

Particulars

About Your Organisation

1.1 Member Name

HUTAN Kinabatangan Orang-utan Conservation Programme

1.2 Membership Number

6-0025-13-000-00

1.3 Membership Sector

Environmental or Nature Conservation Organisations (Non Governmental Organisations)

1.4 Membership Category

Ordinary

1.5 Country

Malaysia

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

NGOs

1. Operational Profile

1.1 What are the main activities of your organisation?

Hutan is a grassroots non-profit wildlife research and conservation organisation working to build innovative approaches to conserve wildlife populations and biodiversity in the forests of Sabah, Malaysian Borneo. In 1998, Hutan set up the Kinabatangan Orang-Utan Conservation Programme(KOCP) as a collaboration between the Lower Kinabatangan community and the Sabah Wildlife Department. Today our team comprises over a hundred highly skilled full-time staff with the majority hailing from the Orang Sungai community.

HUTAN-KOCP has faced many challenges over the two decades, which have driven us to develop a holistic strategy combining long-term scientific research, wildlife and habitat protection and management, policy work, capacity building, education and awareness, as well as community outreach and development. We are now working with a wide range of partners - including communities, government agencies, research institutions, other NGOs and private stakeholders, including oil palm plantations - to find realistic and localised solutions for sustainable use of natural resources and durable socioeconomic practices.

1.2 What activities has your organisation undertaken to publicise programmes to support the RSPO, RSPO certification, the uptake of RSPO-certified sustainable palm oil and oil palm products, or to support good standing RSPO members during the reporting period?

We have supported the RSPO vision by engaging with our partners and funders via peer-reviewed research papers, presentations, reports, conferences, meetings, workshops, discussions, and press releases on the merits of CSPO and RSPO to improve the situation of those who work in plantations as well as for wildlife and the environment.

In addition we have worked directly with oil palm growers (smallholders and companies large and medium sized), with RSPO members and non-members, providing trainings, expertise and collaborations.

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 during the reporting period?

Yes

1.5 Does your organisation have any 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)?

Yes

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

Our work includes research/studies and human-wildlife conflict which involves the palm oil landscape is funded via grants mostly from Foundations and Zoos in the Europe, the United States, and Australia.

2. TimeBound Plan

2.1 Which year did your organisation start or expects to start participating in RSPO working groups and/or taskforces?

2014

2.2 Which year did your organisation start or expects to start undertaking and publicising programmes to support the RSPO, RSPO certification, uptake of RSPO-certified sustainable palm oil and oil palm products and/or good standing RSPO member?

2013

3. Actions for Next Reporting Period

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

- ☒ Training on sustainability topics, monitoring of implementation of sustainability topics
- ☒ Participation in RSPO Working Group or Task Forces;
- ☒ Support Independent Smallholders (ISH)
- ☐ Become a partner of the RSPO Smallholder Trainer Academy
- ☒ Provide technical support for Independent Smallholder Certification projects
- ☒ Involvement/direct investments in Jurisdictional/Landscape approach
- ☒ Promote and support Direct/collective investments in conservation and restoration initiatives
- ☒ Provide technical support support members with Remediation and Compensation (RaCP) process, direct/collective investments in conservation and restoration initiatives
- ☐ Allocating FTE to promote the production or consumption of certified sustainable oil palm products or
- ☒ Specific policies and action plans by the member to promote CSPO production or consumption in the upstream or downstream supply chain, including target dates or broader policies that include such efforts
- ☐ No activities planned
- ☒ Others

Other

We are directly involved in a number of ongoing activities that directly contributes to the promotion of production and consumption of CSPO:

1. Within the Kinabatangan landscape we have been working with mostly mid-sized growers and a few companies which are RSPO members to study orang-utans in secondary forest. In addition, we have been working with mid-sized companies on human-wildlife conflict particularly in regards to the Bornean elephants and all reforestation.
2. We are part of the Steering Committee (since its inception in 2015) in the Malaysian State of Sabah, which aims to achieve Statewide Jurisdictional output of CSPO by 2025.
3. Besides RSPO member's we have also been working with non RSPO member companies and other groups such as Seratu Atai and Earthworm Foundation (formerly The Forest Trust) together with the Sabah Wildlife Department, the local District Office on human-elephant conflict with a focus on oil palm smallholders.
4. We have been actively engaging with European and American Zoos and Foundations/Organisations in particular over the EU mandate in regards to sustainable palm oil.
5. As of November 2017, we are an alternative member for WWF International as part of the Environmental NGO causes of the Board of Governors for RSPO.
6. We in the longest running RSPO Working Group, Biodiversity and High Conservation Value since November 2014.
7. We are on the Markets Development Standing Committee since November 2019.
8. Member on the Shared Responsibility Working Group since its inception in 2020.
9. We are part of the IUCN Oil Palm TaskForce which was established in 2016.
10. The TRAILS project aims to demonstrate the environmental and economic benefits of integrating oil palm cultivation with native forest species through agroforestry systems. This long-term collaboration between the Melangking Oil Palm Plantation, CIRAD, the NGO Hutan, and Universiti Putra Malaysia focuses on innovative practices such as intercropping oil palm with native forest trees. These practices aim to improve soil health, enhance crop yields, and facilitate wildlife movement through the plantation, thereby supporting human-wildlife coexistence while creating a more resilient agricultural system. Additionally, the plantation is establishing an extensive network of over 300 ha of reforested wildlife corridors across the plantation.
11. Working with the Sabah Biodiversity Centre to produce Sabah's nomination dossier for the Kinabatangan Biosphere Reserve under the UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere programme which is an intergovernmental scientific programme that aims to establish a scientific basis for enhancing the relationship between people and their environments. The Kinabatangan landscape is rich with wildlife, local communities and a major area of palm oil plantations. This dossier was submitted mid 2024. Once the biosphere reserve has been created, further stakeholder engagements shall be undertaken to finalise the draft management plan.

The draft management plan was formulated based on findings from the study led by Hutan to prepare the Kinabatangan biosphere reserve nomination dossier. This includes inputs from the stakeholder engagements with the plantation and tourism sectors as well as indigenous people and local communities, undertaken through the study. The draft management plan was then reviewed through a comprehensive stakeholder workshop, attended by representatives from all stakeholder categories, and subsequently approved by the Steering / Technical Committee for the Nomination of the Kinabatangan Biosphere Reserve.

12. The Genting Wildlife Corridor, a collaboration between Genting Plantations, the Sabah Wildlife Department and the NGO Hutan reconnects two fragments of isolated protected areas along the Kinabatangan River. This initiative, marking one of the first land conservation agreement between an oil palm plantation and the Sabah state government in 2018, aims to ensure safe wildlife passage and reduce elephant conflicts in the nearby village. Located within the proposed Kinabatangan Biosphere Reserve's buffer zone, the 110-acre area of mature oil palms has been entirely dedicated to reforestation. Hutan has planted over 70,000 native trees and actively monitors the dynamics of wildlife recolonisation of the corridor.

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 issues surrounding flora and fauna and a monoculture such as oil palm.

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

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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

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