



RSPO is an international non-profit organisation formed in 2004 with the objective to promote the growth and use of sustainable oil palm products through credible global standards and engagement of stakeholders.

# Factsheet on

Improving Communication and Understanding of the RSPO Standard and mechanisms and their application in Liberia and at the West Africa Level-Liberia



## About



### **The Sustainable Development Institute (SDI)**

SDI works to transform decision-making processes of natural resource management, so the benefits are shared equally. SDI's work aims to create space for the participation of local communities in decision making processes on natural resources.

SDI's work is underpinned by three core values and guiding principles which shape our rights-based approach and analysis of natural resource management.

## Background

In the last few decades, population growth, poorly regulated and speculative financial flow, food and water insecurity, and climate change - including the search for alternative energy sources – have led to

a growing appetite for large scale land acquisitions (or land grab) across Africa. These rapid land transitions - from community rights to commercial contract rights – and the lack of commitment on the part of African leaders to foster broader participation and accountability have had negative effects on southern countries' social, political and economic cohesion and governance. This has also had negative effects on the environment and forest biodiversity.



## Objectives

1. To create platforms at the national level to train rights-based NGOs and communities affected by Oil palm plantation on how to effectively use the RSPO standards and mechanisms, and how to effectively and efficiently engage with the RSPO so that their concerns and needs are fully taken in.
2. To facilitate information sharing among NGOs, affected communities, and regional partners to increase the pool of actors working to bridge the existing gaps between local communities and oil palm companies in Liberia.

## Project Approaches

1. The Improved understanding on the RSPO principles and standards by CSOs and communities which will lead to cohesive relationship between host communities and oil palm companies.
2. Compliance to national and international laws and best practices (FPIC, HCS and HCV principles and UN Business and Human Rights principles) by oil palm companies.
3. Increased actors working to bridge existing gaps between host communities and oil palm companies operating within Liberia and elsewhere in the region.

## Project Area



## Deliverables

- Improved Community Understanding: Enhanced awareness of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) and RSPO grievance mechanisms among local communities.
- Increased Transparency: Progress in transparency during community-concession interactions, although significant power imbalances remain a challenge.
- Strengthened Relationships: Improved, though fragile, relationships between communities and concessions.

Find out more at [rspo.org](https://rspo.org)