117	78	52	38	31
	Spain		164	146	128	100	84	54
	Belgium		161	151	144	111	103	77
	Australia		147	135	129	120	98	73
	Malaysia		145	132	138	136	126	121
	China		129	82	82	61	45	29
	Indonesia		106	102	121	112	113	106
Others	1,443	1,225	1,089	930	741	541		
By Membership Type	Ordinary	Number of Members	1,840	1,711	1,659	1,466	1,315	1,112
	Associate		2,632	2,255	1,965	1,618	1,220	791
	Affiliate		105	93	105	109	110	100

Note to data:

• Membership data is taken as at 31 December for each respective year. Therefore, data differs from data presented in previous Impact Reports and Impact Updates.

CERTIFIED, PRODUCTION AND UPTAKE

Indicator	Breakdown	Unit	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Certified, Production and Uptake								
Area	Production Area	ha	3,051,930	2,807,377	2,513,576	2,480,152	2,773,999	2,633,583
	Certified Area		4,160,924	3,740,611	3,301,088	3,254,269	3,463,598	3,159,277
	HCV Area		230,195*	221,019	307,041	185,532	144,967	NA
Annual certified volume	CSPO	mt	15,192,356	13,474,502	11,616,293	12,154,072	12,886,070	11,955,234
	CSPK		3,383,788	3,061,071	2,638,764	2,769,276	2,996,574	2,713,935
Supply	CSPO	mt	14,351,626	13,287,566	11,860,079	12,062,293	12,130,775	10,998,913
	CSPK		3,221,825	3,042,599	2,713,154	2,765,223	2,780,291	2,531,369
Sales	CSPO Sales through IP, SG, MB	mt	5,303,819	4,331,377	4,511,050	3,674,550	2,833,434	2,441,775
	CSPO Sales through Book and Claim		1,765,113	1,914,943	1,644,933	1,958,181	3,426,790	2,917,408
	Total CSPO sales		7,068,932	6,246,320	6,155,983	5,632,731	6,182,694	5,359,183

Indicator	Breakdown	Unit	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Certified, Production and Uptake								
Uptake	CSPO Sales/ Supply	%	49%	47%	52%	47%	51%	49%

Note to data:

- Area and Annual Certified Volume is taken as at 31 December for each respective year. Therefore, data differs from data presented in previous Impact Reports and Impact Updates.
- Data for Supply, Sales and Uptake is cumulative of the calendar year (1 January – 31 December)
- All figures presented under “Certified, production, uptake” are inclusive of schemed and independent smallholders certified under group certification schemes.
- HCV figure marked with asterisk (*) refers to data that excludes set-aside conservation areas.
- Annual certified value is determined based on the projected annual production of the certified mills. Supply data is estimated based on monthly availability of the annual certified production volume of mills. The difference between annual certified production volume and supply is due to the differences in certification period of individual mills.

NEW PLANTING PROCEDURE

Breakdown	Unit	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
New Planting Procedure											
Brazil	ha	-	-	-	-	7,448	-	-	532	-	-
Cambodia	ha	-	-	-	-	-	2,432	-	8,287	-	-
Cameroon*	ha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Costa Rica*	ha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gabon	ha	-	-	14,530	58,400	23,780	31,800	-	35,379	-	-
Ghana	ha	1,388	-	-	-	-	2,240	-	-	-	-
Guatemala	ha	407	933	797	496	-	691	-	-	-	-
Indonesia	ha	14,719	25,983	9,266	17,335	85,016	753,594	41,973	134,962	43,650	9,000
Liberia	ha	-	-	-	-	1,570	62,300	38,085	-	45,000	-
Malaysia	ha	1,700	-	-	3,319	-	3,558	-	-	-	-
Mexico	ha	-	-	1,019	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nigeria	ha	-	-	14,436	2,368	-	-	-	5,594	-	-
Papua New Guinea	ha	-	6,273	-	3,563	-	380	4,409	-	33,000	-
Sierra Leone	ha	-	-	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Solomon Islands	ha	-	2,677	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Togo	ha	-	-	-	4,144	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note to data:

- NPP areas distributed over country and year.
- Figures are based on the calendar year (1 January to 31 December). Therefore, data differs from data presented in previous Impact Reports and Impact Updates.
- * Member in these countries have resigned their membership with RSPO after NPP was approved and as such, their data have been excluded from the table.

REMEDIATION AND COMPENSATION PROCEDURE

Breakdown	NCLC area (ha)			FCL area (ha)		
	2019	2018	2017	2019	2018	2017
Remediation and Compensation Procedure (RaCP)						
Brazil	1,014	2,751	51	166	846	39
Cameroon	8,281	8,281	-	4,351	4351	-
Colombia	45,444	39,629	21,386	1,528	24361	2,015
Congo	6,647	-	-	-	-	-
Costa Rica	173	173	387	3	3	3
Côte d'Ivoire	2,165	2,165	1,887	786	786	-

Breakdown	NCLC area (ha)			FCL area (ha)		
	2019	2018	2017	2019	2018	2017
Remediation and Compensation Procedure (RaCP)						
Dominican Republic	7,447	7,447	773	74	74	3
Ecuador	14,093	15,542	7,417	2,514	2946	592
Ghana	6,103	6,103	2,432	684	685	168
Guatemala	42,018	23,086	14,991	7,090	927	406
Honduras	10,619	8,437	8,703	274	308	183
Indonesia	601,833	684,502	581,924	49,756	87585	55,628
Malaysia	63,217	62,551	61,414	7,899	11596	9,048
Mexico	14,924	2,694	-	1,243	236	-
Nigeria	2,048	2,048	2,048	8	8	88
Papua New Guinea	9,864	7,372	-	1,025	799	-
Peru	20,431	20,431	-	2,998	2998	-
São Tomé and Príncipe	1,331	1,331	-	483	483	-
Sierra Leone	14,289	14,199	-	236	331	-
Thailand	2278	-	-	533	-	-

Note to data:

- NCLC: Non-compliant land clearance or land clearance without prior HCV assessment since November 2005.
- FCL: Final Conservation Liability.
- All figures in the above table are taken as at 30 June of each respective year except for 2019. Figures for 2019 is inclusive up to 31 December 2019.

COMPLAINTS

Indicator	Breakdown	Unit	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Complaints								
Complaints success criteria	Total complaints received (cumulative)	Number of Complaints	137	116	93	75	62	47
	Total complaints closed (cumulative)		95	72	56	47	35	26
	Total complaints remaining open at year-end (cumulative)		42	44	37	28	27	21
	Complaints managed by year*		65	60	46	40	36	26
	Complaint closed by year*		23	16	9	12	9	5
	Percentage of complaints closed each year	%	35%	27%	20%	30%	25%	19%

Note to data:

- A data cleaning exercise was conducted after data collection system had been reviewed and restructured.
- Complaints data for 2014-2019 is representative of calendar year (1 January to 31 December)
- * Data includes complaints that were filed in previous years.

TRADEMARK

Indicator	Breakdown	Unit	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Trademark								
Total trademark	Trademark	Number of licences	958	797	556	412	300	181
By stakeholder group	CGM	Number of licences	346	307	220	175	128	79
	P&T		202	162	109	86	77	51
	SCA		363	289	200	135	77	36
	SCGM		2	2	2	-	-	-
	Retailers		7	7	7	7	9	9
	Growers		38	30	18	9	7	6
By country	Germany	Number of licences	152	134	91	68	54	40
	United States		76	61	47	42	27	20
	United Kingdom		71	59	48	39	24	17
	France		63	58	33	20	24	16
	Belgium		59	50	44	35	24	15
	Netherlands		56	52	39	32	22	11
	Italy		53	47	34	27	-	-
	Malaysia		50	45	32	25	28	21
	Spain		44	38	27	19	-	-
	Austria		26	23	15	-	-	-
	Others		308	230	146	94	58	27
By year	By Years	Number of licences	162	172*	138*	163	111	98

Note to data:

- Trademark Licence data 'By year' for 2014-2019 is representative of the calendar year (1 January-31 December).
- Trademark Licence data reflects data from supply chain certified members only.
- There is ongoing exercise to review and cleanup the overall data structure. Figures marked with asterisk (*) are the latest updated figures that reflects the process and may differ from the previous Impact Reports.

CERTIFICATION 2019

Indicator	Total Certified Area (ha)	Total Production Area (ha)	Total Certified FFB Produced (mt)	Total Certified Volume CSPO (mt)	Total Certified Volume CSPK (mt)
Certification					
Mills and Supply Base(s)	4,131,304	3,023,573	67,982,809	15,083,122	3,383,788
Group Certification for Independent Smallholders (ISH)	29,620	28,357	485,370	109,234	-

Note to data:

- The data is taken as of 31 December 2019 from Market data.

COUNTRIES WITH P&C CERTIFICATION

Indicator	Total Certified Area (ha)	Total Production Area (ha)	Total Certified FFB Produced (mt)	Total Certified Volume CSPO (mt)	Total Certified Volume CSPK (mt)
Countries with P&C Certification					
Brazil	122,634	48,254	775,246	139,105	17,346
Cambodia	20,580	16,460	295,000	57,665	13,865
Colombia	84,759	62,518	1,290,681	286,373	60,703
Costa Rica	45,883	42,009	773,349	174,844	39,861
Cote D'Ivoire	44,590	41,515	304,667	69,886	7,496
Ecuador	24,540	11,275	120,692	25,886	6,225
Gabon	112,455	24,483	385,057	93,128	16,867
Ghana	31,697	22,087	309,708	67,385	15,703
Guatemala	46,072	40,154	1,230,242	287,168	54,573
Honduras	31,408	29,576	632,956	144,494	31,524
Indonesia	2,108,546	1,615,394	36,951,325	8,448,449	1,878,308
Madagascar	2,234	1,087	6,336	415	176
Malaysia	1,227,737	901,318	20,756,497	4,467,755	1,044,394
Nigeria	16,363	9,851	59,572	9,216	3,396
Papua New Guinea	195,010	143,990	3,799,783	745,498	176,584
Solomon Islands	9,026	6,597	157,839	37,755	9,391
Thailand	7,772	7,008	133,858	28,100	7,375

Note to data:

- All figures in the above table exclude data for independent smallholders certified under group certification but are inclusive of outgrower and scheme smallholders. All figures are taken as at 31 December 2019.

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

RSPO membership category consisting of organisations that are not directly involved in the palm oil supply chain, but have expressed interest in RSPO's objectives and activities. Membership extends to academia, research and development organisations, donors and sponsors. Affiliate members may attend the annual General Assembly as observers.

ANNUAL COMMUNICATION OF PROGRESS (ACOP)

Reports submitted by RSPO members to gauge their progress towards 100% RSPO certified sustainable palm oil. These reports are mandatory for Ordinary and Affiliate members, and are submitted each year.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPS)

Practical guidelines to enhance oil palm management.

CERTIFICATION BODY (CB)

Organisation that provides third-party auditing and certification services related to a product, process or system, and which can issue a certificate of compliance.

CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL (CSPO)

Palm oil that has been produced from oil palm grown on a plantation that is managed and certified in accordance with the RSPO Principles & Criteria.

CRUDE PALM OIL (CPO)

A type of unrefined vegetable oil obtained from the fruit of the oil palm tree.

DECENT LIVING WAGE (DLW)

The remuneration received by a worker, for work performed on regular hours, in a particular place sufficient to afford a decent standard of living for the worker and her or his family.

DISPUTE SETTLEMENT FACILITY (DSF)

A mechanism within RSPO that facilitates mediation between mutually consenting Parties to resolve disputes.

FINAL CONSERVATION LIABILITY (FCL)

Compensation liabilities incurred by RSPO members as a result of clearance without prior HCV assessment since November 2005. FCL is expressed in hectares.

FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT (FPIC)

A principle that a community has the right to give or withhold its consent to proposed projects that may affect the lands they customarily own, occupy or otherwise use.

FRESH FRUIT BUNCHES (FFB)

Bunch harvested from the oil palm. Each bunch can weigh from 5 to 50 kilograms and can contain 1,500 or more individual fruits.

GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG)

Term for gases that trap heat within the atmosphere. The primary greenhouse gases are water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone.

HECTARES (HA)

A unit of measurement equivalent to 10,000 square metres, or 100m x 100m.

HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE (HCV)

The concept of HCV forest was first developed by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) in 1999 as their 9th Principle. The FSC defined HCV forest as forest of outstanding and critical importance due to its environmental, socioeconomic, cultural, biodiversity and landscape value.

HIGH CARBON STOCK (HCS) FOREST

Forests that are important to local communities or that have high carbon or biodiversity values.

HIGH FOREST COVER COUNTRY (HFCC)

Landscapes having >60% forest cover (based on recent, trusted REDD+ and national data); <1% oil palm cover; a deforestation trajectory that is historically low but increasing or constant; and a known frontier area for oil palm or where major areas have been allocated for development.

HIGH FOREST COVER LANDSCAPE (HFCL)

Landscapes having >80% forest cover. Landscape as defined under HCSA Toolkit (Module 5): "The size of a landscape may be determined by (a) identifying the watershed or the geographical land unit containing a cluster of interacting ecosystems; (b) selecting a unit size that encompasses the plantation concession and a buffer of the surrounding area (e.g. 50,000 ha or 100,000 ha); or (c) using a radius of 5 km from the area of interest (for instance, the planned concession)."

HOTSPOT

A small area with a relatively high temperature in comparison to its surroundings.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS (HRDS)

Individuals, groups and associations who promote and protect universally recognised human rights and contribute to the effective elimination of all forms of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals and peoples. This includes Environmental Human Rights Defenders, whistleblowers, complainants and community spokespersons. The definition does not include those individuals who commit or propagate violence.

IDENTITY PRESERVED (IP)

The Identity Preserved supply chain model assures that RSPO certified palm oil is kept separate from oil that is not RSPO certified. This oil can be physically traced back to its plantation of origin.

ISEAL ALLIANCE

Global membership association for credible sustainability standards, which work together to improve the impact and effectiveness of current and potential future members.

JURISDICTIONAL APPROACH TO CERTIFICATION

In the context of sustainable palm oil, the jurisdictional approach seeks to align interests and coordinate actions among governments, businesses, local communities, and NGOs toward shared conservation, supply chain sustainability, and green development goals.

LAND USE CHANGE ANALYSIS (LUCA)

Assessment determining changes to vegetation cover and land use over a given timeframe.

MASS BALANCE (MB)

Supply chain model that allows certified claims to be transferred from one oil palm product to another, either through physical blending or administratively under strictly controlled circumstances.

METRIC TONNE (MT)

A unit of mass equivalent to 1,000 kilogrammes.

NEW PLANTING PROCEDURE (NPP)

Provides guidance on how and under what conditions new oil palm plantings should be carried out.

OIL PALM

A species of palm (*Elaeis guineensis*) and the principal source of palm oil. It is native to west and southwest Africa, but is now cultivated in over 26 countries. Ideal growing conditions occur up to 10 degrees either side of the equator.

ORDINARY MEMBERS

RSPO membership category consisting of organisations that have either direct involvement, or have activities around, the palm oil supply chain. Only ordinary members are allowed to submit resolutions and vote at the annual General Assembly.

PALMGHG

A calculator developed by the RSPO Greenhouse Gas Working Group (2010-2011) and further refined and improved by the RSPO Emission Reduction Working Group to estimate and monitor net GHG emissions from current estate and mill operations.

PALM KERNEL OIL (PKO)

Oil extracted from the kernel or core of the palm fruit.

PALM OIL

Edible oil extracted from the fruit of the oil palm. Palm oil is one of the few highly saturated vegetable fats. It remains semi-solid at room temperature and is suitable for a wide variety of applications. Palm oil is an ingredient in a large number of products, including margarine, baked goods, chocolate, ice cream, soaps and cosmetics. It is also used as fuel for cars and power plants.

PALMTRACE

RSPO's traceability system for certified oil palm products. Certified members use PalmTrace to register their physical sales and processing activities - from mill level to refineries - under the IP, SG and MB supply chain models. PalmTrace also supports RSPO's Book and Claim model by enabling the trade of RSPO Credits.

PEAT

Histosols (organic soils) are soils with cumulative organic layer(s) comprising more than half of the upper 80cm or 100cm of the soil surface containing 35% or more of organic matter (35% or more Loss on Ignition) or 18% or more organic carbon (FAO 1998, 2006/7; USDA 2014; IUSS 1930). National accepted definitions as in the case of Malaysia and Indonesia may be proposed through the National Interpretation (NI) process for the RSPO P&C.

REMEDICATION AND COMPENSATION PROCEDURE (RACP)

Procedure whereby RSPO members are required to remediate and compensate for land clearance without prior HCV assessment since November 2005.

RSPO BOARD OF GOVERNORS (BOG)

RSPO management body comprised of 16 RSPO members, representing each of the seven RSPO membership categories and designated by the General Assembly for two years.

RSPO COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS PROCEDURES (CAP)

RSPO procedures for dealing with complaints arising from a breach of the RSPO Key Documents, and appeals against the decision of the Complaints Panel in relation to such Complaints.

RSPO COMPLAINTS PANEL

An independent panel comprising RSPO members constituted to receive and process complaints.

RSPO CREDITS/BOOK AND CLAIM

Model where the supply chain is not monitored for the presence of sustainable palm oil. Manufacturers and retailers support the production of RSPO certified sustainable oil palm products through the purchase of Credits from RSPO certified growers, crushers and independent smallholders.

RSPO DRAINABILITY ASSESSMENT (DA) PROCEDURE

The RSPO DA Procedure has been developed to support oil palm growers to assess future subsidence and flood risks of peatlands and adjust their management processes to reduce subsidence rates and prolong the workable lifetime of their plantations.

RSPO PRINCIPLES & CRITERIA (P&C)

Guidelines on how palm oil companies and growers should produce palm oil sustainably. It forms the basis of all company assessments for certification and is reviewed every five years.

RSPO SMALLHOLDER SUPPORT FUND (RSSF)

A fund established by the RSPO to help smallholders secure sustainable palm oil certification. The RSSF is funded from 10% of income generated through the trading of CSPO.

SEGREGATED (SG)

The Segregated supply chain model maintains separation between sustainable palm oil from different certified sources and ordinary palm oil throughout supply chain. The model assures that RSPO certified oil palm products delivered to the end user come only from RSPO certified sources.

SET-ASIDE AREA

Areas set-aside that are not planned to be planted, such as peatlands, areas of fragile or marginal soils, steep slopes, etc., excluding HCV areas.

SMALLHOLDERS

Farmers growing oil palm, sometimes along with subsistence production of other crops, where the family provides the majority of labour and the farm provides the principal source of income and where the planted area of oil palm is usually below 50 ha in size.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Committees that oversee RSPO's overall operations, consisting of members from the BoG and RSPO members. Four Standing Committees have been appointed to lead: Standards & Certification, Trade & Traceability, Communications & Claims and Finance.

SUPPLY CHAIN ASSOCIATES

RSPO membership category consisting of companies that procure, use or trade less than 500 MT of CSPO annually. Supply chain associates may attend the annual General Assembly as observers.

UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

A set of 17 aspirational global goals to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The goals build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals, while including new areas such as climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace and justice, among other priorities.

¹ In line with the revision of the current RSPO P&C 2013, the Peatland Working Group 2 has revised the "RSPO's organic and peat soil classification," which is available at: www.rspo.org/principles-and-criteria-review/revision-of-rspo-organic-and-peat-soil-classification.

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The RSPO is an international non-profit organisation formed in 2004 with the objective to promote the growth and use of sustainable oil palm products through credible global standards and engagement of stakeholders.



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