

Particulars

About Your Organisation

1.1 Member Name

The International Natural and Organic Cosmetics Association (NATRUE)

1.2 Membership Number

8-0239-20-000-00

1.3 Membership Sector

Associations

1.4 Membership Category

Affiliate

1.5 Country

Belgium

2.0 Does your company or organisation produce, process, consume or sell any palm oil or any products containing derivatives of palm oil?

No

2.2 Please select all the sectors that best describe the business activities of your company or organisation, including your primary RSPO membership sector. You may select multiple sectors and will be required to complete the ACOP form for the relevant sectors

- I am a bank or financial institution that finances or supports companies or organisations that produce or manufacture palm oil, palm kernel oil or related products
- I am a conservation and environmental NGO supporting the sustainable development of the palm oil industry
- I am a social and human development NGO supporting the sustainable development of the palm oil industry
- I am an Affiliate member of the RSPO, indirectly involved in the palm oil industry

Affiliates

1. Operational Profile

1.1 What are the main activities of your organisation?

NATRUE AISBL, the International Natural and Organic Cosmetics Association, has the mission to protect and promote natural and organic cosmetics for the benefits of consumers worldwide. In the absence of an official regulatory definition for these claims, including global harmonization, NATRUE has established a private, voluntary standard setting label criteria whose requirements can be validated by approved third-party control bodies to certify finished products and raw materials.

1.2 What activities has your organisation undertaken to promote sustainable palm oil, the RSPO and/or RSPO members in the reporting period?

Consumers and companies are increasingly more focused on sustainability as a criteria for the selection of their products, including cosmetics. In 2020, NATRUE concluded the criteria to include cover palm (kernel) oil and its derivatives together with the release of V3.9 of the NATRUE standard (<https://www.natrue.org/our-standard/natrue-criteria-2/>), which included explicit reference to palm oil in Section 5.4.1. The NATRUE criteria Annex 3 is constantly updated to make reference to those raw materials (by INCI) where a minimum of MB quality is available (<https://www.natrue.org/ourstandard/natrue-criteria-2/>). The raw material scheme for NATRUE provides suppliers with lists of raw materials (certified or approved status) that are MB quality consistent with the standard's criteria (<https://www.natrue.org/our-standard/natruecertified-world/>). In February 2024 the NATRUE Scientific Committee provided supplementary guidance [<https://natrue.org/our-standard/natrue-criteria-2/> : RSPO decision tree] in relation to Section 5.4.1 of the NATRUE standard, V3.9.

On 01/01/2021 the criteria became implementable by NATRUE approved certifiers for a applicants (existing and new raw material and finished products) globally. NATRUE continues to presented and promoted the NATRUE standard across the EU and around the world, and emphasizes the criterion related to certified sustainable palm oil - highlighting RSPO. NATRUE has also communicated about sustainable palm oil to its membership in a regular newsletter and upon membership promoted RSPO via its website (<https://www.natrue.org/natruebecomes-member-of-rspo/>).

1.3 What percentage of your organisation's overall activities focus on palm oil?

50.0%

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

Yes

1.5 Does your organisation have any past or on-going collaborations with public or private sector palm oil industry players to support them in their efforts to increase the production or consumption of certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO)?

No

1.6 How is your organisation's work on palm oil funded?

NATRUE AISBL is funded by:

(a) annual direct membership contributions - members are listed here: <https://natrue.org/our-members/> - as per our statutes (found here: <https://natrue.org/uploads/2022/10/NATRUE-2022-EMA-Modification-Statutes-30.04.2022.pdf>)

(b) through label fees from NATRUE label users (raw materials, finished cosmetic products, formulas) which can include members of the association (<https://natrue.org/our-standard/certification-process-step-step/>)

(c) annual certifier fees (https://natrue.org/uploads/2020/01/Annex-1_Certification-Body-Annual-Fee_2020.pdf)

2. Actions for Next Reporting Period

2.1 Please outline activities that your organisation will take in the coming year to promote the production or consumption of certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO)

Continued promotion of the criteria introduced within V3.9 of the NATRUE standard with stakeholders in the NATRUE label (raw material suppliers and finished cosmetic product manufacturers), as well as with consumers, and at various tradeshows, congresses and other speaking opportunities globally.

Challenges and Support

1.1 What significant obstacles or challenges has your company encountered in the promotion of certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO)? What efforts has your company taken to address these obstacles or challenges?

- Awareness of RSPO in the market
- Difficulties in the certification process
- Certification of smallholders
- Competition with non-RSPO members
- High costs in achieving or adhering to certification
- Human rights issues
- Insufficient demand for RSPO-certified palm oil
- Low usage of palm oil
- Reputation of palm oil in the market
- Reputation of RSPO in the market
- Supply issues
- Traceability issues
- No challenges faced
- Others

Others

The outstanding issue for cosmetics principally concerns palm (kernel) oil derivatives in that not all raw material suppliers for cosmetics are, to-date, able to adapt their procedures so that all substances containing palm (kernel) oil derivatives are minimum mass balanced quality. NATRUE works within its scientific committee in charge for developing its label criteria within the NATRUE standard on how to close these gaps by engaging with raw material suppliers.

The NATRUE standard annexes (<https://www.natrue.org/our-standard/natrue-criteria-2/>) - Annex 3 - includes reference to where a particular derivative is available in minimum mass balanced quality and must be used as such.

1.2 In addition to the actions already reported in this ACOP report, what other ways has your company supported the vision of the RSPO to transform markets to make sustainable palm oil the norm?

- Communication and/or engagement to transform the negative perception of palm oil
- Engagement with business partners or consumers on the use of CSPO
- Engagement with government agencies
- Engagement with peers and clients
- Promotion of CSPO through off product claims
- Promotion of CSPO outside of RSPO venues such as trade workshops or industry associations
- Promotion of physical CSPO
- Providing funding or support for CSPO development efforts
- Research & Development support
- Stakeholder engagement
- No actions taken
- Others

Others

NATRUE has spoken at a number of trade fairs, including the largest for natural and organic cosmetics, VIVANESS, to present the sustainable palm oil criteria for the standard, which includes reference to RSPO. NATRUE is frequently contacted by consumers asking about our position in relation to palm oil and that of our label users and members.

Consequently, NATRUE continues to promote sustainable palm oil use by reference to the criterion in our standard, as well as assessing the state of the market to identify where the current criteria can be strengthened. As indicated above, NATRUE works with its scientific committee (experts from the NATRUE membership and external industry experts) to benchmark outstanding raw materials containing palm (kernel) oil and its derivatives and find the gaps in order to take contact with suppliers. Availability of new minimum MB grade raw materials are automatically recorded on our Annexes and a review of all substances is carried out at least once a year.

1.3 If your company has any other publicly-available reports or information regarding its palm oil-related policies and activities, please provide the links here

Our communication on joining RSPO has been published here: <https://www.natrue.org/natruebecomes-member-of-rspo/>.

The NATRUE standard, annexes and guidance can be found at: <https://www.natrue.org/our-standard/natrue-criteria-2/>

NATRUE has also prepared a factsheet on palm oil here:

https://www.natrue.org/uploads/2019/08/NATRUE_Factsheets_Palm-oil.pdf
