



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

# **“Building Capacity to Bridge the Gap: Between IMO and the intended target audience (local and Indigenous communities, smallholders, women’s group and plantation workers) by improving understanding and access to the RSPO System” - Malaysia**



## About



**SEPA Malaysia**, Sabah Environmental Protection Association was mooted after the June 1982 Civic Consciousness Program undertaken by the Department of National Unity Sabah. It was registered on 12th November 1983 and since then has focused in conserving the Environment as the only activist Environmental NGO in Sabah.



**BCI Malaysia**, we are a social enterprise based in Sabah. We assist our clients by offering services linked to both social and environmental development (social-economics, policy, culture, climate and health – separated into points). Specialise in conducting diagnostic analysis (legal, policy, institutional and governance) thereby creating scalable solutions that are pragmatic and workable/feasible on the ground.

# Background

Despite having standards for sustainability for both environment and social, environmental degradation and social conflicts still occurs. The SUHAKAM National Inquiry Report in Malaysia 2013 reported 111 cases out of the 892 cases being a plantation land issue. And out of those cases: 51 (Sabah); 10 (Sarawak); 50 (Peninsular Malaysia) all relating to Oil Palm Plantations land issues with local and indigenous communities. The RSPO Complaints Tracker System from 2010 has only 9 cases . There is a huge gap that could indicate that there is a lack of knowledge of the RSPO system hence the lack of complaints that would be more representative. Currently there is very low understanding/knowledge amongst IMO's and the public at the ground level on the workings of RSPO.



## Objectives

1. To capacity build local IMO's in Malaysia on RSPO certification systems.
2. To increase understanding of RSPO and its standards amongst the target groups audience (local and Indigenous communities, smallholders, women's group and plantation workers);
3. To build a platform for the intended audiences to access the RSPO systems; and
4. To provide access for intended target audiences to give feedback and engage with RSPO.

## Project Approaches and Area

The RSPO Malaysian Outreach Programme (hereinafter MOP) aims to reach out to intermediary organisations and or individuals (hereinafter IMO's) in what is perceived as an attempt to bridge the gap between communities and worker entities and their access to RSPO Systems. In the present outsourced MOP context, the intended target audience are primarily communities within or adjacent to the palm oil operations and plantation workers.

**SABAH:** This program will be implemented in 3 areas in Sabah, namely, the Interior Division, East Coast and Tawau Division.

**SARAWAK:** This program aims to be implemented in area where plantations owned by RSPO members are mostly concentrated. Due diligence will be conducted to identify suitable locations to implement this program.

**PENINSULAR MALAYSIA:** A similar approach and engagement will be implemented in Peninsular Malaysia. This program will be implemented in 3 regions in Peninsular Malaysia (Northern, Central and South) where plantations owned by RSPO members are mostly concentrated.

## Deliverables

**Conflict Prevention Platform (CPP):** A significant innovation from the OP, CPP offered a less formal and more accessible mechanism for conflict resolution.

**Empowered Communities and Workers:** The program helped participants understand and use the RSPO framework to advocate for their rights.

**Structural and Strategic Gaps:** The OP's sustainability is undermined by the lack of long-term institutional support for individuals and networks created during the program. The RSPO's complaints system remains too formal and inaccessible for many stakeholders, highlighting the need for more inclusive solutions.

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