

Particulars

About Your Organisation

1.1 Member Name

Oxfam International

1.2 Membership Number

7-0001-04-000-00

1.3 Membership Sector

Social or Development Organisations (Non Governmental Organisations)

1.4 Membership Category

Ordinary

1.5 Country

Netherlands

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?

Oxfam is a global movement of people who are fighting inequality to end poverty and injustice. We are working across regions in 85 countries, with thousands of partners, and allies, supporting communities to build better lives for themselves, grow resilience and protect lives and livelihoods also in times of crisis.

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?

Oxfam has been participating in the Human Rights Working Group as well as the Human Rights Due Diligence.

Oxfam is also leading the implementation of an IMO Program in Central America (Guatemala and Honduras). Together with partner CNV we are implementing this program which aims at enhancing the participation of local CSO, workers, smallholders and other local actors in RSPO, by disseminating and building capacity on RSPO standard and participation mechanisms.

In 2024 Oxfam participated in RSPO's consultative process for the revision of the 2018 Principles and Criteria, and the MSCTF on FPIC in Kulala Lumpur in September 2024.

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

1.0%

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?

1. Dutch grant Power of Voices Partnership (2021 onwards) 2. RSPO IMO funded 3. AS Watson Benelux funds

2. TimeBound Plan

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

2007

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?

2007

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

-

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

Firstly, RSPO members continue to violate human rights and labor rights, e.g. in Central American and Southeast Asian countries. Membership has been conceded to companies with bad conduct and reputations, including recent violations of human rights defenders as well as structural land conflicts. This affects the credibility of RSPO in local communities whose participation in RSPO mechanisms we want to enhance.

Secondly, RSPO Grievance Mechanism have not been effective enough to resolve relevant issues communities and workers wish to raise. RSPO certification has not yet led to a convincing, evidenced-based, positive impact for local communities (yet). Much more and structural efforts need to be undertaken on making sure the adequate implementation of the RSPO standard, and to measure emerging impact. In the framework of the IMO program in Guatemala and Honduras Oxfam got to approach communities to RSPO mechanisms, but still there is lot of skepticism because of RSPO members who violate human rights and labour rights.

Thirdly, Oxfam has faced resistance from companies to engage in dialogue together. Strengthening multi-stakeholder dialogues is one of RSPO basic objectives. It is important to note some companies have been open to initiatives as social dialogue, though others, have not. Initiatives as participative water monitoring did not find positive response either. One company even dropped existing communication/dialogue with Oxfam. So it is still hard to get companies to dialogue and carry out joint initiatives in favor of sustainability.

Finally, Oxfam remains concerned about an imbalance of power within RSPO decision making spaces in favor of growers. Oxfam objects to for example, RSPOs guidance that Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Task Forces are to be comprised of 50% representation of growers and 50% all other supply chain members (including NGOs), which leads to an over-influence of growers in decision making. This was experienced in a meeting during the most recent revision of the Principles and Criteria, leading to suggested changes on FPIC by growers that Oxfam perceived could have negatively impacted the crucial FPIC principle. During this process, some companies with FPIC violations were allowed to participate in the Standards Revision Multi-Stakeholder Consultation process. According to Oxfam these factors threatened the legitimacy, impartiality, and independence of the consultation process.

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

-

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

Information on FAIR Company Community Partnership can be found here <https://www.oxfamnovib.nl/donors-partners/about-oxfam/projects-and-programs/fair-company-community-partnerships>

Information on the Palm Oil Rights Observatory, in collaboration with CNV can be found here <https://derechospalma.observatoriotrabajojusto.org/en/>
