

**RSPO**

Roundtable on  
Sustainable Palm Oil

LONDON, 13 JUNE 2017

# Partnerships for Innovation

RSPO 5th European Roundtable 2017



This multimedia report is designed to capture the dynamism of the fifth European Roundtable, and summarises the event's key discussion and messages. To access videos of the sessions and hear what delegates had to say about the issues raised, follow the links throughout the report to RSPO's dedicated Vimeo conference site.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



**DANIELLE MORLEY**

European Outreach & Engagement Director

RSPO held its fifth annual European Roundtable event in London on June 13 2017 with a focus on innovations and partnerships that are delivering on commitments to smallholders, labour rights and preventing deforestation. As the world's third largest palm oil market and home of many leading companies, Europe is pivotal to the market transformation ambitions of RSPO and its members.

During the conference RSPO and UNICEF launched a new partnership to implement a pilot program on rights of children and working families and to mainstream child rights into the RSPO standard and systems. 'GeoRSPO' was also launched - developed by RSPO in partnership with World Resources institute – this interactive mapping platform features RSPO members concession maps with environmental and fire hotspot information. It is a really powerful analytical tool that progresses accountability and is available for everyone to view on [www.rspo.org](http://www.rspo.org).

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Other highlights included a panel debate on strengthening partnerships between smallholders and companies in the European downstream market who want to support them. Addressing deforestation remains a critical issue for the industry to tackle and the panel discussed tools such as High Carbon Stock Approach and the role of sustainable finance. Human rights and social auditing were brought centre stage as panellists discussed the challenges and urgency of meeting business obligations to respect human rights in the workplace and beyond.

RSPO hosted its first 'Coffee with the Complaints Panel', this interactive dialogue allowed delegates to quiz members of the RSPO Complaints Panel and learn more about how RSPO complaints mechanism works.

The positive uptake data, new partnerships and innovations presented at EURT demonstrate the continued drive and strong commitment to move towards reaching our goal of 100% certified sustainable palm oil in Europe by 2020.



## ELIZA ANYANGWE

### Moderator

The 5th European Roundtable Conference was moderated by Eliza Anyangwe, a freelance writer & journalist for The Guardian, who writes and speaks about Africa, international development and gender. Eliza helped unpack the paradoxical complexities within the broader palm oil debate.

*“The consumer is too far removed from the stories of change that are being implemented.”*



## DATUK DARREL WEBBER

### RSPO Chief Executive Officer

At the European Roundtable, Datuk Darrel Webber reflected on the partnerships made by RSPO with new producer countries and governments which have enabled RSPO to expand its reach, and depth in knowledge.

In his closing speech, Darrel addressed ‘short-termism’, highlighting that for sustainability to work, we must resist this temptation for quick fixes and small wins at the cost of inclusiveness and mainstream market transformation.

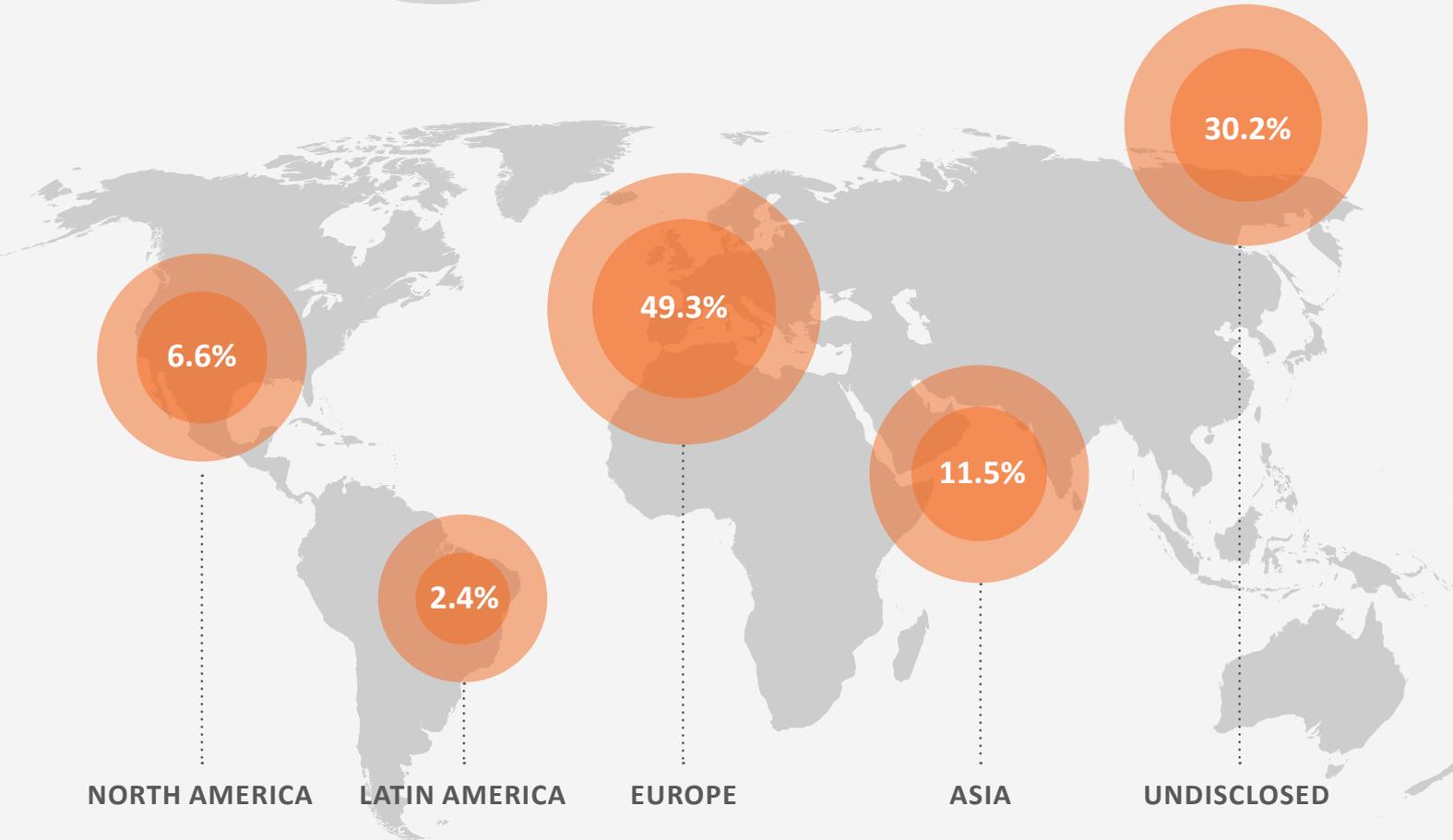
*“Sustainability is messy. It’s dirty. It’s a whole lot of work. If it was easy, we would have been sustainable a long time ago.”*

# DELEGATE OVERVIEW

Participants



**27**  
COUNTRIES

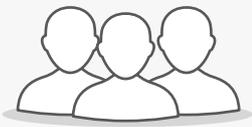


Belgium	9	Guatemala	4	Singapore	1
Brazil	2	Indonesia	17	Spain	1
Canada	3	Ireland	1	Sweden	3
China	2	Japan	1	Switzerland	7
Columbia	7	Luxembourg	3	Turkey	2
Denmark	10	Malaysia	21	United Kingdom	73
Egypt	1	Mexico	1	United States	16
Finland	2	Netherlands	37	Undisclosed	109
France	12	Norway	1		
Germany	18	Poland	1		

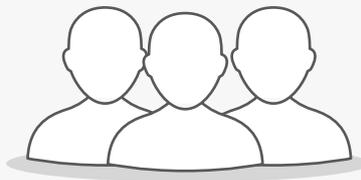
# DELEGATE OVERVIEW (CONTINUED)

Participants  **342**  
DELEGATES

## ATTENDEES



**28**  
NON-MEMBERS



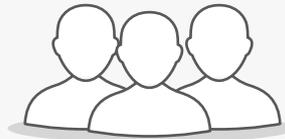
**209**  
MEMBERS



**12**  
PRESS



**30**  
SPEAKERS



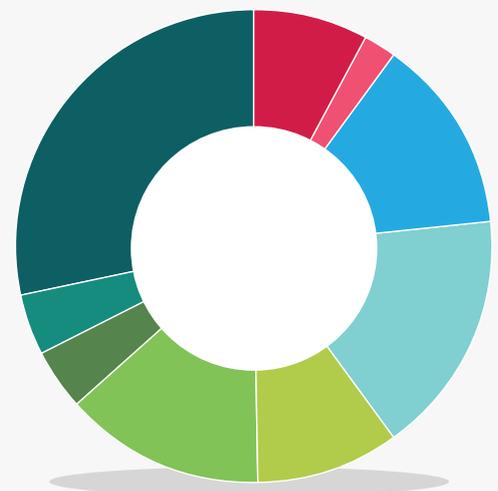
**30**  
SPONSORS



**33**  
NGO NON-MEMBERS

## INDUSTRIES REPRESENTED

	Associations/organisations	24
	Banks/investors	7
	Consumer goods manufacturers	41
	Environmental NGOs	50
	Oil palm grower	30
	Palm oil processors/traders	42
	Retailers	12
	Social NGOs	13
	Other	86



## DEFORESTATION

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Demand for palm oil is causing large-scale deforestation, despite government pledges to tackle the challenge and many corporate pledges to achieve 'zero deforestation'.

As the world's third-largest importer of palm oil, Europe has a significant role to play in reducing deforestation and with it the opportunity to combat greenhouse gas emissions from palm oil production to help in the global climate effort.

The following session delved deeper into these issues.

# PLENARY

## Partnerships for Zero Deforestation

### PANELLISTS

#### CHRISTOPHER STEWART

Head of Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability, Olam

#### NIENKE STAM

Senior Program Manager, IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative

#### SARAH LAKE

Head of Supply Chains Programme, Global Canopy Programme

#### GRANT ROSOMAN

Co-chair High Carbon Stock Approach, Greenpeace

#### DR. SIMON LORD

Group Chief Sustainability Officer, Sime Darby



Ways to address both conservation and development were highlighted by panellists during this session. Livelihoods, alongside production and conservation, were identified as key ingredients to achieving successful palm oil sustainability. Dr. Simon Lord, Sime Darby, drove home the need to invest in livelihoods, particularly in new frontier countries such as Liberia, where soil degradation cannot be solved solely from an environmental perspective.

Sarah Lake, Global Canopy Project, explored the potential of partnerships with financial institutions, where unprecedented transparency on palm oil exports is being developed.



**AIDA GREENBURY**  
**@AIDAGREENBURY**

Next: to support long term HCS protection the community & to implement HCS at a larger scale, said Grant, Co Chair at @rspotweets #EURT2017



**DANIELLE MORLEY**  
**@DANIMORLE**

#degradation & the nibbling away of forests by people seeking a livelihood is just as critical as large scale #deforestation #Eurt2017

## SMALLHOLDERS

As of mid-2016, smallholder farmers produce 40% of the world's palm oil, but continue to suffer from lower yields. This is why RSPO wants to certify more smallholders so that they produce more oil using less land and can access new markets, raising their income and reducing the risk of land conversion which threatens forests and biodiversity.

In 2015, at the 12th General Assembly, RSPO adopted Resolution 6F to develop a comprehensive Smallholder Strategy. Since, RSPO has held a series of consultation groups with smallholders and engaged stakeholders to agree on the objective and goal of the new Smallholder Strategy. The following sessions explored how RSPO can help facilitate partnerships between smallholders and supply chain members downstream as part of the new RSPO Smallholder Strategy.

## PANEL DEBATE

### The Renewed Way Forward for Smallholders with RSPO

#### MODERATOR

##### PERPETUA GEORGE

Wilmar

#### SPEAKERS

##### JULIA MAJAIL

Smallholders Programme Manager, RSPO Secretariat

##### JOHAN VERBURG

Pro-Poor Value Chains Advisor, Oxfam Novib

##### CYNTHIA ONG

Executive Director, LEAP – Land Empowerment Animals People

##### SIMON BAILEY

Director of Partnerships and Innovation, Aflatoun International



In this panel debate, four innovative projects working alongside smallholders within the space of sustainability were introduced. Experiences were shared on unlocking challenges around smallholder certification, training and capacity building.

Johan Verburg, Oxfam, highlighted that working with smallholders is “a necessity for RSPO”. Discussions addressed how imparting more knowledge with smallholders will be key to helping them to not only protect habitat, but to also improve livelihoods.

There was a clear call for better collaboration and collective action around smallholder issues and challenges within the industry.



#### EU PALM OIL ALLIANCE @EPOA\_EU

Capacity building / education and access to market is key to improve sustainability practises by smallholders  
#EURT2017



#### CYNTHIA ONG LAND EMPOWERMENT ANIMALS PEOPLE

## WORKSHOP

### What can Europe do to support the Smallholder Strategy?

#### FACILITATORS

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##### **JULIA MAJAIL**

Smallholders Programme  
Manager, RSPO Secretariat

##### **PERPETUA GEORGE**

Wilmar

This workshop set out to seek input from the European market on the RSPO Smallholder Strategy, specifically around the proposed solutions to the key challenges smallholders face.

Through a series of breakout sessions, participants gained a sense of the many hurdles smallholders face. Delegates had the opportunity to discuss concerns and provide targeted feedback on key elements. Dr. Simon Lord, Sime Darby, called for more emphasis to be placed on communications and outreach, in order to increase awareness for stakeholders upstream and achieve broader support for the new strategy.



**GABRIEL EICKHOFF**  
**@GABEOTRON**

Attending the RSPO  
#EURT2017 in London.  
Looking forward to hearing  
about new advances in  
smallholder strategies  
@rspotweets



**DARYLL**  
**@DARYLL\_READS**

Very well-facilitated  
smallholders session.  
Good to hear frank  
acknowledgement of human  
rights challenges faced by  
smallholders. #EURT2017

## HUMAN RIGHTS AND LABOUR RIGHTS

For the first time at a RSPO European Conference, human and labour rights were discussed, reflecting the palm oil industry's evolved understanding and position to address complexities through collaboration and partnership.



## PLENARY

### Respecting Human Rights on Palm Oil Plantations

#### PANELLISTS

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**SEEMA JOSHI**

Head of Business & Human Rights, Amnesty International

**SUBAJINI JAYASEKARAN**

Child Rights and Business Manager, UNICEF

**ALEXANDRA EXPERTON**

Supply Chain Sustainability Manager, Cargill

**DAVID PENDLINGTON**

Senior Chocolate Sustainable Sourcing Manager, MARS

**DARYLL DELGADO**

Research & Stakeholder Engagement Program Manager, Verité



This panel debate addressed the main risks surrounding people and human rights in the palm oil industry. Discussion centered around the industry's approach to risk management and the role of businesses in advancing respect for human rights.

There was some criticism of the industry being behind the curve in addressing human rights violations as much more work is still needed to be done. Panellists spoke about the deeply complex and systemic issues ingrained in human and labour rights. A key point raised by Subajini Jayasekaran, UNICEF, was the need to apply a broader lens approach to understand how children are affected, which means going beyond audits.

Avoiding risks and human rights violations to palm oil workers, their families and local communities, formed key parts of the discussion. The panel asserted that the next step will be looking at how the industry, together with the relevant stakeholders, can work in collaboration to find and deliver effective solutions.

# WORKSHOP

## Children’s Rights in the Palm Oil Sector

### FACILITATORS

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**SUBAJINI JAYASEKARAN**

UNICEF

**CHRISTOPHER KIP**

UNICEF



UNICEF shared plans for a partnership programme with RSPO which seeks to access and better understand business impacts on children in the palm oil sector, with a focus on identifying the underlying root causes of child labour and key drivers of issues. Delegates learnt that palm oil impacts go beyond child labour, often spilling into other areas of family life.

“It’s important for the industry to acknowledge the social issues it faces, if we want to find sustainable solutions. The partnership with UNICEF represents an opportunity to collaborate, promote best practices across the industry and address some of the existing gaps in our sector”, said Darrel Webber, Chief Executive Officer of RSPO.



**EMMA KELLER**  
**WWF UK**



**SEEMA JOSHI**  
**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**

## INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

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As a multi-stakeholder partnership, RSPO places heavy emphasis on working collaboratively across the palm oil supply chain. This was echoed by panellists, who shared an array of new innovations and partnerships that will ultimately drive commitments to 100% sustainable palm oil, and ensure the palm oil sector can play its role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

# PLENARY

## Driving Impacts through Innovation and Partnerships

### PANELLISTS

**MS. KENDRA PASZTOR**

Monitoring & Evaluation  
Manager, Better Cotton  
Initiative

**DR. JAMARTIN SIHITE**

CEO, BOS Foundation

**DR. IZABELA DELABRE**

SPOTT Palm Oil Manager,  
Zoological Society of London

**DR. ANNE  
ROSENBERGER**

Southeast Asia Commodities  
Manager on Global Forest  
Watch, World Resources  
Institute

**MS. KRISTIN KOMIVES**

Director of Impacts, ISEAL  
Alliance



The final plenary of the event drew together the conference themes - partnership and innovation. The panel observed that whilst partnerships can be challenging and complicated, meaningful participation enables organisations to avoid making the same mistakes of the past. RSPO's partnership with Global Forest Watch to build on big data in order take action was discussed, alongside work that the BOS Foundation is undertaking with palm oil companies.

A key take-away from this session was that by working together, organisations can drive greater impact. This will enable the industry to meet its common objective of driving and scaling sustainability.



**BOS FOUNDATION  
@BORNEAN\_OU**

#EURT2017 calls for partnerships and innovation to help deliver the EU 2020 target for 100% sustainable palm oil. #BOSF



**IAN REDMOND  
@4APES**

Launch of #GeoRSPO by @WorldResources @globalforests to better monitor & report #palmoil impact on #forests #wildlife @RSPOtweets #EURT2017

## COFFEE WITH THE COMPLAINTS PANEL

The first ever interactive dialogue with the members of the Complaints Panel was one of the most hotly anticipated sessions of this year's European Roundtable as it reinforced RSPO's commitment toward transparency. The dialogue presented an opportunity to reveal who the Complaints Panel are, what they do, their backgrounds and describe the processes behind the RSPO Grievance System.

Datuk Henry Barlow, affiliate member, explained that the job of the Complaints Panel was to verify complaints made whilst keeping members within the system to improve.



The difficult challenge for the Complaints Panel is to take strong sanctions against a poor performer whilst being in a position to leverage change. Many delegates within the audience were receptive to the workings of the panel and the complexities that exist within their role. Constructive criticism of the standard and its grievance process is needed and the panel explained that they are continuing to work towards a robust process that can inspire confidence in the RSPO label – from both consumers and stakeholders.

The development of the complaints procedure was an area that the Complaints Panel were keen to discuss with the adoption of interim measures being a vital step forward. Frazer Lanier, Citibank, advised that the system is still being worked through, and the new procedures are there to make the panel more efficient, possess greater expertise and create opportunities for a more inclusive process. Michelle Desilets, Orangutan Land Trust, further corroborated this by outlining the reality and opportunity for development for the Complaints Panel as 'many cases set a precedent.'



## HOW DOES RSPO PALMTRACE SUPPORT THE TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL?

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In early 2017 RSPO PalmTrace, the new RSPO traceability system for certified palm oil products, was introduced. In this session, presented by UTZ, the fundamentals of the system were explained.

Participants learnt how linking sustainable palm oil to products, and acting as a control point of compliance with RSPO criteria, the new PalmTrace platform provides buyers with an assurance of credibility.

## THEORY OF CHANGE

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The Impact Division held interactive workshops on RSPO's 'Theory of Change'; a monitoring and evaluation planning tool.

In this lively workshop, participants contributed towards the development of the RSPO Theory of Change, which will also be used as part of the Principles & Criteria 2018 Review to leverage efforts.



## RSPO UPDATES

In the last year, the biggest growth markets for CSPO production were in Gabon, Columbia and Honduras. Whilst the Book and Claim model is incredibly important for market inclusivity, especially in these new emerging markets, it is encouraging to see significant growth in physical sales of CSPO. Stefano Savi, Global Outreach & Engagement Director, also shared news of positive increases in RSPO membership and ACOP submissions, demonstrating the progress RSPO is making, especially in Europe, in connecting with the broader supply chain to drive market transformation. Time-bound plans are an important feature of ACOP reporting and it was reassuring to see European members' goals remain set to achieve targets ahead of 2020.



## MEDIA COVERAGE

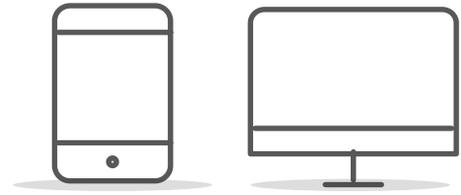
Coverage of the European Roundtable includes 18 articles across Europe, most of which came from English-language media (9) and Italian media (6). Other countries include the Netherlands and Germany.

COUNTRY	PUBLICATION	HEADLINE
Germany	Spiegel	Unicef hilft umstrittener Palmölorganisation
Germany	PROCESS	BASF treibt Produktion zertifizierter Palmölprodukte voran
Netherlands	Food Holland	CNV Internationaal: 'Veel mis met mensenrechten op Indonesische palmolieplantages'
Netherlands	VMT	Vijfde editie van de Europese rondetafel over palmolie moet het Europese CSPO doel ondersteunen
Netherlands	VMT	Groei aantal RSPO-leden, meer voortgangsrapportages duurzame palmolie
UK/Int.	Cosmetics Design Europe	Collaborating for sustainable palm oil: Cargill gives perspective
UK/Int.	Global Cosmetics News	RSPO launches new palm oil data as membership soars
UK/Int.	Business Green	Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil reports surge in new members
UK/Int.	Proforest	Proforest attends fifth RSPO European Roundtable

## MEDIA COVERAGE (CONTINUED)

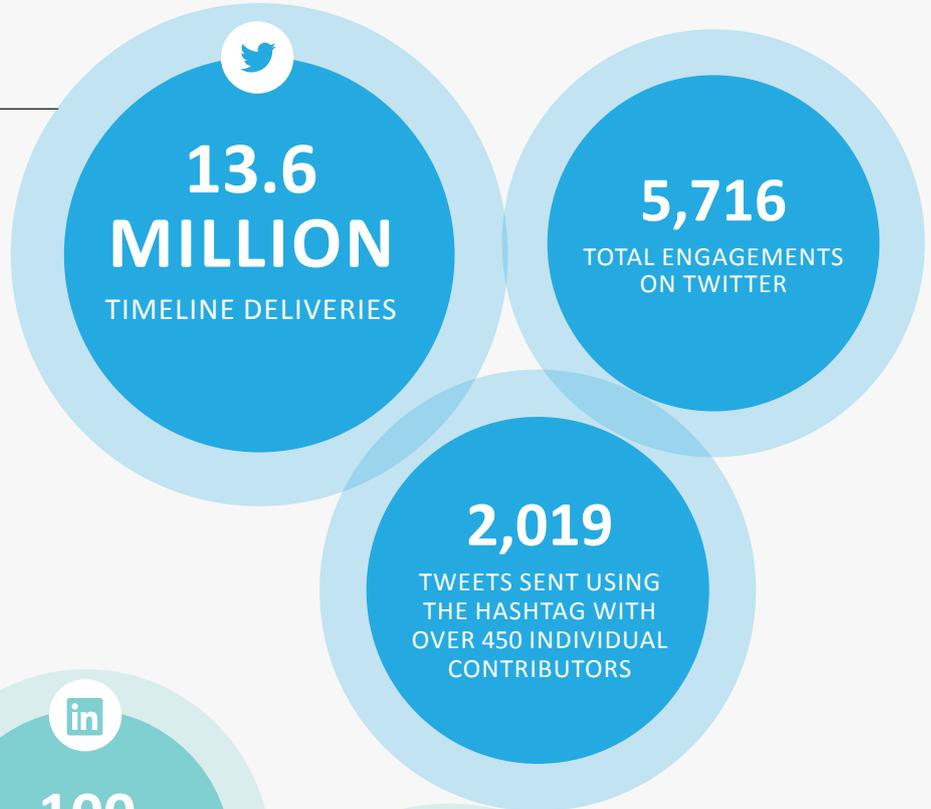
COUNTRY	PUBLICATION	HEADLINE
UK/Int.	Special Chem	BASF Strengthens Sustainable Production of Certified Palm Oil Products
UK/Int.	Ethical Performance	Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil Europe conference Europe highlights partnerships
UK/Int.	Food Ingredients First	Palm Oil Industry Facing Up to Sustainability Issues
UK/Int.	Food Navigator	Palm oil sector moves to save orangutans and put child rights into RSPO standards
Italy	Adnkronos	Sostenibilità: Rspo-Unicef insieme per diritti minori filiera olio di palma
Italy	Secolo d'Italia	L'olio di palma è sempre più "sostenibile". E se lo dice l'Unicef...
Italy	Soloitaliani.it	L'olio di palma è sempre più "sostenibile". E se lo dice l'Unicef...
Italy	Zonacriticanews.com	L'olio di palma è sempre più "sostenibile". E se lo dice l'Unicef...
Italy	Actionweb24.com	L'olio di palma è sempre più "sostenibile". E se lo dice l'Unicef...
Italy	E7-Quotidiano Energia	Italia in prima linea per un olio di palma 100% sostenibile

# SOCIAL MEDIA



## TWITTER

RSPO ran a social media campaign leading up to the 5th European Roundtable. It was the most successful campaign to date, with a 55% increase in engagement on the day against activity at the 2016 conference. The #EURT2017 hashtag achieved a total reach of over **1 million**.



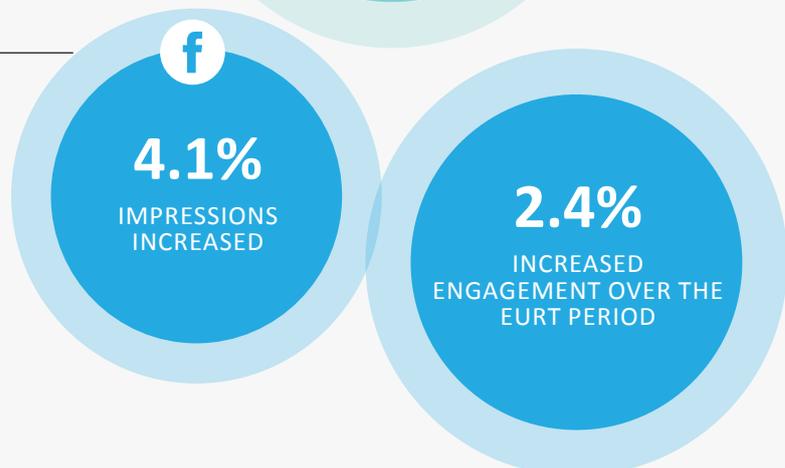
## LINKEDIN

Over the 6-week campaign period total engagements increased by 21%, post likes increased by 43% and comments increased by 33% on LinkedIn.

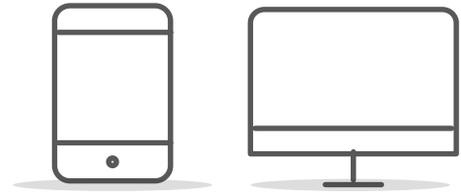


## FACEBOOK

Social media activity was enhanced at the conference through the use of innovative tools such as a social media wall and live streaming to a global audience via Periscope and Facebook live.



# DELEGATE FEEDBACK



**DARYLL**  
**@DARYLL\_READS**

Hoping one of the #EURT2017 outcomes is keener awareness of labor issues, genuine respect for labor, human rights in all aspects of business



**ANNIE ADAMS**  
**@ANEADMSSUSTTRD**

Had some great discussions on jurisdictional approach & smallholders. Raising the floor. #TheoryofChange #EURT2017



**BOS FOUNDATION**  
**@BORNEAN\_OU**

#BOSF wants oil palm companies to commit to engage in a partnership with other stakeholders. #EURT2017



**CÉCILE SCHNEIDER**  
**@CCILSCHNDR**

Thank you for this enjoyable closure of the #eurt2017 at the @zslondonzoo with the tigers we're all aiming to protect.



**KARIMAH HUDDA**  
**@KARIMAHHUDDA**

@danimorle @ZSLSPOTT Thank you for organizing this. Incredibly memorable! #EURT2017



**PHYLLIS KONG**  
**@PHYLLISKONG**

Great NGO speakers. Great debate on #HumanRights in #palm oil sector. Lots to be done by business starting from #duedilligence #EURT2017 #RSPO



**JENNY BRIGGS**  
**@JENNYMBRIGGS**

Have had an incredible time at #EURT2017 learning more about innovation, issues & progress being made in the #sustainable palm oil market.



**IAN REMOND**  
**@4APES**

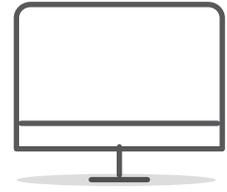
Good 2c @graspunep award-winner Dr.Jamartin Sihite of @bornean\_OU report successful collaboration w #palmoil company 4 #orangutans #EURT2017



**CAT BARTON**  
**@CAT\_BARPLES**

Collaboration and partnerships needed to drive impacts #eurt2017

## VOX POPS



**ALAIN RIVAL**  
CIRAD



**CECILE SCHNEIDER**  
CONSERVATION  
INTERNATIONAL



**CHRIS SAYNER**  
CRODA



**CHRISTINA SCHNEIDER**  
HENKEL



**DANIELLE MORLEY**  
RSPO



**GEMMA TILLACK**  
RAINFOREST ACTION  
NETWORK



**GRANT ROSOMAN**  
GREENPEACE



**ISABELLA TONACO**  
BASF



**LAURE D'ASTORG**  
FRENCH ALLIANCE FOR  
SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL

More interviews with our speakers and delegates can be found on the official RSPO [Vimeo channel](#)

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

RSPO would like to thank our conference partners for their support.

## GOLD PARTNERS

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European  
Palm Oil Alliance

## SILVER PARTNERS

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## RECEPTION PARTNERS

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**CRODA**

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## EXHIBITORS

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**ZSL**  
LET'S WORK  
FOR WILDLIFE

The RSPO is an international non-profit organization 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.

[www.rspo.org](http://www.rspo.org)

## ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL

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**RSPO**

Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil