

NOVIEMBRE 2019 - JULIO 2022

FINAL REPORT

**BOLIVAR - MAGDALENA MEDIO
TUMACO
META - CASANARE
CATATUMBO**



indepaz

RSPO

Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil



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FINAL REPORT



The report contains the progress of the RSPO Outreach Programme from January 2022 to end of July 2022. This is the six progress report prepared for this programme following the extension of the project from June 2019 to July 2022.



RSPO – Colombia.
Enhancing the
Position of Local
Communities,
Smallholders and
Labourers Through
Capacity Building for
IMO's in Accessing
and Using
the RSPO System

SCHEDULE STATUS:

Overall, are your activities implemented as scheduled?

YES



DETAIL DESCRIPTION OF WORK PROGRESS:

1

1.1

IDENTIFICATION AND MAPPING OF LOCAL COMMUNITY, STAKEHOLDERS AND LABORS INCLUDING WOMEN GROUPS ACTIVELY ADVOCATING AGAINST PALM OIL COMPANIES.



1.1

MEETINGS TO PRESENT THE PROJECT, IDENTIFY AND MAP THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, STAKEHOLDERS AND LABORS INCLUDING WOMEN GROUPS ACTIVELY ADVOCATING AGAINST PALM OIL COMPANIES.



1.1

ANALYSIS OF THE RESULT OF THE IDENTIFICATION AND MAPPING OF LOCAL COMMUNITY, STAKEHOLDERS AND LABORS INCLUDING WOMEN GROUPS ACTIVELY ADVOCATING AGAINST PALM OIL COMPANIES.



**WORKSHOPS FOR STRENGTHEN THE
CAPACITY BUILDING OF LOCAL
COMMUNITY, STAKEHOLDERS AND
LABORS INCLUDING WOMEN GROUPS
ACTIVELY ADVOCATING AGAINST PALM
OIL COMPANIES. (2 WORKSHOPS IN
EVERY ZONE)**



2.1

2.2 MEETINGS WITH LOCAL MEDIA.



**2.3 PARTICIPATION IN THE RSPO LATIN
AMERICAN CONFERENCE IN
CAMPECHE - MÉXICO 2020**



2



**COMMUNICATIVE PIECES FOR
HANDLING THE RESOLUTION OF
DISPUTES THROUGH THE RSPO
MECHANISMS.**



3.1

**PRODUCTION OF FIVE RADIO PIECES
THAT THAT ALLOW TO RELATE
EMBLEMATIC CASES WITH RSPO
MECHANISMS.**



3.2

**PREPARATION OF COMMUNICATIVES
PIECES OF VIDEO FOR GRIEVANCE
MECHANISM, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT
FACILITY (DSF) AND MEDIATION..**



3.3

3

4

4.1

TRAINING ON MEDIATION
PROCEDURES TO RESOLVE DISPUTES
AND MEETINGS WITH JOURNALISTS,
COMMUNITIES, LABORS, NGO, AND
STATE ENTITIES



5

5.1

5.2

ELABORATION OF A GUIDE FOR
HANDLING COMPLAINTS USING THE
RSPO MECHANISM



ELABORATION OF A GUIDE FOR
DISPUTE SETTLEMENT FACILITY (DSF)



6

6.1

6.1.1

6.1.2

DEVELOP COMMUNICATION
MECHANISM BETWEEN RSPO AND
STAKEHOLDERS.



MEETING RSPO WITH JOURNALISTS



MEETING RSPO WITH STAKEHOLDERS



7.1

DATABASE OF CONTACTS OF
KEY ACTORS.



7.1.1

CONSOLIDATION OF
DOCUMENTS



7.1.2

BLOG WITH LINK TO THE
PUBLICATION OF RSPO
NEWSLETTER



7.2

IDENTIFICATION OF LOCAL
MEDIA.



7.2.1

PUBLICATION IN LOCAL MEDIA -
LOCAL STATIONS (8
DEPARTAMENTS)



7.3

CARRY OUT A CAMPAIGN
PROMOTING THE USE OF RSPO
MECHANISM.
(TRADUCCIÓN)



7.4

PUBLICATION AND
DISSEMINATION OF DOCUMENTS.



DEVIATIONS FROM THE ORIGINAL PLAN

According to the adjustments for the execution of the project and considering the requests for face-to-face meetings made by different stakeholders of palm cultivation, visits to the southern zone (Tumaco) and the Middle Magdalena zone (Cesar and Santander) were prioritized. This decision was made for the following reasons in order to make visible some of the results in terms of challenges and opportunities:

1. Interest in promoting the palm cultivation business and the opportunity for synergy between actors to settle differences.
2. Opportunity to make visible the challenges facing the implementation of the labor commitments established within the RSPO standard and the interest of the actors to dialogue directly with the RSPO office in Latin America.
3. Conflicts over the use and ownership of land in areas of ethnic communities.





IMPLICATION TO THE OVERALL PLAN/TARGET

This decision meant not carrying out the face-to-face visits to the eastern zone (Meta – Casanare) that were pending from the previous semester. However, the prioritization of the above mentioned visits facilitated the process of updating and contrasting the data collected in the different activities previously carried out. Thus, it was possible to expand the information for the consolidation of the mapping document of actors, conflicts and opportunities. On the other hand, it made it possible to respond to different actors who were interested in to dialogue with the RSPO office for Latin America, which helped to strengthen relationships of trust and commitment in the search for alternatives to settle the differences between the different actors involved.

NOTE



This final document provides an overview of the main stakeholders throughout the supply chain and the current tensions and opportunities identified between them. It gathers the context to offer recommendations for the subsequent relationship with groups of interest, as well as some possible lines of action for the continuity of the process due to the needs of each area.

Five regional mapping reports were also carried out as a summary of each of the zones (Tumaco, Llanos Orientales, Catatumbo, Magdalena Medio and Norte de Santander) where the main problematic characteristics of the zones and the implementation of the RSPO standards are analyzed.



IMPACT REPORT

Project Progress Summary

All activities have been completed following the methodological adjustment made to give continuity to the project in a face-to-face manner. In the last semester of the project, 2022-1, all the planned activities were completed, following the above mentioned criteria.

The implementation of these criteria, made possible to expand the coverage of the activities initially planned in a single area to two areas of interest for the project.

Currently, as mentioned before, Indepaz team is working on the last part of the final document and layout, namely: map of actors and conflicts, synergies and opportunities, and document of recommendations for the relationships.



RESULTS OBTAINED

. Two face-to-face visits were made with Francisco Naranjo and German Contreras from RSPO bureau for Latin America. These visits to the southern zone (Tumaco) and the Middle Magdalena zone (Cesar and Santander) witnessed the confluence of small producers, communities, workers and their organizations, as well as local media.



2. The activities of direct relationship with the stakeholders contributed to the consolidation of the relationships built with the different focus groups.



3. One of the main elements to point out from the face-to-face activities is the willingness of the actors to provide more detailed information regarding the facts and the parties involved in the identified situations.

4. The actors find that direct dialogue with RSPO representatives can be an opportunity to improve communication channels, as well as the procedures and commitments offered by RSPO certification.



ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT WITHIN THE FACE-TO-FACE VISIT TO MAGDALENA MEDIO AREA (CESAR AND SANTANDER) IN MAY:

- Meeting with grassroots organization in Barrancabermeja for context on security issues in the area.
- Meeting with members of Sintraproaceites el Cesar union, San Alberto, to discuss about the problems surrounding the Indupalma company and the situation of violation of workers' rights.
- Meeting with workers affiliated to the Sintrapalma union, Puerto Wilches and Sabana de Torres sectional.
- Meeting with communities and members of the Afro Wilches organization. Ethnic organization that advocates for ancestral and environmental rights in the area.



ACTIVITIES IN THE SOUTHERN AREA OF TUMACO:

- Meeting with Red de Derechos Humanos del Pacífico Nariñense (Redhpana), a platform that brings together a large part of the community councils of the municipality of Tumaco. Leaders from Alto Mira y Frontera Community Council and the La Nupa Community Council participated there. Also the representative of the Network of Community Councils of the South Pacific (Recompas).
- In the same meeting with Redhpana, representatives from Confort S.A. participated, a second level association which buy and sell fruit to obtain volume and thus negotiate a better price with the extractors, a benefit for small producers.



INDICATORS		BASELINE VALUE	CURRENT VALUE
IMPACTS	The enhanced capacity of local community, small holder and labors, environmental organizations, journalists and women groups. One visit was carried out to every zone to deepen the strengthening work; southern zone (Nariño-Tumaco), North Eastern Zone (Norte de Santander- Catatumbo), North Zone (Bolívar-María la Baja), Central Zone (Magdalena medio - Cesar and Bucaramanga)	 5 Regions	 5 Regions
	Training on the RSPO complain system to local community, workers, small farmers, environmental organizations, and women groups. One visit was carried out to every zone, to strengthen the training on mechanisms offered by RSPO complaint system; the southern zone (Nariño-Tumaco), North Eastern Zone (Norte de Santander- Catatumbo), North Zone (Bolívar-María la Baja), Central Zone (Middle Magdalena-Cesar and Bucaramanga)	 5 Regions	 5 Regions
	1. Identification and mapping of local community, stakeholders and labors including women groups actively advocating against palm oil companies.	 5 Regions	 5 Regions
	2. The enhanced capacity of local community, smallholder and labors including women groups	 5 Regions	 5 Regions
OUTCOMES	3. The utilisation of RSPO mechanism by local community, smallholder and labors including women groups	 5 Regions	 5 Regions
	4. Training on mediation procedures to resolve disputes and Meetings with journalists, communities, workers, NGOs and state entities	 5 Regions	 5 Regions
	5. Responsiveness of RSPO mechanism in accommodating the participation of local community, smallholder, and labor	 5 Regions	 5 Regions
	6. Established communication between RSPO and stakeholders	 5 Regions	 5 Regions
	7. Developing information documentation system on the industry of palm oil plantations in Colombia	 1 System	 1 System

1.1 Formulation of a method to identify and map the local community, smallholder and labors including women groups actively advocating against palm oil companies



1 Methodology



1 Methodology

1.2 Meetings to present the project, identify and map the local community, smallholder and labors including women groups actively advocating against palm oil companies.

Face-to-face conversations were held with actors in 4 of the 5 areas defined in the project. A face-to-face visit per zone, in the southern zone (Nariño-Tumaco), North Eastern Zone (Norte de Santander- Catatumbo), Northern Zone (Bolívar- María la Baja), and Central Zone (Magdalena medio- Cesar and Bucaramanga)

The information collected in these sessions was included in the final Mapping document.



5 Regions



5 Regions

1.3 Analysis of result of identification and mapping of local community, smallholder and labors including women groups actively advocating against palm oil companies.

Progress was made in the systematization of the information obtained during the face-to-face visits to 4 of the 5 defined areas. The analyzed data were obtained in interviews and during strengthening and training meetings with the key actors of the project.

The foregoing made it possible to deepen the understanding of the main conflicts that surround the palm activity and the different parties involved.

Updating of the Mapping document that consolidates information on the main actors and conflicts related to oil palm activities in the southern zone (Nariño-Tumaco), North Eastern Zone (Norte de Santander- Catatumbo), Northern Zone (Bolívar- María la Baja), Central Zone (Middle Magdalena- Cesar and Bucaramanga)



5 Regions



5 Regions

2.1 Two training workshops per region to strengthen the organization of the local community, small producers and labors, including women's groups that actively advocate against palm oil companies. Face-to-face meetings were held with stakeholders in 4 of the 5 areas defined in the project. One face-to-face visit per zone, in the southern zone (Nariño-Tumaco), North Eastern Zone (Norte de Santander- Catatumbo), Northern Zone (Bolívar- María la Baja), Central Zone (Magdalena medio- Cesar and Bucaramanga). The information gathered in these sessions was consolidated for the final Mapping document and the final document of recommendations for the relationship.



5 Regions



5 Regions

INDICATORS

BASELINE
VALUE

CURRENT
VALUE

2.2 Meetings with local media. A meeting was held with local media from the Northeast area (Norte de Santander - Catatumbo). The local media databases were updated, corresponding to 4 of the 5 project areas: South Zone (Nariño-Tumaco), North East Zone (Norte de Santander-Catatumbo), North Zone (Bolívar- María la Baja), Central Zone (Middle Magdalena- Cesar and Bucaramanga)



5 Regions



5 Regions

2.3 Participation in the RSPO Latin American conference in Campeche - México 2020. Three Indepaz team members participated in the RSPO Latin American Conference activities carried out from March 02 to 05, 2020. See participation report.



1 Conference



1 Conference

3.1 Communicative pieces for handling the resolution of disputes through the RSPO mechanisms.



2 Pieces



2 Pieces

3.2 Production of five radio pieces that allow to relate emblematic cases with RSPO mechanisms. Four communicative pieces in radio format were prepared and delivered.



5 Pieces



5 Pieces

3.3 Production of video communication pieces for the grievance mechanism, the Dispute Settlement Facility (DSF) and for mediation. Two communicative pieces of animated video have been produced.



2 Pieces



2 Pieces

4.1 Training on mediation procedures to resolve disputes and meetings with journalists, communities, labors, NGO, and state entities. Face-to-face training meetings were held with stakeholders in 4 of the 5 areas defined in the project. One face-to-face visit per zone, in the southern zone (Nariño-Tumaco), North Eastern Zone (Norte de Santander- Catatumbo), Northern Zone (Bolívar- María la Baja), Central Zone (Magdalena medio- Cesar and Bucaramanga). The information collected in these sessions was considered for the final recommendations document.



5 Regions



5 Regions

5.1 Elaboration of a guide for handling complaints using the RSPO mechanism. The tool was delivered and presented in face-to-face meetings held in the southern zone (Nariño-Tumaco), North Eastern Zone (Norte de Santander- Catatumbo), Northern Zone (Bolívar- María la Baja), Central Zone (Middle Magdalena- Cesar and Bucaramanga).



1 Guide



1 Guide

5.2 Elaboration of a guide for Dispute settlement Facility (DSF). The tool was delivered and presented in in face-to-face meetings held in the southern zone (Nariño-Tumaco), North Eastern Zone (Norte de Santander- Catatumbo), Northern Zone (Bolívar- María la Baja), Central Zone (Middle Magdalena- Cesar and Bucaramanga).



1 Guide



1 Guide

6.1 Established communication between RSPO and stakeholders. Systematization of new information was done and included in the final document.



1 Document



1 Document

6.1.1 Meeting RSPO with journalists. The local media databases were updated, corresponding to 4 of the 5 project areas: South Zone (Nariño-Tumaco), North East Zone (Norte de Santander- Catatumbo), North Zone (Bolívar- María la Baja), Central Zone (Middle Magdalena- Cesar and Bucaramanga).



5 Regions



4 Regions

6.1.2 Meeting RSPO with stakeholders. RSPO office for Latin America can support the face-to-face activities that are intended to be carried out during the first half of 2022.



5 Regions



4 Regions

7.1 Database of key actors. The databases of key actors were updated, in 4 of the 5 project zones: South Zone (Nariño-Tumaco), North East Zone (Norte de Santander- Catatumbo), North Zone (Bolívar- María la Baja), Central Zone (Middle Magdalena- Cesar and Bucaramanga).



5 Regions



5 Regions

7.1.1 Consolidation of documents. The consolidation and updating of documents has been carried out progressively, within execution of the project activities. The information obtained during the face-to-face visits made to 4 of the 5 defined zones has been completed and updated, the data were obtained from interviews, strengthening and training meetings with key actors.



5 Regions



5 Regions

7.1.2 Blog with a link to the publication of RSPO newsletter. The blog remained active and up-to-date during the reported period.



1 Blog



1 Blog

7.2 Identification of local media. The database of local media was updated with the information obtained in the visits corresponding to 4 of the 5 project zones: Southern Zone (Nariño-Tumaco), North Eastern Zone (Norte de Santander- Catatumbo), North Zone (Bolívar- María la Baja), Central Zone (Middle Magdalena- Cesar and Bucaramanga).



5 Regions



5 Regions

INDICATORS

BASELINE
VALUE

CURRENT
VALUE

7.2.1 Publication in local media – local stations (8 departamentos). Communicative pieces have been published



5 Regions



5 Regions

7.3 Conducting campaign promoting the utilization of RSPO mechanism (translation).



1 Campaign



1 Campaign

7.4 Publication and dissemination of documents. The pedagogical sessions were broadcast through the radio, and in Indepaz website. They are published with the audiovisual pieces and podcast on the blog on Indepaz website and in the youtube channel.



**1
Publication**



**1
Publication**

OUTPUTS

WORK PLANES CHANGE

Adjustments were made to the face-to-face activities to be able to carry them out in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2021 national strike. Despite mobility restrictions, the proposed objectives were achieved; Likewise, in the first semester of 2022, a situation of public order was presented by illegal armed groups (Armed Strike from autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia - AGC) that affected security conditions in at least 11 municipalities of the country. However, although most of the meetings on the ground with the different actors were carried out according to the planned schedule, it was necessary to dispense with one of the scheduled meetings with the representatives of the affected communities in “la Gloria”, since they considered that security conditions were not ok to hold the meeting.



PROJECT EXECUTED

Yes, this project has been developed in the order proposed by Indepaz, despite the inconvenience caused by the pandemic and the National Strike, the activities have been carried out and the consolidation of the final documents was completed.

BUDGET

Yes, all expenditures are according to planned activities and budget.

TIME AND ENERGY

It was not required



CONCLUSION

Relevance

The relevance of the activities carried out during this semester is currently located in the bonanza that the palm oil market has shown worldwide and its effects on the increase in demand for oil at the international level. Among other reasons due to the low supply of labor in highly producing countries due to the health crisis caused by Covid 19 and the crisis due to the confrontations between Ukraine and Russia. This situation has generated a significant increase in the prices of the fruit at the national level, which creates a scenario in which palm oil cultivation also increases its competitive potential with respect to other regional economies of an agricultural nature and even with illegal economies such as coca crops. Consequently regional producers are encouraged to expand their crops and improve the productivity of existing ones.

In this framework, disseminating the certification with its principles and mechanisms helps broaden the perspective on how to carry out this commercial activity in a responsible manner. In addition, dialogue encounters generated among actors brings an opportunity to know the positions of the other part and thereby generate synergies or easy going relationships.



EFFICIENCY, EFFECTIVENESS

The efficiency of the project can be seen, not only in the fulfillment of the established activities, but also by interest in the RSPO guidelines, especially in those related with the environment, labor relations and the standard of small producers. Although this interest is not necessarily new, the dialogue encounters have contributed to strengthen the previous information that the different interest groups had, in particular the small producers that are in preparation for RSPO certification process.

The efficiency increases with the inputs (videos, talks, audios, etc.) uploaded in the virtual media that can later be used by any interested party to replicate the information from the virtual sessions. In addition to the above, the performance of face-to-face activities, carried out in the first half of 2022 in the 2 prioritized areas of interest of the project (southern zone and Magdalena Medio) allowed the construction of an updated and more detailed panorama of actors, conflicts or problems and opportunities and synergies. And on the other hand, contribute to the analysis regarding possible lines of action to give continuity to the objectives and activities developed in the project based on the needs identified in it.



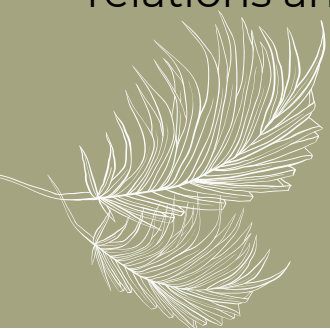
IMPACT

Face-to-face activities along the project allowed a better approach to the small producers, the workers, their organizations, and local media.

An element to be highlighted in Magdalena Medio area was the chance of interacting directly with the AfroWilches organization, which has become a benchmark in the struggle of environmental organizations at the national level for the protection of water resources, thanks to a “acción de tutela” that achieved the suspension of fracking activities in the department of Santander. In this way, significant dissemination is generated in the region about the possibilities offered by the standard and its certification, as well as the RSPO complaints procedure and dispute settlement mechanism.

In this area the interest of different actors impacted by oil palm cultivation (including workers) was evident in having an active participation in the audit processes carried out within the RSPO certification. Since now they find an opportunity to announce about situations that hinder relations with companies and also opportunities for improvement.

On the other hand, authorities of afrodescendant communities of the municipality of Tumaco that are in conflicts with the use and ownership of the land with palm oil companies, recognize in RSPO standards a mechanism with the potential to rebuild relations and trace a path to dispute resolution.



FOLLOW-UP WORK

It remains the commitment with the different actors of the areas of the project of socialization of the project results and contributing to propose possible lines of action to satisfy some identified needs and give continuity to the process developed within the activities carried out. It is important to guarantee these actions as a mechanism to strengthen relationships of trust and allow continuity in the updating of the information consolidated in the different products of the project.





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