

Particulars

About Your Organisation

1.1 Member Name

HCV Network Ltd

1.2 Membership Number

6-0067-24-000-00

1.3 Membership Sector

Environmental or Nature Conservation Organisations (Non Governmental Organisations)

1.4 Membership Category

Ordinary

1.5 Country

United Kingdom

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?

HCV Network is a member-based organization that promotes the HCV approach, a methodology to identify and protect ecosystems, biodiversity, and the needs of indigenous peoples and local communities where development takes place. Six categories of high conservation values are used to identify the likelihood of and presence of unique and significant values in each category, in any given case in question.

The HCV Network helps stakeholders to use the HCV approach and to achieve the consistent implementation of the approach by produce guidance, tools, licenses etc.

HCV Network undertakes project work through a variety of engagements, including service contracts for specific services, where this is aligned with the mission of the organisation.

It operates a Quality Assurance service, for HCV assessments undertaken in high risk scenarios, supported by the Assessor Licensing Scheme (ALS).

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?

The HCVN ALS, helps the RSPO deliver credible protection of HCVs and HCS Forests, through the HCVN Assessor Licensing Scheme. In 2024, 29 HCV-HCSA assessment reports for 256,606 hectares were published, including HCV and HCS forest management areas for 60,99.

We – and our registered training providers – delivered lead HCV assessor training courses and a refresher course, to keep assessors up to date on the 2023 HCV-HCSA Manual update.

We have also supported the P&C update process in 2024, including press engagement and interviews before and during the RSPO RT in Bangkok about the improvements in the updated P&C with regards to HCV protection.

We informally interact with other RSPO members on a diverse range of topics related to the better performance of producers against the RSPO standard and exchange of knowledge and experience. Where possible, we reinforce RSPO communications for example, through LinkedIn, to disseminate awareness of the scheme and its developments.

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

40.0%

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)?

No

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

HCVN's work where related to palm oil is funded through a variety of routes:

- All assurance services provided by HCVN are paid by assessors and their clients (RSPO current and potential members)
- Where HCVN has been contracted to perform specific analytical and development work, tailored to RSPO, this for example is funded by the RSPO Secretariat. An example is in relation to the development of a Jurisdictional Approach.
- All technical support (time) for RSPO Governance bodies (P&C, BHCVWG, ASC, SHWG, etc) is paid from HCVN membership fees.

HCVN is a non profit organisation.

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?

2014

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

Participate in Standing Committee (Assurance)

Support RSPO Communications (RSPO PalmPod).

Potential support for quality assurance of HCV identification in the context of Jurisdictional Certification.

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

Others for example, there is a need to show more tangible value from the investment companies make in certification, and a need for more incentives (conservation finance) to flow to support companies and smallholders to undertake better/best practices.

As a small ENGO, providing technical support to the RSPO on all matters related to protections of HCV and HCS Forests comes at a cost our organisation without necessarily being matched by dedicated income. This kind of work is difficult to fundraise for either through common funding routes, or through trying to raise collective funding e.g. from users of the HCV or HCS Approach and RSPO certification. The time we dedicate to working groups, task forces, standing committees and consultations, providing informal advice, meeting expectations of users for casual support, is significant, so this poses an ongoing resourcing challenge.

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

Communication of the opportunity for meeting Global Goals via best practices, under e.g. RSPO certification

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

RSPO HCVN MOU announcement

<https://www.hcvnetwork.org/posts/rspo-and-hcvn-to-advance-high-conservation-value-protection-for-sustainable-palm-oil>

Updated HCV HCSA Assessment Manual 2023

<https://www.hcvnetwork.org/library/hcv-hcsa-assessment-manual-english-2023>

Lead Assessor Training (LAT) :

<https://www.hcvnetwork.org/posts/upcoming-remark-asia-hcv-hcsa-public-training-with-licensed-assessor-training-course>
