

**2024**

**RSPO Principles & Criteria**

*for*

*Sustainable Cultivation of Oil Palms &  
Production of Sustainable Palm Oil  
and Oil Palm Products*

*Version 4-0*

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# I. Introduction

## 1.1 Roundtable of Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)

The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) was established in 2004 as a non-profit membership association (under Article 60 of the Swiss Civil Code) with the aim of convening the palm oil industry through a multi-stakeholder platform to develop and implement global standards for sustainable palm oil and oil palm products. Our objective is to promote the growth and use of certified sustainable palm oil and oil palm products through cooperation and shared responsibility within the supply chain and the wider palm oil value chain.

### 1.1.1 The RSPO Vision

RSPO is a global partnership to make palm oil sustainable.

We convene stakeholders across the palm oil value chain to act together as partners for progress and positive impact, facilitating global change through the production, consumption, and awareness of sustainable palm oil. To provide assurance, we set the standards of certification. To inspire change, we communicate environmental, social, and economic/commercial benefits. To make progress, we catalyse collaboration. RSPO, therefore, represents a collective ambition to ensure the palm oil value chain equitably balances the interests of our three Impact Pillars - People, Planet, Prosperity.

The RSPO Principles and Criteria (P&C) is a foundational mechanism within RSPO's wider library of standards, systems, and procedures. While the RSPO P&C is not the only mechanism RSPO has developed as a global partnership to make palm oil sustainable, it is the most critical one around which all RSPO activities are designed and structured.

### 1.1.2 The RSPO Theory of Change

The first RSPO Theory of Change (ToC) was published in 2017 and revised in September 2024 for relevance, in compliance with the ISEAL Impacts Code of Good Practice Version 2.0. The 2024 RSPO Principles and Criteria has been aligned with the revised RSPO ToC.

The revised ToC is presented in two visual diagrams: the full ToC and a simplified ToC (see [Appendix A](#)). The full ToC is intended for a detailed and more technical understanding of the ToC's causal pathways, while the simplified ToC is intended to show the essence of expected change for general understanding and communication.

While the scope of the ToC is broader than the RSPO P&C, the standard interacts with the ToC in fundamental ways. A clear, implementable, auditable, and relevant standard is integral to achieving the positive impacts and RSPO's vision, from RSPO's direct strategies and activities, to the outputs, expected change, and intended impacts of those strategies and activities.

Progress of the ToC will be monitored and evaluated for continuous improvement. Public reporting of the progress in expected change and intended impacts will be published in the RSPO Impact Report or Impact Update, based on the RSPO Impact Framework.

### 1.1.3 The RSPO Information System

RSPO has developed a unified digital certification, trade, and traceability Information System, titled prisma (referenced as 'RSPO Information System' in this document). All information concerning compliance and certification under the 2024 RSPO P&C (unless specifically mentioned as an exception) will be reported and stored in prisma, which will provide critical digital traceability pathways to deliver key publicly-available certification data to the wider RSPO palm oil value chain. The development of prisma, and the transmission of data within the system, shall respect the confidentiality and operational/business rights of RSPO members and Units of Certification.

## II. Preamble

### 2.1 The RSPO Principles & Criteria

The RSPO Principles and Criteria (P&C) is applicable to the sustainable cultivation of oil palms, and production of sustainable palm oil and oil palm products worldwide. The RSPO P&C outlines requirements for sustainable cultivation and production practices, supplemented with guidance, recommended practices, and advice to assist RSPO members in reaching shared sustainability objectives. Adherence to the RSPO P&C ensures that oil palms are cultivated, and palm oil/oil palm products are produced, in a way that equitably balances the interests of People, Planet and Prosperity.

#### Background to 2024 RSPO P&C (Version 4-0)

The first RSPO Principles and Criteria (P&C) was piloted in 2005 and released for general adoption in 2007. The standard was revised in 2013, and again in 2018. A separate RSPO Independent Smallholder (ISH) standard (RISS V1-0) was released for general adoption in 2019. To ensure downstream chain of custody of palm oil and oil palm products produced and sold as RSPO certified, the RSPO Supply Chain Certification (SCC) Standard was adopted in November 2014, and revised in February 2020.

In February 2022, RSPO began a comprehensive Standards Review and Revision process to assess relevance of the 2018 RSPO P&C (Version 3-1) and the 2019 RSPO ISH Standard (IS\_V1-0), in line with the 'RSPO Standard Operating Procedure for Standard Setting and Review (2020)', and in compliance with the 'ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards Version 6.0'.

The revised standard - 2024 RSPO P&C (Version 4-0) - is the fourth version of the RSPO Principles and Criteria, adopted by RSPO members at the 21st RSPO General Assembly on **13 November 2024**, to replace the previous 2018 RSPO P&C (Version 3-1) standard.

Version*	Description	Date
<b>V1-0*</b> <b>(P&amp;C 2007)</b>	The first RSPO P&C was drafted in November 2005, with trial implementation conducted from November 2005 to November 2007. It was formally endorsed for general adoption by the RSPO Executive Board in October 2007. The 2007 RSPO P&C applied to all oil palm producers.	Oct 2007
<b>V2-0*</b> <b>(P&amp;C 2013)</b>	The first revision of the RSPO P&C was adopted at the RSPO Extraordinary General Assembly on 25 April 2013. Additional indicators were endorsed for inclusion by the RSPO Board of Governors on 15 November 2013. The 2013 RSPO P&C applied to all oil palm producers.	15 Nov 2013
<b>V3-0*</b> <b>(P&amp;C 2018)</b>	The second revision of the RSPO P&C was adopted at the 15th RSPO General Assembly on 15 November 2018. The 2018 RSPO P&C applies to all oil palm producers (with the exception of Independent Smallholders and Independent Palm Oil Mills).	15 Nov 2018
<b>IS_V1-0*</b> <b>(ISH 2019)</b>	The first standalone RSPO Independent Smallholder (ISH) Standard was adopted at the 16th RSPO General Assembly on 6 November 2019. The RSPO ISH Standard applies to independent smallholder groups.	16 Nov 2019
<b>V3-1*</b> <b>(P&amp;C 2018)</b>	A procedural update of the 2018 RSPO P&C to incorporate traceability requirements for palm oil mills, in alignment with the revised 2020 RSPO Supply Chain Certification (SCC) Standard adopted on 1 February 2020.	1 Feb 2020
<b>V4-0</b> <b>(P&amp;C 2024)</b>	The third revision of the RSPO P&C was adopted at the 21st RSPO General Assembly on <b>13 November 2024</b> . The 2024 RSPO P&C applies to all oil palm producers (with the exception of Independent Smallholders and Independent Palm Oil Mills).	<b>13 Nov 2024</b>

\*RSPO standards without official version numbers, which have been retroactively applied for document control purposes .

## 2.1.1 Structure

The 2024 RSPO Principles and Criteria is composed of six sections, with normative and informative elements. In reference to the “ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, Principles and Rules for the Structure and Drafting of ISO and IEC documents”, the definition of normative and informative is:

- **Normative:** Describes the scope of the document or sets out mandatory provisions
- **Informative:** Information intended to assist the understanding or use of the document, or that provides contextual information about its content, background, or relationship with other documents

Section	Title	Applicability
<b>I</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>Informative</b>
<b>II</b>	<b>Preamble</b>	<b>Normative</b>
<b>III</b>	<b>Change Log</b>	<b>Informative</b>
<b>IV</b>	<b>Principles, Criteria, and Indicators</b>	<b>Normative</b>
<b>V</b>	<b>Annexes</b>	
<i>Annex 1</i>	<i>Terms and definitions</i>	<i>Normative</i>
<i>Annex 2</i>	<i>Key international laws and conventions applicable to the production of palm oil</i>	<i>Informative</i>
<i>Annex 3</i>	<i>Interpretation of Indicator 7.7.1 (C)</i>	<i>Normative</i>
<i>Annex 4</i>	<i>List of RSPO-recognised Human Rights Due Diligence methodologies for compliance to Indicator 1.3.1</i>	<i>Normative</i>
<i>Annex 5</i>	<i>Compliance Requirements and Informative Guidance</i>	<i>Informative</i>
<i>Annex 6</i>	<i>Supplementary and derivative documents of the 2024 RSPO P&amp;C</i>	<i>Normative / Informative</i>
<b>VI</b>	<b>Appendices</b>	
<i>Appendix 1</i>	<i>RSPO Theory of Change</i>	<i>Informative</i>
<i>Appendix 2</i>	<i>List of National Interpretations of the 2018 RSPO P&amp;C</i>	<i>Informative</i>

## Presentation Format

The presentation of principles, criteria, and indicators in the 2024 RSPO P&C is based on the following format:

Term	Definition	Applicability
Principle	Fundamental statement about an overarching sustainability objective of the standard, encompassing criteria and indicators to achieve that objective. Aligned with Long-term Outcomes in the RSPO Theory of Change	Normative
Criterion/ Criteria	A component condition or outcome that has to be met to comply with the principle. Aligned to Long-term/Intermediate Outcomes in the RSPO Theory of Change.	Normative
Indicator	A measurable state that the Unit of Certification shall demonstrate compliance to, based on objective or subjective assessment, in order to achieve a criterion. Aligned with Intermediate Outcomes in the RSPO Theory of Change.	Normative
Criticality	Critical Indicators are denoted with (C) in the numbering of the indicator. Non-Critical Indicators are denoted by the absence of a (C) in the numbering of the indicator.	Normative
Procedural Note	An instance where an exceptional measure or an interim directive is required due to pending developments. A Procedural Note is used where a procedure or a supplementary/derivative document is still under development at the time of the standard's adoption or effective date, to clarify terms, conditions, and interim measures that shall be in active use until pending development has been completed and endorsed for implementation. Unless explicitly stated to be informative, a Procedural Note is normative.	Normative / Informative

## Supplementary and Derivative Documents

Implementation of the 2024 RSPO P&C shall be supported by a library of supplementary and derivative documents, which include guidance documents and/or Best Management Practices (BMPs) for specific indicators, formally-adopted procedures (e.g., the RSPO Remediation and Compensation Procedure/RaCP, the RSPO New Planting Procedure/NPP, the RSPO Prevailing Wage Calculation Procedure, the RSPO Drainability Assessment Procedure), as well as National Interpretations of the 2024 RSPO P&C.

A list of currently effective, to be developed, to be updated, and in development supplementary and derivative documents to support implementation of the 2024 RSPO P&C is available in [Annex 6](#), and can be referenced on the RSPO website.

## National Interpretations

The 2024 RSPO Principles and Criteria provides general principles, criteria, indicators, requirements, and guidance for sustainable cultivation of oil palms, and production of sustainable palm oil and oil palm products, that are applicable globally. The National Interpretation (NI) process, as specified in the “RSPO Standard Operating Procedure for Standard Setting and Review (2020)”, allows the general 2024 RSPO P&C to be contextualised at a national level for specific countries.

RSPO encourages all palm oil producing countries to comply with the general 2024 RSPO P&C, but allows for members in a particular country to initiate a National Interpretation process. Until a NI has been developed for a specific country and endorsed by the RSPO Board of Governors, the applicable standard in that country is the general 2024 RSPO P&C.

RSPO respects the right of our members to initiate a National Interpretation process, and the RSPO Secretariat will provide guidance and facilitation support. A NI process may be initiated through a formal request addressed to the RSPO Secretariat ([standard.development@rspo.org](mailto:standard.development@rspo.org)), and written approval from RSPO shall be required to proceed. A NI process may be initiated within 24 months of the formal adoption of the general 2024 RSPO P&C, and development of any initiated NI should be concluded no later than 36 months from the formal adoption of the general 2024 RSPO P&C 2024.

A National Interpretation shall be confined to the scope of the general 2024 RSPO P&C. Additional criteria shall not be developed. A NI may strengthen criteria, indicators, and guidance, or develop acceptable performance levels to measure indicators that are contextualised for a specific country, as long as such changes do not represent a diminution of the general 2024 RSPO P&C. New indicators and guidance may be developed, as long as such additions do not contradict or weaken any other part of the NI or the general 2024 RSPO P&C.

A list of currently effective National Interpretations of the 2018 RSPO P&C is available in [Appendix B](#).



## 2.1.2 Scope

The 2024 RSPO Principles and Criteria provides a holistic approach for the sustainable cultivation of oil palms, and production of sustainable palm oil and oil palm products, focusing on significant social, environmental, and economic/commercial aspects associated with the cultivation of oil palms, and production of palm oil and oil palm products. This is defined as:

- A. The *Elaeis* genus of oil palms, including all botanical hybrids, breeds, varieties, and/or forms derived from the African oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*) or the American oil palm (*Elaeis oleifera*) e.g., variants or forms such as *E.guineensis fo. tenera*, *Elaeis guineensis fo. dura*, *Elaeis guineensis var. Pisifera*.
- B. Planting, replanting, expansion, and cultivation of oil palms (including land, activities, and workers associated with such developments and/or operations)
- C. Harvesting, distribution, and sourcing of Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFB) from oil palms (including land, activities, and workers associated with such developments and/or operations)
- D. Milling, production, and trade of crude palm oil (CPO) (including land, activities, and workers associated with such developments and/or operations)
- E. Associated oil palm products of such operations, including palm kernels, by-products, and waste products

The 2024 RSPO P&C applies to RSPO members involved in activities covered by the above scope regardless of category or sector of RSPO membership, with the exception of Independent Palm Oil Mills (which are covered under the RSPO Supply Chain Certification Standard) and Independent Smallholder groups (which are covered under the RSPO Independent Smallholder Standard). In this document, RSPO members within scope shall be referred to as 'oil palm growers' or 'growers'.

Certification under the 2024 RSPO P&C is granted to a palm oil mill(s) and associated supply base(s), collectively known as a Unit of Certification or UoC, that demonstrates compliance to the standard. The scope of a UoC's certification shall include scheme smallholders (individuals or groups) and/or outgrowers under a formal and legal contractual FFB sourcing agreement with a Unit of Certification, which should be contextualised through a National Interpretation process.

### Translation Accuracy Disclaimer

The 2024 RSPO P&C (as well as associated supplementary and derivative documents) is written in English, with translations into Bahasa Malaysia, Bahasa Indonesia, Thai, French, and Spanish. Translation accuracy of these RSPO documents in languages other than English is a priority, but is not guaranteed or implied. Any discrepancies or differences in translations is not binding nor enforceable; in such cases, the official English version of the RSPO document shall prevail.

### Legal Precedence

The 2024 RSPO P&C (as well as associated supplementary and derivative documents) may include criteria, indicators, and/or requirements that overlap with prevailing national, regional, or local regulations/laws in countries where oil palm cultivation and palm oil production occurs. In cases where the 2024 RSPO P&C differs from such regulations or laws, the higher or stricter of the two shall always prevail. The National Interpretation (NI) process may adapt the general 2024 RSPO P&C to account for local context, against a reference list of applicable regulations and laws in the specific country. In the absence of an NI, the general 2024 RSPO P&C shall prevail.

## 2.2 Drafting Guidelines

The 2024 RSPO P&C has been drafted based on a simplified adaptation of the 'ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, Principles and Rules for the Structure and Drafting of ISO and IEC documents', in particular Section 7 'Verbals Forms for Expression of Provisions'. This is to ensure that the standard is written, and can be read or interpreted, in a consistent manner and style across the entire document. The following drafting rules were generally applied during the revision process for the 2024 RSPO P&C.

### 2.2.1 Wording and Intention

The compulsory nature of each requirement is expressed using a simplified adaptation of the ISO 'Verbals Forms for Expression of Provisions', to capture the specific intention of provisionary clauses within the standard.

#### Type of clauses based on intention

- **Requirement:** Indicates instructions or requirements to be followed strictly for compliance to the standard  
*Example: The Unit of Certification shall develop a policy....*
- **Recommendation:** Indicates a recommended option(s) deemed as suitable among several possibilities (without mentioning or excluding others) for compliance to the standard  
*Example: The plan should prioritise training for smallholders relevant to the 2024 RSPO P&C...*
- **Permission:** Indicates a course of action permissible within the limits of the standard  
*Example: The Unit of Certification may refer to other available methodologies...*
- **Possibility/Capability:** Indicates a course of action or scenarios of possibility (whether material, physical, or causal) permissible within the limits of the standard  
*Example: The Unit of Certification's contractors can demonstrate evidence...*
- **External constraints:** Indicates constraints or obligations beyond requirements of the standard  
*Example: The Unit of Certification must take into account new relevant laws or regulations when developing...*

Clause/Intention	Preferred verbal form	Alternate verbal forms
Requirement	Shall	Is required to
		Has to
	Shall not	Is not allowed to
		Do/does not
Recommendation	Should	It is recommended that
	Should not	It is not recommended that
Permission	May	Is permitted/allowed to
	May not	Is not permitted/allowed to
Possibility/Capability	Can	Is able to
	Cannot	Is not able to
External Constraints	Must	-
	Must not	-

### 2.2.2 Syntax

The following syntax guidelines have been applied in the drafting of criteria and indicators in the 2024 RSPO P&C, aiming to be:

- **Clear:** Plain language and common words should be used so that a criterion or an indicator is straightforward, understandable and relevant. Sentences should be as short and concise as possible.
- **Specific:** For indicators, only a single aspect should be evaluated. An indicator with more than one aspect to be evaluated should be subdivided to reflect each aspect, or expressed as separate components of a single indicator.
- **Measurable:** For indicators that are outcome-based, the indicator should specify the outcome/levels of expected performance, which should be measurable and auditable during an assessment at a reasonable cost. For

indicators that are practice-based, the indicator should specify the minimum requirements necessary, and may also specify recommendations, permissions, and/or possibilities that advance the effectiveness or results of the practice.

- **Achievable:** A criterion or an indicator should not be drafted or defined in terms of design or descriptive characteristics. A criterion or an indicator should not reference or favour any specific or particular technology, patent, or third-party tools/items, unless there is a formal agreement with RSPO that clearly governs terms of usage.
- **Tangible:** A criterion or an indicator should be written in a clear and consistent vocabulary and style. Subjective elements should be avoided, especially the usage of phrases such as ‘not limited to’, ‘wherever possible’, ‘proactive(ly)’, ‘substantial’, ‘adequate(ly)’, ‘satisfactory(ly)’.
- **Current:** A criterion or an indicator should express requirements that should be in place and present during the time of assessment, and not at a future date.

The preferred syntax structure for principles, criteria, and indicators in the 2024 RSPO P&C shall be:

<b>Principle</b>	A principle in the 2024 RSPO P&C should be written in the active form.
<b>Criteria</b>	A criterion in the 2024 RSPO P&C should be written in the active form, using the Unit of Certification/UoC as the subject. A criterion should include a requirement clause (‘shall’) in the first sentence. Subsequent sentences may include alternate clause forms (e.g., ‘should’, ‘may’) based on intention and subject.
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Critical Indicators - Denoted by (C)</b> A Critical Indicator in the 2024 RSPO P&C should be written in the active form, requiring an affirmative response. A Critical Indicator should include a Requirement clause (‘shall’) in the first sentence. Subsequent sentences may include alternate clause forms (e.g., ‘should’, ‘may’) based on intention and subject. A Critical Indicator shall require an affirmative response or a qualitative response.
	<b>Non-Critical Indicators - Denoted by an absence of (C)</b> A Non-Critical Indicator may be written in an active or passive form, requiring an affirmative response. <i>Example: Key management documents are made available to workers and stakeholders in a language that is understood by them</i>  or,  In an active or passive form, requiring a qualitative response. <i>Example: Key management documents should be understood by workers and stakeholders</i>

### 2.2.3 Lists and usage of serial commas

The purpose of a list shall be made clear by its context, with items separated into individual components and numbered. In the 2024 RSPO P&C, the preferred numbering convention within lists should be based on alphabetical bullets i.e., A), B), C), D)...

Where a list is not separated and used within paragraph text, a serial comma shall be used to avoid misinterpretation and ambiguity. A serial comma is a comma placed immediately after the penultimate (second-to-last) term in a list. An example of the usage and intention of a serial comma is:

- “marketing, storing, packing for shipment, or distribution of palm oil”, where it is made clear that ‘packing for shipment (of palm oil)’ and ‘distribution (of palm oil)’ are separate activities.

This guideline has been applied to avoid potential issues of interpretation and/or ambiguity, where

- “marketing, storing, packing for shipment or distribution of palm oil” may be interpreted as
  - separate activities of ‘packing for shipment (of palm oil)’ and ‘distribution (of palm oil)’
  - or interpreted as only the activity of ‘packing for shipment or packing for distribution (of palm oil)’, and excludes the activity of ‘distribution (of palm oil)’.



## 2.2.4 Terms and definitions

A list of key terms and definitions used in the 2024 RSPO P&C and the 2024 RSPO ISH Standard is provided in [Annex 1](#), aligned for consistency across both standards. The first instance of a key term with a definition in each criterion and each indicator will be underlined, and linked to the relevant section of Annex 1.

### Key terminology used in Criteria and Indicators

Based on the 'ISO 9000 Quality Management Systems - Fundamentals and Vocabulary', the following key terminology has been adapted and generally applied in the drafting rules of the 2024 RSPO P&C.

Primary (High-level) Mechanisms			
<b>System</b>	A set of interrelated or interacting elements <b>Management System:</b> A set of interrelated or interacting elements of a Unit of Certification to establish policies (with objectives), and plans to achieve those objectives		
<b>Policy</b>	The intention and direction of a Unit of Certification as formally expressed by its management to achieve a specific objective	<b>Plan/ Action Plan</b>	A strategy with process(es) or procedure(s) to achieve a specific objective of a Unit of Certification
Secondary (Lower-level) Mechanisms			
<b>Process</b>	A set of interrelated or interacting activities to deliver an intended result		
<b>Procedure</b>	A specified way of carrying out an activity or a process		
<b>Activity</b>	An action taken to enhance or improve performance		

## 2.3 Compliance and Certification

Compliance to the standard is strictly required and must be demonstrated against any normative indicators, requirements, and/or other normative elements identified. Non-compliances are raised by qualified auditors from accredited Certification Bodies under the independent, third-party RSPO Assurance System, overseen by Accreditation Bodies appointed by RSPO. The governing document for compliance and certification against the 2024 RSPO P&C is the 'RSPO Certification System for P&C and ISH Standards'.

Compliance to indicators differs based on criticality. A Critical Indicator is essential to compliance, and non-conformity or lack of evidence of conformity (as assessed by a qualified auditor) is graded as a Major Non-Compliance (NC). A Non-Critical Indicator, denoted by an absence of (C), is graded as a Minor NC if non-fulfilment or a lack of evidence of conformity is assessed by a qualified auditor.

## 2.4 Adoption, Implementation, Review, and Revision

This section defines the schedule and timeline for the implementation and reporting of compliance to the 2024 RSPO P&C, and subsequent future reviews and/or revisions.

### 2.4.1 Adoption Date

The 2024 RSPO P&C was formally adopted at the 21st RSPO General Assembly on **13 November 2024**.

### 2.4.2 Effective Date

The 2024 RSPO P&C shall become effective and binding 12 months after the adoption date i.e., **13 November 2025**. Prior to this effective date, the 2018 RSPO P&C (Version 3-1) shall continue to apply for all existing or potential Units of Certification. This 12-month transition period is formally adopted to assist RSPO members in the change management activities necessary to implement the 2024 RSPO P&C.

RSPO shall support RSPO members on any initiated National Interpretations (NIs) processes within this 12-month transition period. If a NI update or development for a specific country is not completed within the 12 months, the general 2024 RSPO P&C shall apply until the NI update or development is completed and endorsed by the RSPO Board of Governors.

If a supplementary or derivative document necessary for implementation of the 2024 RSPO P&C is not able to be updated or developed within the 12 months, RSPO shall provide an indicative status or timeline for completion.

### 2.4.3 Interim Revision I

The 2024 RSPO P&C includes an Interim Revision I mechanism, intended to allow flexibility to urgently adapt or adjust the standard if any unintended consequences or unforeseen challenges are encountered in implementation. Within the formal 12-month transition period following adoption of the 2024 RSPO P&C, RSPO shall assess and review issues of interpretation or content of requirements reported regarding the implementation of the standard, with a transparent oversight structure.

If necessary, Interim Revision I may trigger a minor revision of the standard to ensure auditability, implementability, and clarity, supported by appropriate document/process control procedures (e.g., revising Version 4-0 to Version 4-1). Interim Revision I is in line with Clause 5.8 of the 'ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards Version 6.0' and Clause 6.12 of the 'ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Sustainability Systems Version 1.0'.

### 2.4.4 Interim Revision II

The 2024 RSPO P&C includes an Interim Revision II mechanism, intended to allow flexibility to urgently adapt or adjust if procedural/process issues or challenges are encountered in the implementation of the standard. Interim Revision II shall be active for the 12 months following the effective date of the 2024 RSPO P&C (i.e., **13 November 2025**). During the Interim

Revision II period, RSPO shall assess and review reported issues or challenges in the procedures/processes regarding requirements and implementation of the standard, under a transparent oversight structure.

If necessary, Interim Revision II may trigger a minor revision of the standard to ensure clarity in the auditability and implementability of the standard, supported by appropriate document/process control procedures (e.g., revising Version 4-1 to Version 4-2). Interim Revision II is in line with Clause 5.8 of the 'ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards Version 6.0' and Clause 6.12 of the 'ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Sustainability Systems Version 1.0'.

#### **2.4.5 Formal Review of the 2024 RSPO P&C**

Clause 5.8, Item 1 of the 'ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards Version 6.0' and Clause 6.14 of the 'ISEAL (combined) Code of Good Practice for Sustainability Systems Version 1.0' requires that RSPO shall:

- A. Review the standard at least once every five years for continued relevance and for effectiveness in meeting its stated objectives; and
- B. If necessary, revise the standard in a timely manner, in line with the relevant requirements (of the ISEAL Code)

For compliance with the ISEAL Code, a formal review of the 2024 RSPO P&C shall be conducted no later than November 2029 (five years from the date of adoption).

RSPO shall also assess the continued relevance of the 2024 RSPO P&C against evolving market and regulatory trends or risks. If necessary, an urgent formal review of the standard may be initiated before the stipulated five year timeframe elapses.

#### **2.4.6 Revision of the 2024 RSPO P&C**

If the formal review of the 2024 RSPO P&C concludes that a major revision is required for continued relevance and to ensure effectiveness, RSPO shall revise the standard in line with the other relevant requirements of the ISEAL Code.

The revision should be completed within a recommended timeframe of 12 months or less, for adoption by RSPO members at an RSPO General Assembly. This is in line with Clause 5.8, Item 1 in the 'ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards Version 6.0' and Clause 6.14 of the 'ISEAL (combined) Code of Good Practice for Sustainability Systems Version 1.0'.

### III. Change Log (2024 RSPO P&C from 2018 RSPO P&C)

The following is a summary of the main changes made in the 2024 RSPO P&C (Version 4-0) to the previous version of the standard (the 2018 RSPO P&C, Version 3-1). The revision covers the changes made to the document following recommendations and proposals from the comprehensive formal Standards Review and Revision process that began in 2022. Changes are categorised as an **Addition** or an **Amendment**. Minor changes (e.g., correction of phrasings or spelling mistakes, aligning formatting or content style) are not listed.

Section	Type of Change	Summary of Change	Rationale of Change
e.g., Section X	e.g., Addition	e.g., added definition for the term 'xxx'	e.g., to address lack of clarity
e.g., Criterion X	e.g., Amendment	e.g., amended wording from 'yyy' to 'xxx'	e.g., to assist auditing, as 'yyy' is not auditable
e.g., Indicator X			

This section of the document shall be completed following adoption of the revised standard by RSPO members.



## **IV. Principles, Criteria, and Indicators**

# Principle 1 - RSPO Growers act transparently, ethically, and responsibly

## Impact Goals

The Criteria and Indicators in Principle 1 are linked to the following Long-term Outcomes in the RSPO Theory of Change:



## PEOPLE

### L1

Value and utility is derived by palm oil producers of all sizes (smallholders, medium & large growers) from complying to RSPO Standards, systems and procedures \*

### L2

Labour and social benefits are enhanced across the palm oil value chain, including in human rights, living wages and non-discrimination \*

### L3

Stakeholder equity (especially for women and Affected Communities) in palm oil production is increased \*



## PROSPERITY

### L7

Global trade and markets for certified sustainable palm oil products are resilient and growing, with RSPO recognised as a model for inclusive agriculture \*

### L9

Contemporary environmental and social expectations are met by constant progress and innovation in standards, operations and certification, improving prosperity for all \*

Please refer to the "P&C\_2024\_FINALDRAFT" Excel file for criteria and indicators in Principle 1. This section of the document shall be completed following adoption of the revised standard by RSPO members.

## Principle 2 - RSPO Growers operate legally and with accountability

### Impact Goals

The Criteria and Indicators in Principle 2 are linked to the following Long-term Outcomes in the RSPO Theory of Change:



## PEOPLE

### L2

Labour and social benefits are enhanced across the palm oil value chain, including in human rights, living wages and non-discrimination \*

### L3

Stakeholder equity (especially for women and Affected Communities) in palm oil production is increased \*



## PROSPERITY

### L7

Global trade and markets for certified sustainable palm oil products are resilient and growing, with RSPO recognised as a model for inclusive agriculture \*

### L9

Contemporary environmental and social expectations are met by constant progress and innovation in standards, operations and certification, improving prosperity for all \*

Please refer to the "P&C\_2024\_FINALDRAFT" Excel file for criteria and indicators in Principle 2. This section of the document shall be completed following adoption of the revised standard by RSPO members.

## Principle 3 - RSPO Growers optimise productivity, demonstrate traceability, and create positive impacts

### Impact Goals

The Criteria and Indicators in Principle 3 are linked to the following Long-term Outcomes in the RSPO Theory of Change:



### PEOPLE

#### L1

Value and utility is derived by palm oil producers of all sizes (smallholders, medium & large growers) from complying to RSPO Standards, systems and procedures \*

#### L2

Labour and social benefits are enhanced across the palm oil value chain, including in human rights, living wages and non-discrimination \*



### PLANET

#### L4

Effective climate mitigation actions are implemented, resulting in greenhouse gas emissions reduction and carbon sequestration \*

#### L5

Sustainable environmental practices are demonstrated by RSPO Members and partners, offering a scalable model to other agricultural commodities \*

#### L6

Sustainable ecosystem management is implemented to achieve no deforestation and promote restoration of environmental value \*



### PROSPERITY

#### L7

Global trade and markets for certified sustainable palm oil products are resilient and growing, with RSPO recognised as a model for inclusive agriculture \*

#### L9

Contemporary environmental and social expectations are met by constant progress and innovation in standards, operations and certification, improving prosperity for all \*

Please refer to the "P&C\_2024\_FINALDRAFT" Excel file for criteria and indicators in Principle 3. This section of the document shall be completed following adoption of the revised standard by RSPO members.

## Principle 4 - RSPO Growers respect community and human rights, and deliver benefits

### Impact Goals

The Criteria and Indicators in Principle 4 are linked to the following Long-term Outcomes in the RSPO Theory of Change:



## PEOPLE

### L2

Labour and social benefits are enhanced across the palm oil value chain, including in human rights, living wages and non-discrimination \*

### L3

Stakeholder equity (especially for women and Affected Communities) in palm oil production is increased \*



## PROSPERITY

### L9

Contemporary environmental and social expectations are met by constant progress and innovation in standards, operations and certification, improving prosperity for all \*

Please refer to the "P&C\_2024\_FINALDRAFT" Excel file for criteria and indicators in Principle 4. This section of the document shall be completed following adoption of the revised standard by RSPO members.

## Principle 5 - RSPO Growers support and provide opportunities for smallholder inclusion

### Impact Goals

The Criteria and Indicators in Principle 5 are linked to the following Long-term Outcomes in the RSPO Theory of Change:



### PEOPLE

#### L1

Value and utility is derived by palm oil producers of all sizes (smallholders, medium & large growers) from complying to RSPO Standards, systems and procedures \*

#### L3

Stakeholder equity (especially for women and Affected Communities) in palm oil production is increased \*



### PROSPERITY

#### L7

Global trade and markets for certified sustainable palm oil products are resilient and growing, with RSPO recognised as a model for inclusive agriculture \*

#### L9

Contemporary environmental and social expectations are met by constant progress and innovation in standards, operations and certification, improving prosperity for all \*

Please refer to the "P&C\_2024\_FINALDRAFT" Excel file for criteria and indicators in Principle 5. This section of the document shall be completed following adoption of the revised standard by RSPO members.

## Principle 6 - RSPO Growers respect workers' rights and working conditions

### Impact Goals

The Criteria and Indicators in Principle 6 are linked to the following Long-term Outcomes in the RSPO Theory of Change:



## PEOPLE

### L2

Labour and social benefits are enhanced across the palm oil value chain, including in human rights, living wages and non-discrimination \*

### L3

Stakeholder equity (especially for women and Affected Communities) in palm oil production is increased \*



## PROSPERITY

### L9

Contemporary environmental and social expectations are met by constant progress and innovation in standards, operations and certification, improving prosperity for all \*

Please refer to the "P&C\_2024\_FINALDRAFT" Excel file for criteria and indicators in Principle 6. This section of the document shall be completed following adoption of the revised standard by RSPO members.

## Principle 7 - RSPO Growers protect, conserve, and enhance ecosystems as responsible environmental stewards

### Impact Goals

The Criteria and Indicators in Principle 7 are linked to the following Long-term Outcomes in the RSPO Theory of Change:



### PEOPLE

#### L1

Value and utility is derived by palm oil producers of all sizes (smallholders, medium & large growers) from complying to RSPO Standards, systems and procedures \*

#### L2

Labour and social benefits are enhanced across the palm oil value chain, including in human rights, living wages and non-discrimination \*



### PLANET

#### L4

Effective climate mitigation actions are implemented, resulting in greenhouse gas emissions reduction and carbon sequestration \*

#### L5

Sustainable environmental practices are demonstrated by RSPO Members and partners, offering a scalable model to other agricultural commodities \*

#### L6

Sustainable ecosystem management is implemented to achieve no deforestation and promote restoration of environmental value \*



### PROSPERITY

#### L9

Contemporary environmental and social expectations are met by constant progress and innovation in standards, operations and certification, improving prosperity for all \*

Please refer to the "P&C\_2024\_FINALDRAFT" Excel file for criteria and indicators in Principle 7. This section of the document shall be completed following adoption of the revised standard by RSPO members.



## V. Annexes

## **Annex 1 - Terms and definitions**

Please refer to the "P&C\_2024\_FINALDRAFT" Excel file for content of the Terms and definitions. This section of the document shall be completed following adoption of the revised standard by RSPO members.

## **Annex 2 - Key international laws and conventions applicable to the production of palm oil**

This section of the document shall be completed following adoption of the revised standard by RSPO members.

## **Annex 3 - Interpretation of Indicator 7.7.1 (C)**

In reference to the Procedural Note in Indicator 7.7.1 (C) (refer to "P&C\_2024\_FINALDRAFT" Excel file). Description of conservation requirements and transition mechanisms in the blue text below is based on the chronological applicability of assessments required by the RSPO P&C since November 2005. A separate document for 'Interpretation of Indicator 7.7.1 (C)' shall be developed, based on the existing 'Interpretation of Indicator 7.12.2 and Annex 5 of RSPO P&C 2018' document updated for validity.

This section of the document shall be updated and finalised once the 'Interpretation of Indicator 7.7.1 (C)' has been developed and approved by the RSPO Standards Standing Committee (SSC).

*The Unit of Certification shall conserve HCVs, HCS forests, and other conservation areas based on the following assessments and cut-off dates:*

- A) *HCV Assessment, non-ALS (Assessor Licensing Scheme) - November 2005 to November 2014*
  - +*
  - LURI (Land Use Risk Identification) low risk - 'no further actions required'*
  
- B) *HCV Assessment, ALS (Assessor Licensing Scheme) - November 2014 to November 2018*
  - +*
  - LURI (Land Use Risk Identification) low risk*
  
- C) *Standalone HCS*
  - +*
  - HCV Assessment, non-ALS (Assessor Licensing Scheme)*
  - +*
  - LURI (Land Use Risk Identification) high risk*
  - Refer to Annex 5 in 2018 RSPO P&C 'Interpretation of Indicator 7.12.2 and Annex 5 of RSPO P&C 2018'***
  
- D) *Standalone HCS*
  - +*
  - HCV Assessment, ALS (Assessor Licensing Scheme)*
  - +*
  - LURI (Land Use Risk Identification) high risk*
  - Refer to Annex 5 in 2018 RSPO P&C 'Interpretation of Indicator 7.12.2 and Annex 5 of RSPO P&C 2018'***
  
- E) *Integrated HCV-HCS Assessment with ALS (Assessor Licensing Scheme)*
  - Refer to Indicator 7.7.1 (C)***

## **Annex 4 - List of RSPO-recognised Human Rights Due Diligence methodologies for compliance to Indicator 1.3.1**

In reference to the Procedural Note in Indicator 1.3.1 (refer to "P&C\_2024\_FINALDRAFT" Excel file):

This section of the document shall be completed once the list of RSPO-recognised Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) methodologies has been developed by the HRDD sub-group of the RSPO Human Rights Working Group (HRWG) and approved by the RSPO Standards Standing Committee (SSC).

## **Annex 5 - Compliance Requirements and Informative Guidance**

This section of the document shall be completed following endorsement and adoption of the revised standard.

Content of this annex shall be finalised in consultation with members and approved by the RSPO Standards Standing Committee (SSC) for inclusion in this document.

Compliance Requirements provide further details and explanation on requirements as an interpretation of an indicator to assist the UoC in implementation and demonstrating compliance. Compliance Requirements will be aligned fully and finalised together with the Audit Checklist in the revised 'RSPO Certification System for P&C and ISH Standards', to reduce interpretation risk and align expectations with the verifications/checks to be performed by auditors when assessing compliance to an indicator.

Informative Guidance provides additional information, advice, guidelines, suggestions, or references to assist the UoC in understanding and implementing an indicator.

## **Annex 6 - Supplementary and derivative documents of 2024 RSPO P&C**

The following is a list of currently effective, to be updated\*, to be developed\*, and in development\* supplementary and derivative documents of the 2024 RSPO P&C.

Please see the Resources section of the RSPO website for the list and current status of the supplementary and derivative documents of the 2024 RSPO P&C (online; at [XXX](#)).

\*Status of supplementary or derivative document as of **13 November 2024**

<b>Supplementary or Derivative document</b>	<b>Reference to Criteria / Indicator</b>	<b>Applicability</b>
RSPO Certification System for P&C and ISH Standards <b>- to be updated</b>	All criteria and indicators	Normative
RSPO Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) Guidance <b>- to be developed</b>	1.3 / 1.3.1	Informative
RSPO Policy on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Whistleblowers, Complainants and Community Spokespersons <b>- to be updated</b>	2.4 / 2.4.1 (C)	Informative
RSPO New Planting Procedure (NPP) <b>- to be updated</b>	3.3 / 3.3.1 (C); 7.3 / 7.3.3 (C); 7.7 / 7.7.1 (C)	Normative
RSPO Supply Chain Certification (SCC) Standard	3.5 / all indicators	Normative
RSPO Rules on Market Communications & Claims	3.5 / 3.5.4 (C), 3.5.12 (C)	Normative
RSPO Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Guide	4.3 / all indicators; 4.4 / all indicators	Informative
RSPO Guidance on Calculating Prevailing Wages	6.3 / 6.3.1 (C)	Informative
RSPO Prevailing Wage Calculation Procedure <b>- to be developed</b>	6.3 / 6.3.1 (C)	Normative
RSPO Guidance on Child Rights for Palm Oil Producers	6.5 / 6.5.3 (C)	Informative
RSPO Procedure for the Repayment of Recruitment Fees and Related Costs <b>- in development</b>	6.8 / 6.8.3 (C)	Normative
RSPO Manual on Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Steep Terrain Conservation and Management <b>- in development</b>	7.3 / 7.3.2 (C)	Informative
RSPO Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Soil <b>- to be developed</b>	7.3 / 7.3.4 (C)	Informative
Guidance on Peat Inventory for RSPO reporting	7.4 / 7.4.2	Normative
RSPO Peat Inventory Template	7.4 / 7.4.2	Normative
RSPO Peat Audit Guidance	7.4 / 7.4.2, 7.4.3 (C), 7.4.4 (C), 7.4.5	Informative
RSPO Manual on BMPs for Management and Rehabilitation of Peatlands	7.4 / 7.4.1 (C), 7.4.3 (C), 7.4.4 (C), 7.4.5, 7.4.6 (C),	Informative

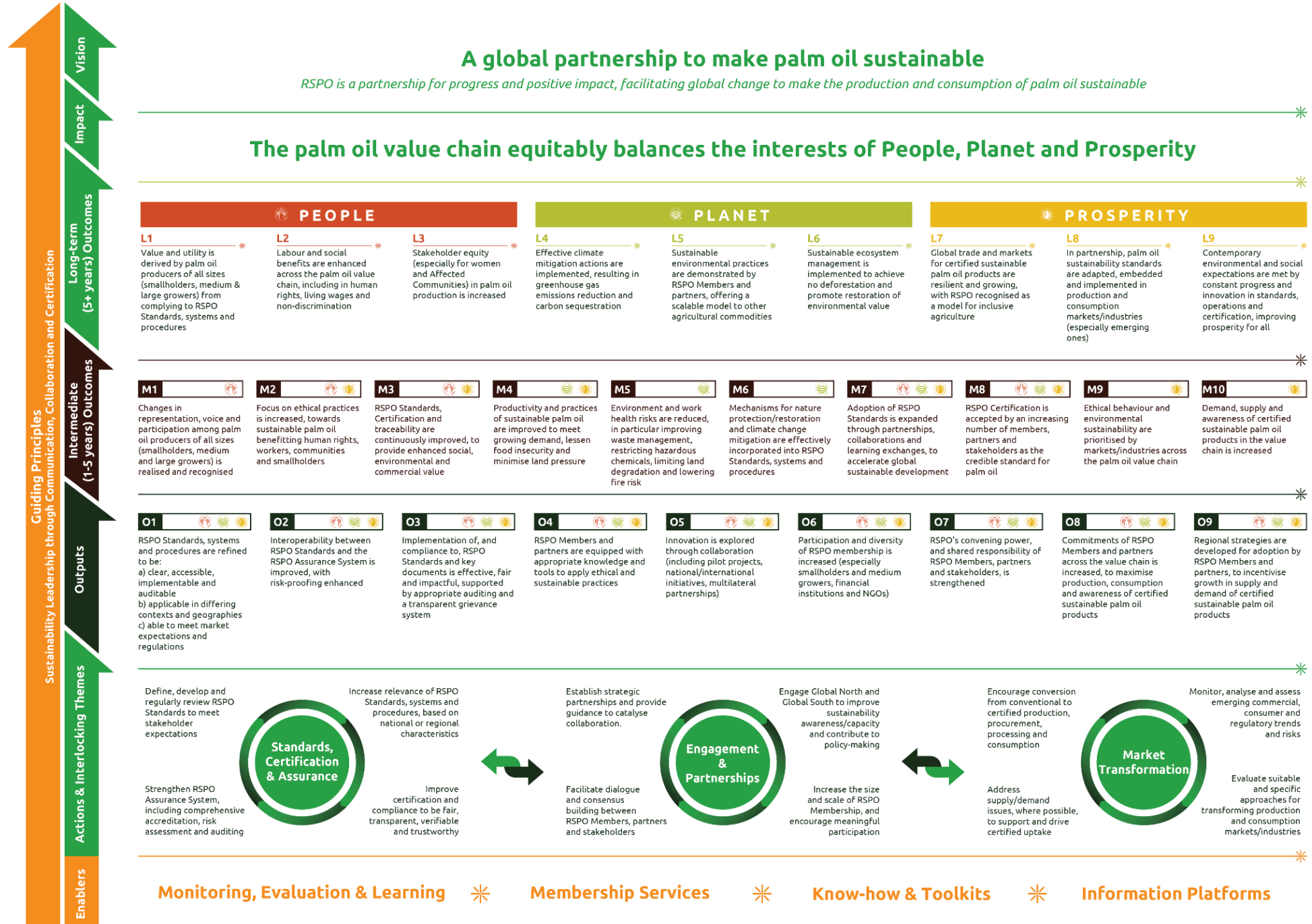
	7.4.7 (C)	
RSPO Manual on BMP's for Existing Oil Palm Cultivation on Peat	7.4 / 7.4.3 (C), 7.4.4 (C), 7.4.5	Informative
RSPO Drainability Assessment Procedure	7.4 / 7.4.6 (C), 7.4.7 (C)	Normative
RSPO Manual on BMPs for the Management and Rehabilitation of Riparian Reserves	7.5 / 7.5.3 (C)	Informative
RSPO PalmGHG Calculator Manual - <b>to be updated</b>	7.6 / 7.6.1 (C), 7.6.2 (C)	Normative
RSPO GHG Assessment Procedure for New Development	7.6 / 7.6.3 (C)	Normative
RSPO Guidance for Land Use Change Analysis (LUCA)	7.7 / 7.7.1 (C), 7.7.2 (C)	Normative
Interpretation of Indicator 7.7.1 (C) - <b>to be updated based on Annex 5 of 2018 RSPO P&amp;C (for validity)</b>	7.7 / 7.7.1 (C)	Normative
RSPO Remediation and Compensation Procedure (RaCP) - <b>Version 2 in development</b>	7.7 / 7.7.2 (C)	Normative
RSPO Guidance on Changes in HCV Conditions and Status - <b>to be developed</b>	7.7 / 7.7.4 (C)	Informative



## VI. Appendices

# Appendix A - RSPO Theory of Change

## Theory of Change (Full Diagram)



# A Global Partnership to Make Palm Oil Sustainable



LEGEND

Outputs

Intermediate outcomes

Long-term outcomes

## **Appendix B - National Interpretations of 2018 RSPO P&C**

<b>National Interpretations of 2018 RSPO P&amp;C</b>	<b>Date of Endorsement by RSPO Board of Governors</b>
Cameroon National Interpretation	21 November 2021
Colombia National Interpretation	12 November 2020
Côte d'Ivoire National Interpretation	25 June 2020
Ecuador National Interpretation	20 May 2022
Gabon National Interpretation	3 September 2020
Ghana National Interpretation	7 November 2019
Guatemala National Interpretation	20 June 2021
Honduras National Interpretation	20 June 2021
India National Interpretation	7 November 2019
Indonesia National Interpretation	20 April 2020
Liberia National Interpretation	10 June 2021
Malaysia National Interpretation	7 November 2019
Mexico National Interpretation	25 June 2020
Nicaragua National Interpretation	22 November 2021
Nigeria National Interpretation	21 February 2021
Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands National Interpretation	7 November 2019
Sierra Leone National Interpretation	22 November 2021
Thailand National Interpretation	25 June 2020

**END OF DOCUMENT**

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