



RSPO Impact Report

2026

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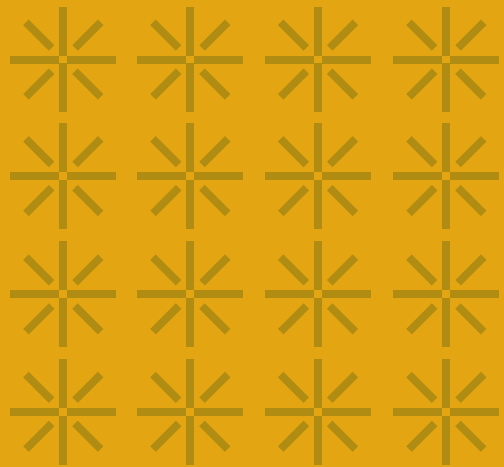


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About RSPO and This Report

The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) is a global, non-profit organisation with a voluntary membership base. We bring together stakeholders from across the palm oil value chain to develop and implement global standards for sustainable palm oil. Since our founding in 2004, we have grown to a network of over 6,300 voluntary members around the world representing every link in the palm oil value chain. To learn more about RSPO, visit www.rspo.org.

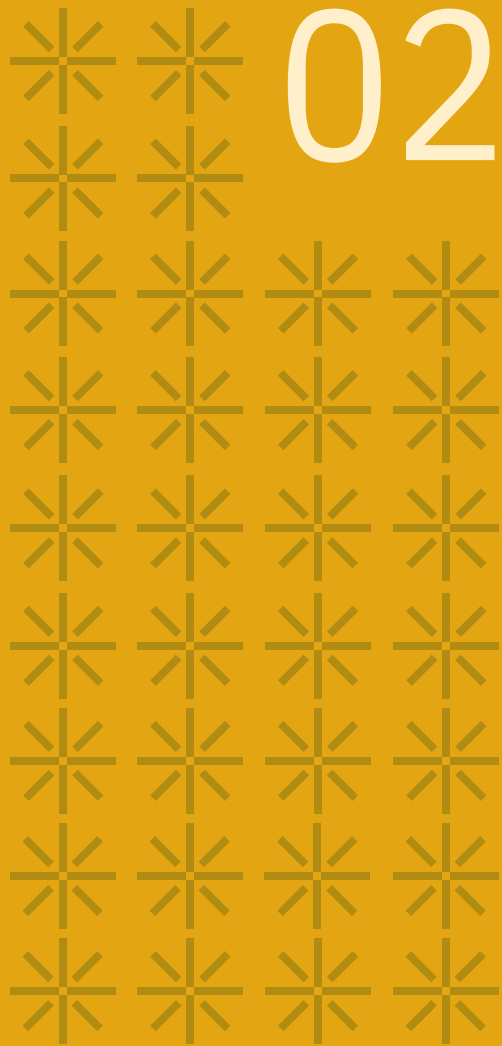
Published biannually, the RSPO Impact Report communicates our collective achievements in terms of People, Planet, and Prosperity to our stakeholders and the public. This edition covers the reporting period of January to December 2025.

New Report Structure

This year, we have restructured how we present our progress in efforts to make it clearer, more accessible, and more meaningful to the diverse audiences we serve. Our reporting is now organised around dedicated chapters that reflect our Theory of Change, spanning Our Reach, Impact Areas, Strategy by Region, and Continuous Improvement.

In addition, we have evolved our reporting style to reflect the way information is accessed and consumed today. Rather than consolidating all data and detail within this report, we now provide more comprehensive information, datasets, and multi-year trends on [our website](#). Alongside, this report serves as a focused snapshot of RSPO's progress and highlights in 2025. We encourage readers to explore both our website and this report for a richer, more in-depth understanding of our work and impact over time.





Leadership Messages

FOREWORD FROM THE CEO

Impact is not declared. It is demonstrated.

The data and information presented in this 2026 RSPO Impact Report make a compelling case: sustainable palm oil is working, and the results are clearer than ever.

RSPO's impacts continue to be wide and deep, in upholding human rights, smallholder inclusion, environmental protection, climate change mitigation, certification and market transformation. Through the collective efforts of our members, stakeholders and partners, we continue to drive meaningful change across landscapes, supply chain and communities.

These are not projections nor pledges. They are real, measurable outcomes that continue to grow year on year. Behind every figure is a story of progress, resilience, and partnership. These stories give meaning to the numbers and remind us why this work matters beyond any policy agenda or reporting cycle.

On numerous occasions, I have mentioned that sustainability is a journey. Which is why we do not present this report as a moment of celebration. Instead, it is a springboard for acceleration. The full implementation of the 2024 RSPO Standards marks a shift in how we define and deliver sustainability. We are no longer asking whether palm oil can be produced responsibly because that question has been answered. We are now focused on scaling that responsibility: deepening its reach across more landscapes, more supply chains and more businesses worldwide. The next phase of RSPO is about embedding sustainability so thoroughly into industry practice that it becomes the expectation, not the exception.

This evolution comes at a moment when the external environment facing our sector is more demanding than ever. Regulatory frameworks are raising the bar on deforestation, due diligence and supply chain transparency. Investors and fund managers are scrutinising environmental and social governance with greater rigour. Consumers are asking harder questions about the origins of the products they use.

These shifts are not a threat to RSPO; rather, they validate the need for systems like ours that provide credible, transparent and well governed impact. We believe that we are equipped today with the resources, expertise and clarity of vision to support our members in facing the challenges to come.

As we look ahead, our collective resolve must meet the scale of the challenge. Achieving transformation at the pace the world requires demands that every grower, processor, trader, retailer, bank, and civil society organisation play their part.

RSPO exists to make that collaboration possible: to set the standard, provide the platform and amplify the impact of those who are committed to doing things right. Let us continue this journey with the same conviction and dedication that brought us this far.



Joseph D'Cruz
RSPO Chief Executive Officer



Letter from the RSPO Co-Chairs

Anne Rosenbarger and Jose Roberto Montenegro

Two decades of progress have given many lessons.

As RSPO moves forward from 20 years as a global partnership, perhaps the most important lesson we've learned is that sustainability does not end with a certificate. We have moved past the mindframe that views sustainability as something neatly summed up in a checklist.

For years, our sector has too often measured progress by certification; this is merely an early milestone. Genuine sustainability lies in the multi-layered, ongoing impact of our work, collective efforts that span the boardroom to the oil palm fields. We see it as something alive – embedded in the rights we safeguard for the oil palm labourers, smallholder farmers, and Indigenous communities that thrive around the plantation areas. It lives in the ecosystems and biodiversity we work to conserve. And it supports the livelihoods we help build: sustainable, resilient, and prosperous, across the entire value chain, from the smallholder's seedbed to the retailer's shelf.

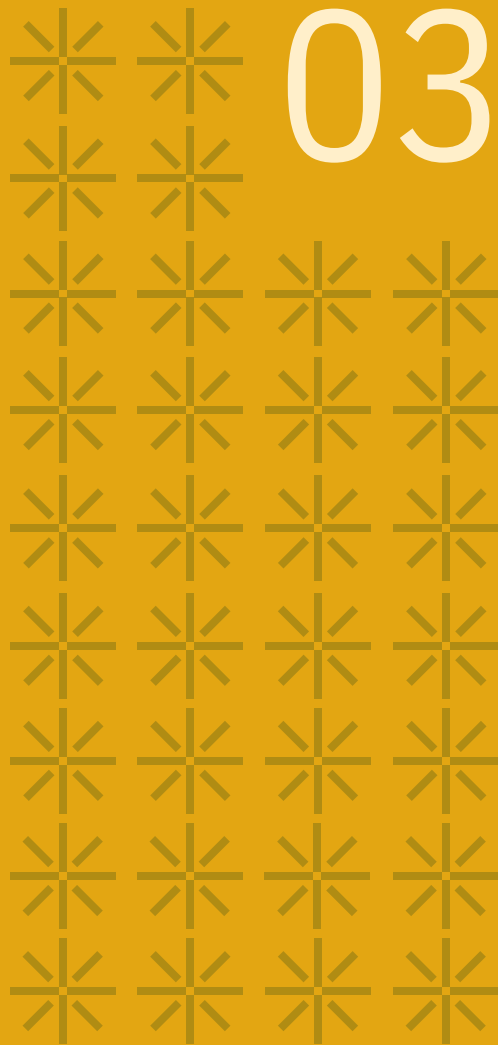
As RSPO evolves, we'd like you to read our latest Impact Report not as a scorecard, but as a compass. This report tells us what we have achieved this year – real, measurable progress across People, Planet, and Prosperity. It is an honest assessment about where we still need to go, because the work of transforming the vast and complex palm oil industry is never quite finished. Most importantly, it points us toward how we get there: through partnership, stewardship, and a willingness to look beyond a checklist and towards meaningful outcomes.

When reading this report, we encourage you to also reflect on the accompanying stories shared by some of our members. Read alongside the impact data and numbers, they tell about the tremendous efforts that many among our global alliance exert on the ground – from forest and ecosystem conservation, to wildlife protection and capacity building for oil palm smallholders and their communities – showing just how acting on our collective vision has true transformative power.

Over the coming years, we deepen our commitment to the sustainable palm oil landscape — tackling critical challenges and delivering measurable outcomes across our four strategic pillars for this next chapter of RSPO: Organisational Transformation, Assurance Integrity and Certification Efficiency, Member Experience, and Market Growth.

We look forward to what comes next – a shared direction for RSPO's global partnership as we continue moving from one milestone to the next, together.





Our Reach



RSPO Membership

RSPO's progress toward a sustainable palm oil sector is only possible because of the organisations and individuals who choose to commit to transforming the global palm oil sector. Our members are the driving force behind every certification, every supply chain transformation, and every market shift that has moved the industry forward. Where RSPO stands today is a direct reflection of their dedication.

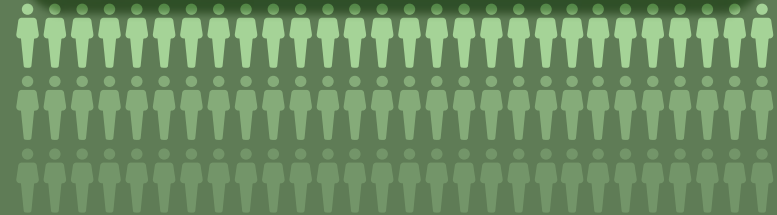


6,280

members

(+221 since 2024)

globally across 103 countries and territories



Membership Categories



2,408

Ordinary members

(+87 since 2024)

Organisations that have direct involvement in the palm oil supply chain or associated NGOs, banks or investors



3,730

Associate members

(+126 since 2024)

Organisations that purchase less than 500 metric tonnes (MT) of palm oil and palm oil products per year



142

Affiliate members

(+8 since 2024)

Organisations or individuals that are not directly involved in the palm oil supply chain but want to support RSPO's objectives and activities

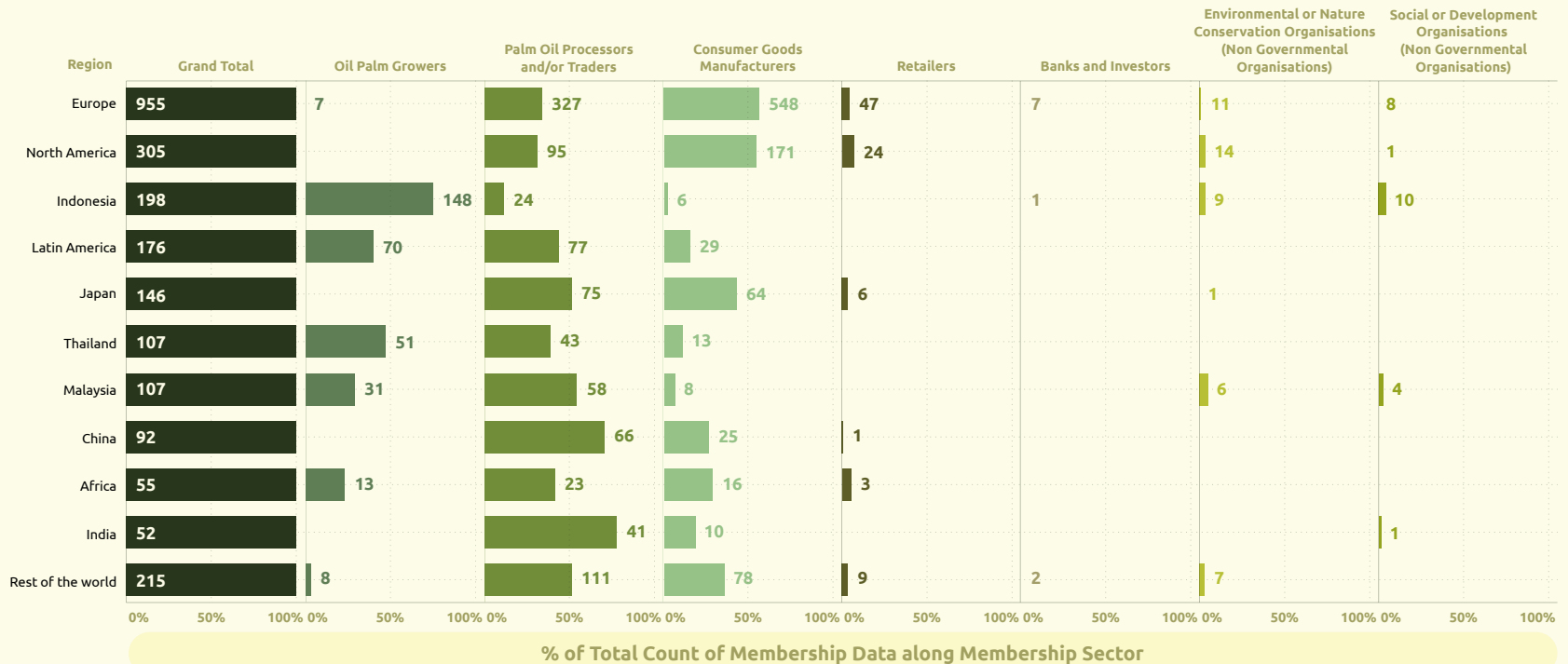




Ordinary Members - Sector Breakdown

RSPO's membership growth since 2024 was recorded globally with the **most significant growth seen in China (+76 members), Indonesia (+29 members) and Japan (+22 members)** reflecting both expanding market awareness in Asia and the deepening engagement of key producing and consuming nations.

Membership Sector



Global distribution of RSPO Ordinary Members by sector. The size of the bar chart reflects the percentage coverage of the membership sector category in proportion to the total number of members in the country/region.



Benefits of RSPO Membership

Being part of the RSPO can open doors to a growing network of partnerships, resources, and opportunities that support members in advancing sustainable palm oil. From collaborative initiatives with NGOs to engagement with financial institutions, RSPO membership connects organisations with the tools, allies, and platforms needed to drive meaningful progress across the supply chain.

A recent example of this is the reciprocal membership between RSPO and FONAP (Forum Nachhaltiges Palmöl e.V.), Germany's multi-stakeholder alliance for sustainable palm oil. FONAP has joined RSPO as an Environmental NGO under Ordinary Membership, while RSPO has joined FONAP and is actively contributing to its thematic working groups, a move that reflects the deeper collaboration the reciprocal membership can unlock.

Sascha Tischer, Deputy Chairman of the FONAP Board, captured the spirit of the partnership:

"The reciprocal membership of FONAP and RSPO will enable us to open a new chapter in our cooperation and work together to strengthen sustainable and resilient palm oil supply chains. In view of increasing global challenges, including advancing ecological risks such as climate change and biodiversity loss, we need more cooperation than ever before."



*Sascha Tischer, Deputy
Chairman of the FONAP
Board and Joseph (JD)
D'Cruz, RSPO CEO*

Lestari Capital Pte Ltd

The Rimba Collective is a long-term, performance-based collaboration managed by Lestari Capital - an RSPO Member (Banks & Investors) since 2019 - that links agricultural commodity sourcing to financing for forest conservation and restoration.

Built on the principle that resilient supply chains depend on healthy and productive landscapes, the Rimba Collective brings together global companies (including founding partners Procter & Gamble, Nestlé, Unilever and PepsiCo) with local implementing organisations and forest-dependent communities to support landscape-scale action. Through this collective approach, the initiative helps reduce systemic risks associated with deforestation, ecosystem degradation and declining ecosystem services, while generating lasting benefits for people and nature.

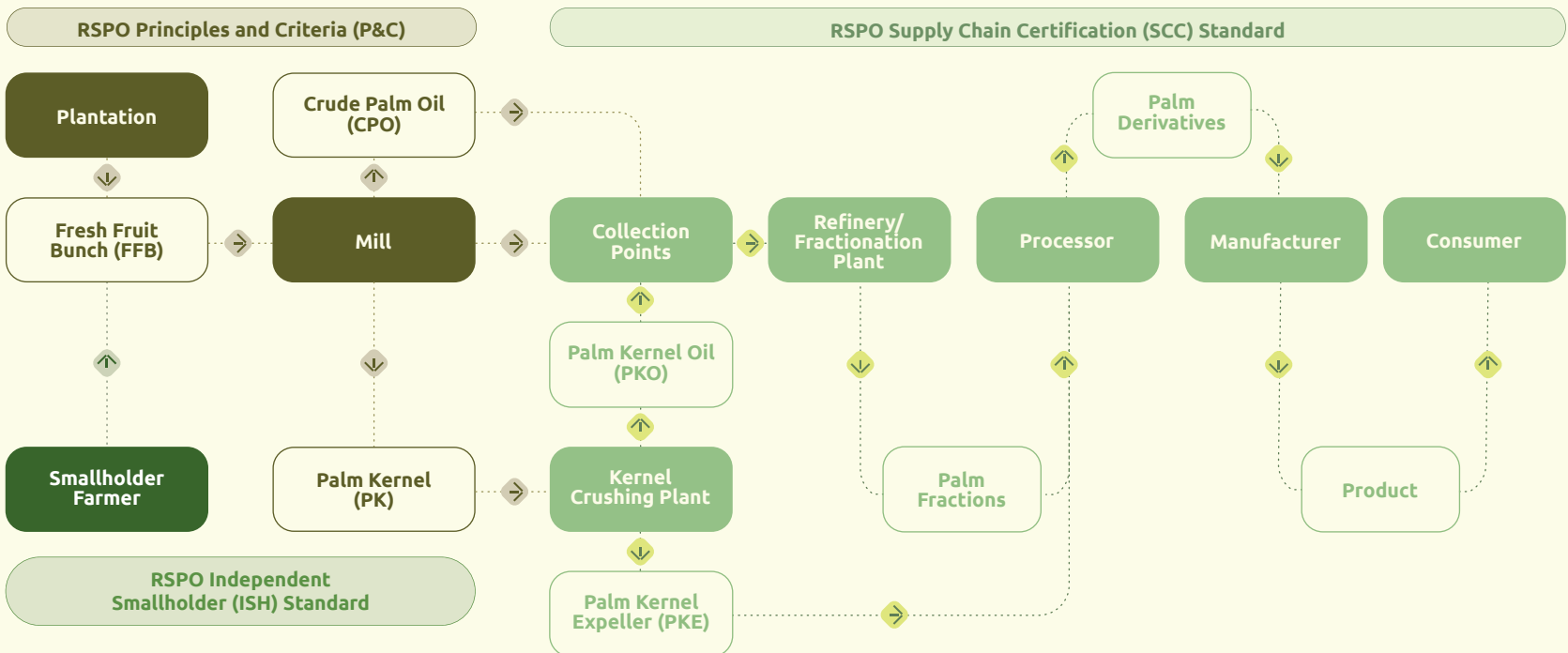
Operating across 19 projects, the Rimba Collective has already committed to protect and restore over 466,000 hectares of forest in Indonesia and the Philippines. Through a holistic approach, it supports endangered species, empowers communities, promotes gender equity and ensures transparency through rigorous monitoring and third-party verification. Companies contribute based on their commodity footprint and receive verified ecosystem outcomes aligned with ESG standards.

The Rimba Collective is committed to achieving lasting impact at scale, while also redefining how businesses engage with natural capital.

RSPO Certification

RSPO Certification against the RSPO Standards reflects the concrete commitment of our members in advancing sustainable palm oil practices from plantation to shelf.

The RSPO has three certification standards: the RSPO Principles and Criteria (P&C) and RSPO Independent Smallholder (ISH) Standard for upstream production, and the RSPO Supply Chain Certification (SCC) Standard for downstream chain of custody. Together, these three key documents cover the entire sustainability journey of RSPO Certification to demonstrate traceability and provide assurance that RSPO Certified palm oil and oil palm products, and its many fractions, derivatives and permutations, are sustainable.



RSPO Principles and Criteria (P&C)

In 2025, RSPO certified areas recorded strongest gains in Malaysia (+67,227 ha), Indonesia (+53,318 ha), and RoW (+48,882 ha), reflecting ongoing expansion in certified production capacity.

5,226,122

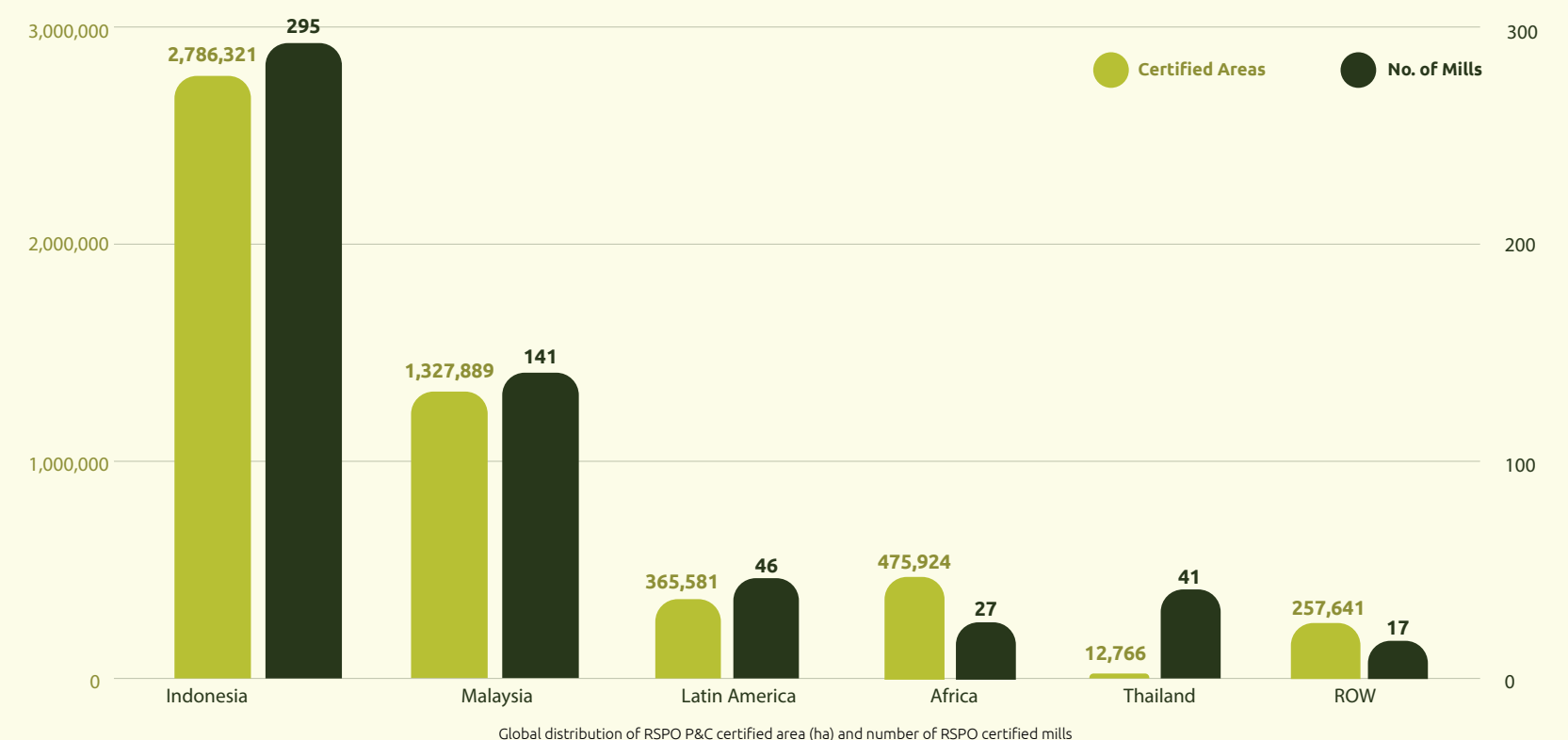
hectares (ha) of certified area across 23 countries and territories

(+107,883 ha since 2024)

567

certified mills across 23 countries and territories

(+70 since 2024)



RSPO Independent Smallholder (ISH) Standard

179,443

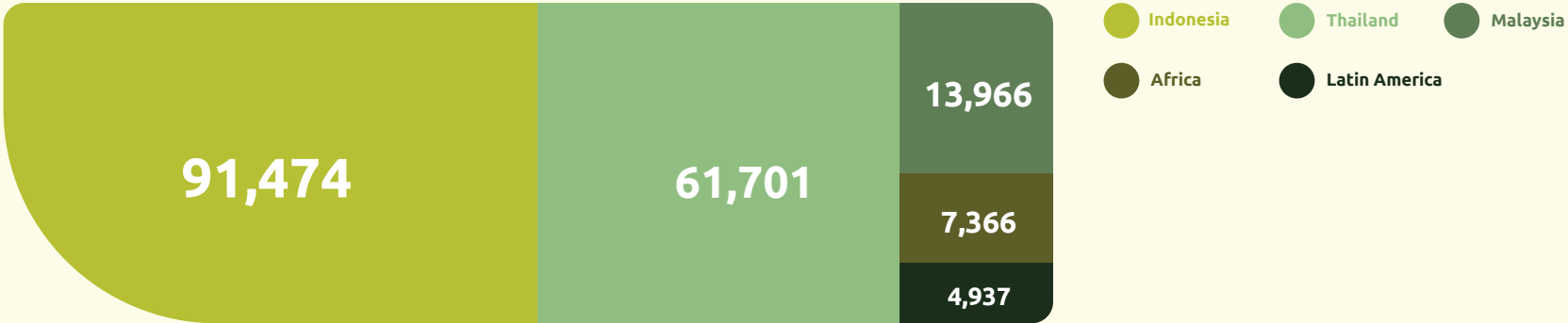
hectares (ha) of certified area across 9 countries and territories

(+44,223 ha since 2024)

3,066,425

metric tonnes (MT) of oil palm fresh fruit bunch (FFB) production capacity of certified ISH

(+920,152 MT since 2024)



Global distribution of RSPO ISH certified area (ha)



Global distribution of RSPO ISH certified FFB volume (MT)

ISH certified area and certified fresh fruit bunch (FFB) volume both continue to grow globally with the most significant gains recorded for Indonesia (+23,367 ha and +587,538 MT, respectively), demonstrating deepening reach in smallholder certification in the world’s largest palm oil producer. This continued certification growth is also expanding the volume of RSPO Independent Smallholder Credits (IS-Credits) available in the market, which is a trend with important implications for credit market performance (See RSPO IS-Credits on page 17 for more information).

RSPO Supply Chain Certification (SCC) Standard

7,529

**certified facilities across
97 countries and territories**

(+430 since 2024)



2,807

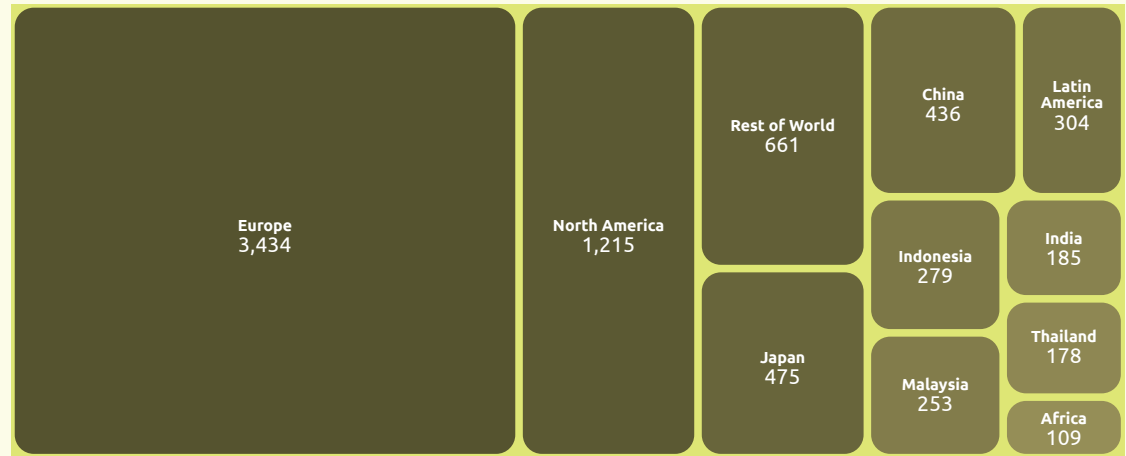
**trademark licence holders across
94 countries and territories**

(+195 since 2024)

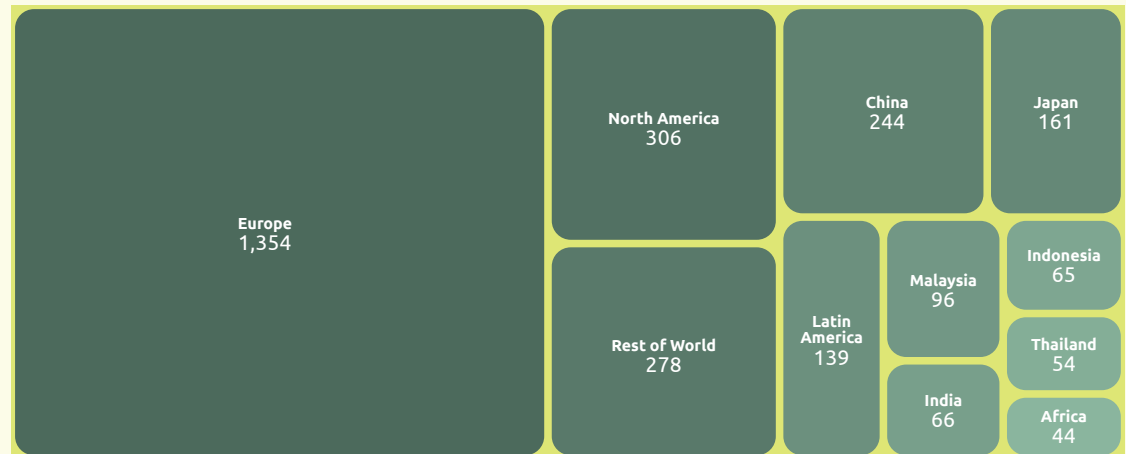


Across all countries and regions, there has been increased in SCC certified facilities, but the most significant growth has been observed for China (+90) followed by North America (+60), Japan (+53), Indonesia (+45), India (+41), Malaysia (+37), and Rest of the World (+121). This increase in certification is encouraging, reflecting progress of newer markets toward sourcing RSPO CSPO and related products.

This is further supported by the expansion of the coverage of Trademark Licences, enabling broader consumer-facing sustainability visibility.



Global distribution of RSPO SCC certified facilities



Global distribution of RSPO Trademark licences

RSPO Certified Supply and Consumption

The RSPO P&C and ISH Standard certification generates certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO) supply, while SCC Standard certification generates certified demand. Balancing supply with demand is central to RSPO's market transformation mission.

Supply Trends

16.2 million MT
of RSPO CSPO Supply

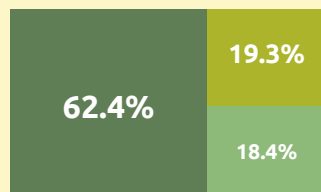
(+0.5% since 2023)



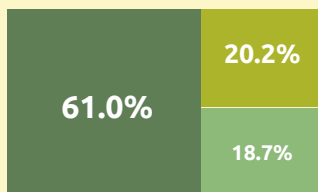
20 % of global
palm oil supply covered
by RSPO CSPO



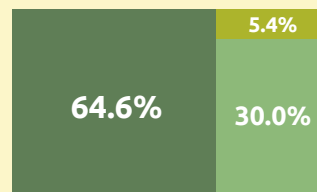
Indonesia 46 Million MT



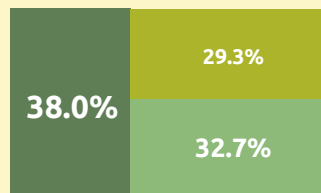
Malaysia 19.3 Million MT



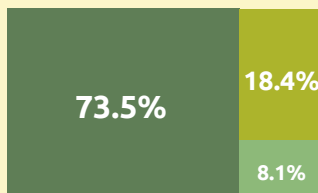
Thailand 3.3 Million MT



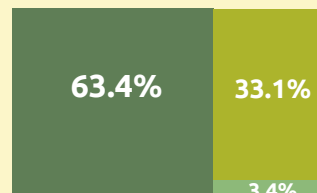
Latin America 5.5 Million MT



Africa 3.5 Million MT



Rest of World 2.9 Million MT



Global distribution of CSPO, potential CSPO and palm oil production (2024)¹

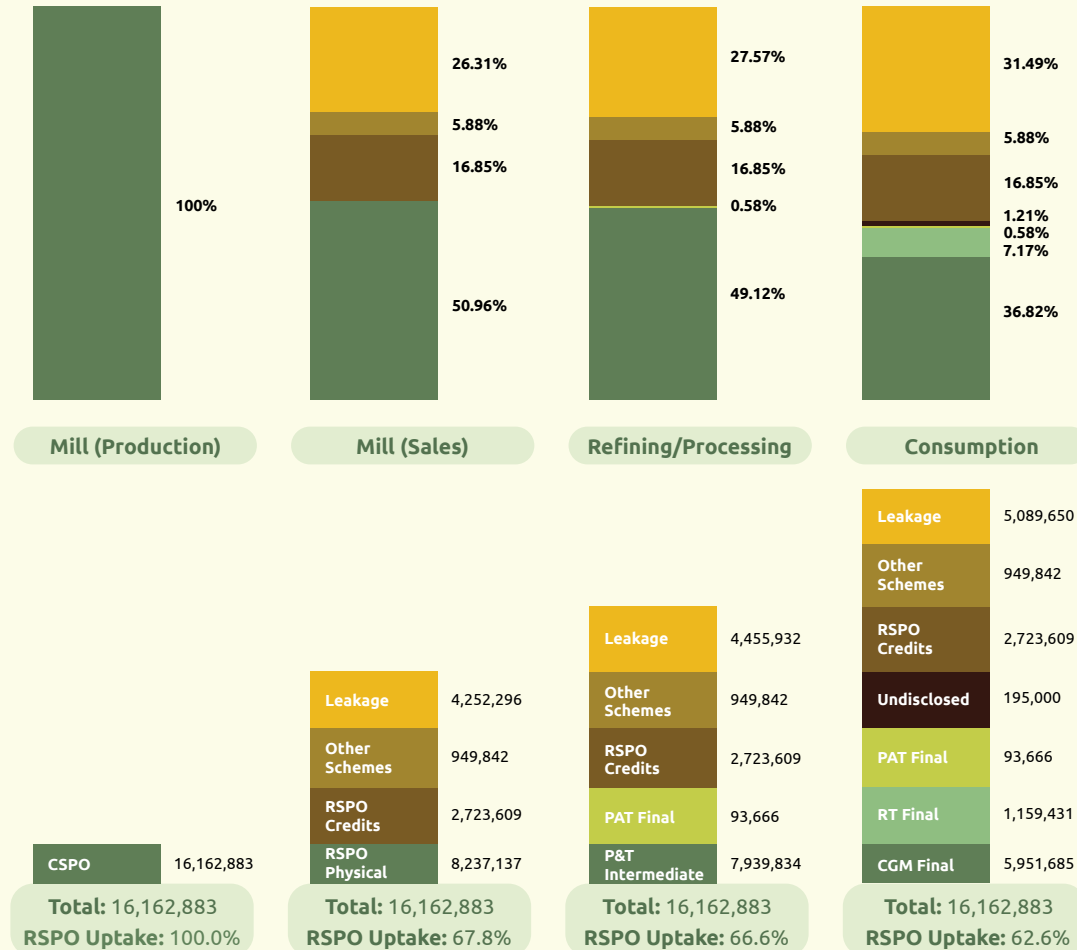
While CSPO supply is growing, its potential is even broader. RSPO Grower members possess a total capacity of 31.4 million MT, equivalent to 39% of global production, once all member plantations are certified. This strength is particularly evident in Latin America, where RSPO members account for nearly 75% of regional output, with 29.3% already RSPO Certified in 2024.

Regional growth is increasingly driven by emerging frontiers and established hubs, with Africa seeing a transformative 46.23% surge in supply alongside a resilient 9.07% expansion in Malaysia. These gains underscore a strategic diversification that helps offset regional fluctuations in Indonesia and Latin America, moving the industry closer to capturing the 31.4 million MT of untapped potential within RSPO Member plantations.

-  **RSPO CSPO**
Production by RSPO Members' Certified Mill
-  **Potential CSPO**
Production by RSPO Members' Non-Certified Mill
-  **Non-RSPO**
Production by Non-RSPO Member

¹CSPO actual production extrapolated from available audit data of certified mills and members' Annual Communication of Progress (ACOP) reports. Total palm oil production estimated from USDA Oil Seeds: World Market and Trade reports.

Consumption Trends



CSPO production, sales and consumption flow through the supply chain (2024) ²

RSPO CSPO continues to demonstrate strong resilience in 2024. Of the 16.2 million MT produced, 67.8% (11 million MT) was sold through RSPO channels: 51% via physical supply chain models – Identity Preserved (IP); Segregated (SG); and Mass Balance (MB) – and 16.9% as RSPO Credits. The remaining 32.2% entered the market under other certification or as conventional palm oil.

As CSPO moves downstream, it undergoes further processing into numerous fractions, derivatives, and ingredients resulting in challenges in maintaining the value of certification across the chain. This results in reduced volume of CSPO used in final consumer or industrial products, especially in more price sensitive products, to a 10.1 million MT, representing 13.1% of global consumption. In 2024, China emerged as a leader in growth, recording a 3% increase in consumption compared to 2023.

²CSPO consumption extrapolated from RSPO *prisma* data and members' ACOP reports. CSPO consumption volumes used by Consumer Goods Manufacturers, Retailers and Processors operating in animal feed, biofuels and power generation.

RSPO Independent Smallholder Credits (IS-Credits)

In supporting smallholders, the RSPO IS-Credits remains a vital tool for connecting downstream members with smallholders, particularly those far from certified mills. The system incentivises smallholders for their efforts on sustainable best practices.

387,342

**IS-Credits sold,
equivalent to US\$ 7.9 million**

(+103,154 since 2024)

126

active sellers of IS-Credits

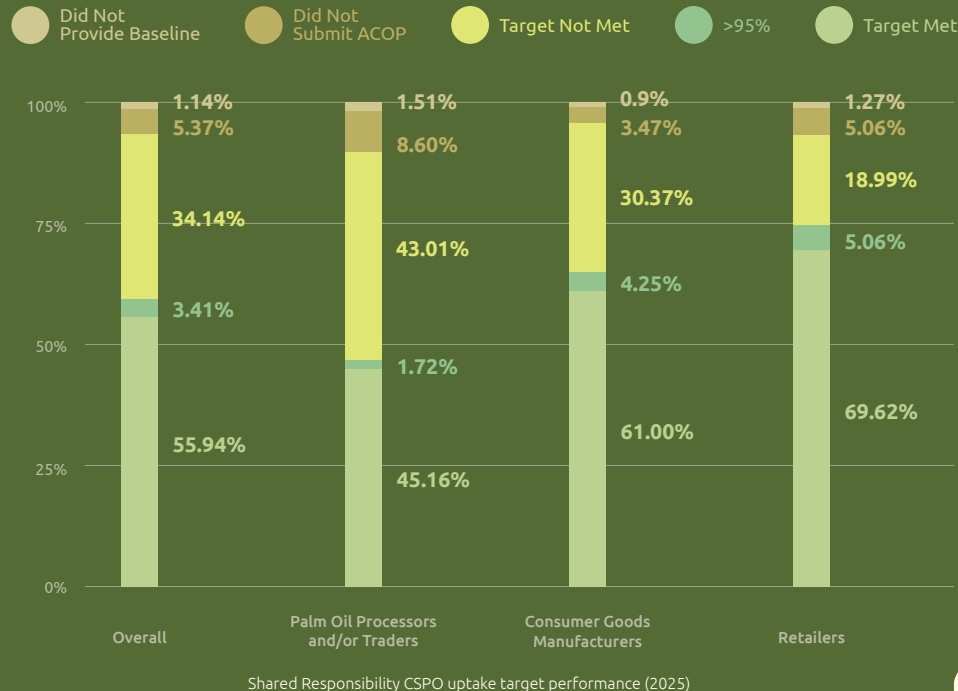
(+10 since 2024)

However, these figures should be read alongside supply growth. As shown in RSPO ISH Standard section (page 13), smallholder certification has been growing on an annual basis, bringing more credits into the market each year. While current IS-Credits demand has provided an important foundation, long-term effectiveness of the IS-Credits system depends on increasing and broadening the demand base to sustain the value of IS-Credits and to ensure smallholders are meaningfully rewarded for their certification efforts.



RSPO Shared Responsibility (SR)

To further drive consumption, the RSPO's SR framework includes annual uptake targets for downstream supply chain members: Processors and/or Traders (P&Ts), Consumer Goods Manufacturers (CGMs) and Retailers. In 2025, 56% of RSPO downstream members met their targets with further sectoral breakdown of 45.2% of P&Ts; 61% of CGMs and 70% of Retailers.

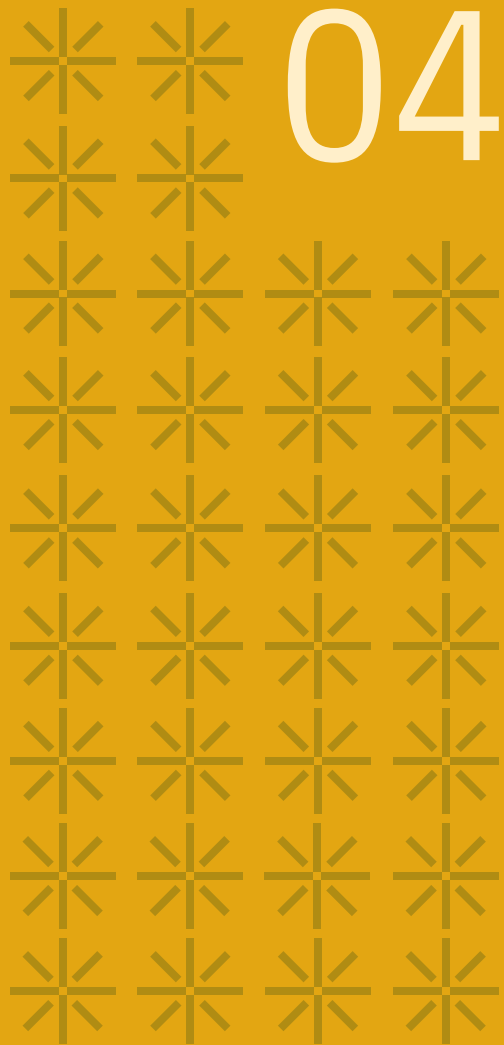


Apical Group

Beyond uptake targets, the RSPO Shared Responsibility framework also emphasises smallholder inclusion. As part of its broader commitment to sustainable and inclusive supply chains, Apical launched the SMILE (Smallholder Inclusion for better Livelihood and Empowerment) Programme in 2020 with Asian Agri and Kao Corporation to support independent smallholders in North Sumatra, Riau, and Jambi in achieving RSPO Certification. As of December 2025, a total of 2,834 independent smallholders have obtained RSPO Certification. The programme has contributed to yield improvements, wider market access, better livelihoods and strengthened cooperatives, including premium-funded facilities. The target is to reach 5,000 certified smallholders by 2030, with plans to expand.

smile Smallholder Inclusion for better Livelihood and Empowerment

The figures in this chapter reflect not just real progress but also real opportunities as we understand that there is more to be done. To learn more about how RSPO is working to build on this progress and address the challenges that remain, see Chapter 5: Scaling Our Impact - Strategy by Region.



Our Impact



TRANSLATING THE RSPO IMPACT FRAMEWORK INTO IMPACT AREAS

RSPO's Theory of Change (ToC) and Impact Framework remains the foundation of how we understand, measure, and communicate progress towards a more sustainable palm oil industry.

As we progress in 2025, neither the ToC nor the Impact Framework has changed. What has evolved is the way we communicate our impact. We have listened to the feedback from our stakeholders and sought to present our progress in ways that are clearer, accessible and meaningful to the diverse audiences we serve from across the palm oil value chain.

The structure of this report reflects that commitment. Our reporting on the ToC Prosperity Pillar is presented through the previous chapter of 'Our Reach', which details the uptake of RSPO Standards and Certification across the entire palm oil value chain globally. Dedicated chapters on 'Strategy by Region' and 'Continuous Improvement' further illuminate how we intend to scale our impact globally as well as our continuous improvement efforts, respectively.

Progress under People and Planet Pillars is reported through six Impact Areas, each directly aligned with the Long-term Outcomes set out in our ToC. These six Impact Areas are:

-  Forest
-  Biodiversity
-  Greenhouse Gas
-  Labour and Human Rights
-  Communities
-  Smallholders

Together, these encapsulate the breadth of RSPO's commitment to People, Planet and Prosperity - reflecting the long-term outcomes we are working towards in partnership with our members, value chain actors, and broader stakeholders.



Safeguarding Our Tropical Landscapes in the Palm Oil Sector

Tropical forests are not a backdrop of the palm oil sector; they are the foundation that it depends on. The landscapes that sustain certified supply chains are the same ones that regulate water, store carbon, and support communities and species that exist nowhere else on Earth. Protecting them is not optional but a prerequisite for a sector with a long-term future. Through RSPO, this commitment is backed by rigorous standards, independent verification, and real accountability translating obligations into measurable outcomes on the ground.

For a full overview of how RSPO's Standards, procedures, and supply chain requirements work, visit [RSPO Forest webpage](#).

¹Based on metrics template from 561 RSPO UoCs as of 31 December 2025. Includes UoC areas comprising High Conservation Value (HCV), High Carbon Stock (HCS), HCV-HCS and peatlands (unplanted and conserved/rehabilitated) that are set aside and protected under RSPO Standards. These are areas consisting of forests, wildlife habitats and community lands.

²The size of Singapore is approximately 74,900 ha.

³Based on metrics template from 561 RSPO UoCs as of 31 December 2025. The riparian reserves recorded are not part of the designated High Conservation Value (HCV) areas.

Impact in Numbers

When you source and support RSPO Certified Sustainable Palm Oil, you are contributing to a supply chain that works to keep forests standing and holds deforestation accountable.



1.38 % of all fire hotspots in Indonesia and Malaysia fell within RSPO Certified concessions and of those alerts, fewer than 1 in 5 (19%) were confirmed fires in 2025

Certified concessions consistently outperform the wider landscape on fire risk

33,613 ha of riparian reserves set aside and protected by RSPO Certified supply chains

Safeguarding the waterways that sustain ecosystems, biodiversity, and the communities that depend on them³

551,637 ha of High Conservation Value (HCV), High Carbon Stock (HCS) and peat areas protected through RSPO Certified supply chains

Nearly 7.6 times the size of Singapore²

128,408 ha remediated and compensated by RSPO Members globally since 2015, across 72 projects in 18 countries

Driven by RSPO's Remediation and Compensation Procedure (RaCP), holding members accountable for land cleared without HCV assessments

293,557 ha of HCV, HCS, and peat areas¹ safeguarded from conversion by RSPO's New Planting Procedure (NPP) since 2015

Equivalent to at least 1 ha in every 2 ha proposed for new oil palm development

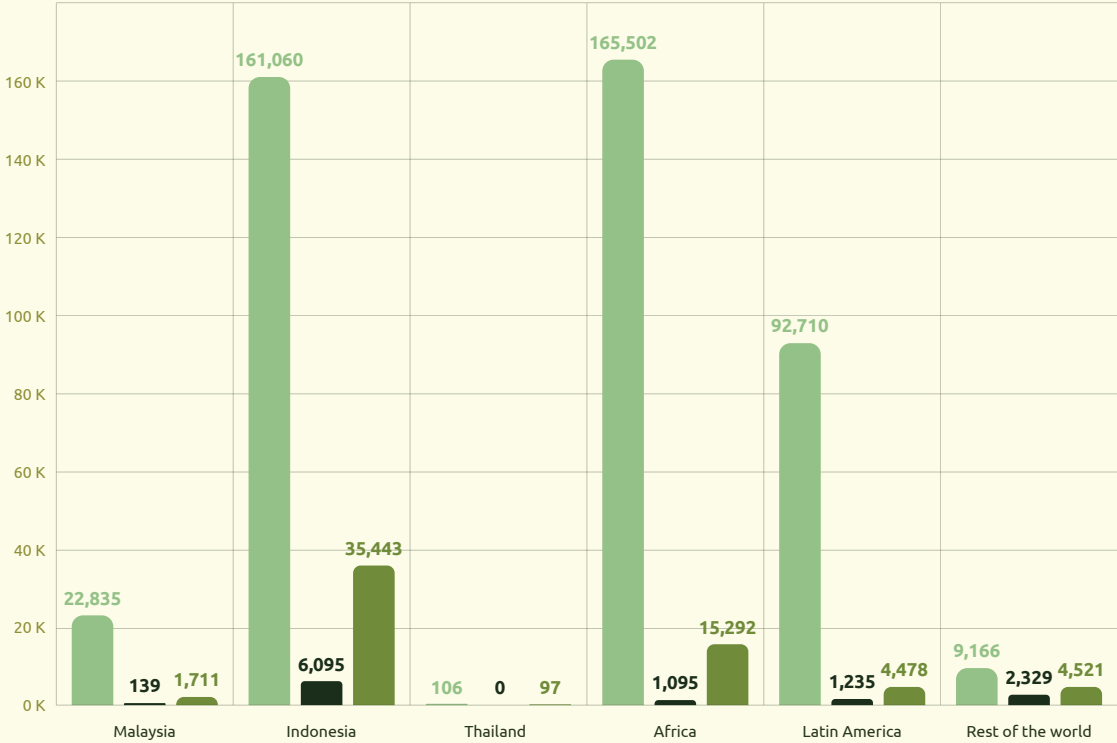


Total combined HCV, HCS and HCV-HCS = 523,812 ha

HCV
451,378 ha

HCS
10,891 ha

HCV-HCS
61,542 ha



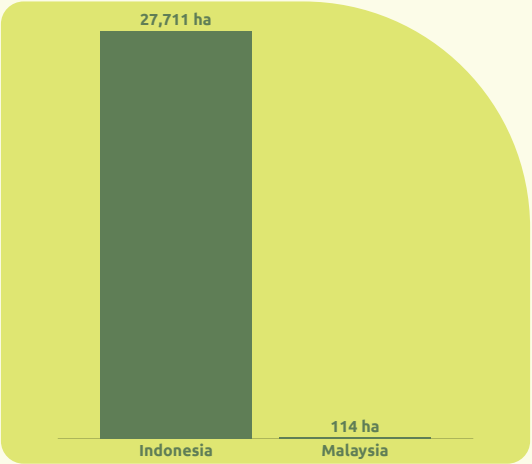
Global breakdown of High Conservation Value (HCV), High Carbon Stock (HCS) and HCV-HCS areas identified and protected under RSPO Standards, by hectare (ha)

Measure Names

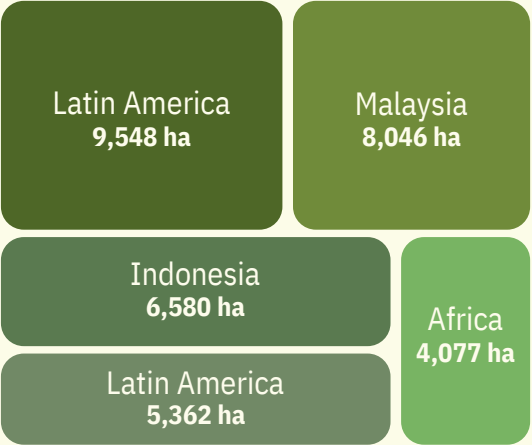
- High Conservation Value (HCV) area (ha)
- High Carbon Stock (HCS) area (ha)
- HCV-HCS area (ha)

This year's reporting reflects an enhanced scope, incorporating High Conservation Value-High Carbon Stock (HCV-HCS) and HCS areas from our Units of Certification (UoCs) alongside the previously reported HCV areas alone. In 2025, there were fluctuations in these reported conservation areas that were attributable to constraints in the availability of Certification Bodies (CBs) and auditors across certain regions. These challenges are being actively addressed through RSPO governance mechanisms and direct stakeholder engagement, with corrective measures anticipated to take full effect in 2026.

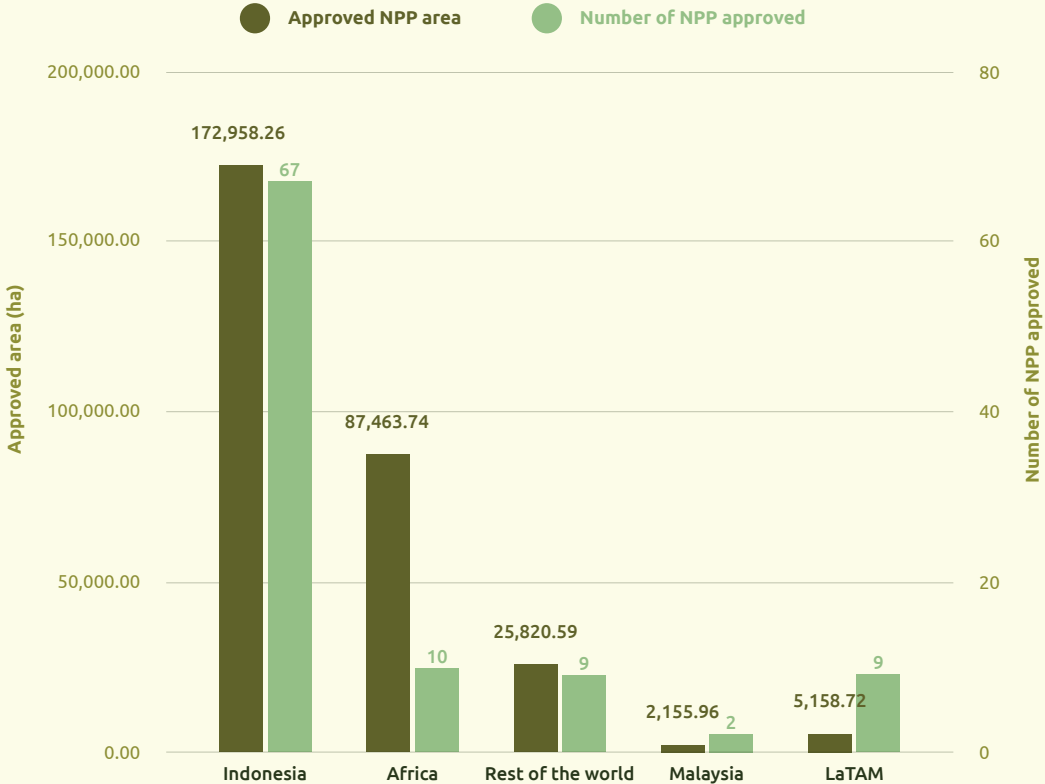
Total conserved peat area across all regions : 27,825 ha



Total hectarage (ha) of conserved and rehabilitated peat area globally.



Total hectarage (ha) of riparian areas (additional and not included in HCV) by country/region.



Global extent of total number of approved New Planting Procedure (NPP) and total approved area in hectares (ha)

In 2025, NPP assessments were conducted across two key regions. In Indonesia, a total of 25,254 ha was assessed, of which 2,600 ha was approved for development. Across the Rest of the World, assessment covered 46,568 ha, with 10,361 ha approved for development.



Number of approved remediation and compensation projects by RSPo members globally.

Stories from the Ground

Behind the numbers are RSPO Members bringing certification to life through restored forests, protected species, and stronger communities.



 **BBCP: Advancing Conservation in Palm Oil Landscapes**

Established in 2016, the Bumitama Biodiversity and Community Project (BBCP) by Bumitama Agri Ltd. in Ketapang, West Kalimantan, has become a model for integrated conservation within palm oil landscapes.

8,311 ha of wildlife refuge, ecological buffer area, and a hub for reforestation and community engagement.	72,220 trees planted across 190 ha of BBCP since 2021	800 ha reforested via FlyForest drone-seeding programme in 2020
	2023 legal decree securing BBCP conservation area protection	

Photo credit: Bumitama Agri Ltd

Conservation wins

The restored habitats have strengthened connectivity for Bornean orangutans and other endemic species. Drone-seeding via FlyForest has also extended restoration to previously inaccessible areas, demonstrating science-driven conservation at scale.



Community integration

In a region where traditional land-use practices still define livelihoods, conservation cannot exist in isolation. Over the years, BBCP has worked closely with local villages and social forestry groups, enabling communities to become active partners in protecting and managing the landscape. Through integrated capacity-building programmes, they receive training in conservation, horticulture, cocoa and superior fruit cultivation, freshwater aquaculture, and livestock farming. These initiatives are delivered within the BBCP area, particularly through Sekolah Desa Berdaya Bunitama. The programme empowers communities to participate in safeguarding the forest while generating additional sources of income for their families.



Legal and industry recognition

BBCP's defining achievement of the past two years has been securing legal recognition for its conservation areas. In 2023, the Regent of Ketapang issued Decree No. 839/PERKIMLH-E/2023, formally protecting BBCP's project areas and recognising the importance of its peatlands. The decree establishes a model for integrated conservation strategies in Indonesia's complex land-use landscape.



Future direction

Looking ahead, BBCP is developing carbon inseting strategies in collaboration with key partners, including IDH Indonesia and CarbonSpace, to embed conservation value into carbon finance mechanisms – aligning with global sustainability frameworks and securing the project's long-term viability.



Photo credit: Bunitama Agri Ltd

Protecting Life Beyond the Trees in the Palm Oil Sector

The tropical regions where palm oil is produced rank among the most species-rich places on the planet. Orangutans, Sumatran tigers, pygmy elephants, and thousands of endemic plants and species call these landscapes home and their survival depends on how the land around them is managed. Protecting biodiversity has shifted from voluntary ambition to core expectation, demanded by markets, regulators, and communities alike. RSPO Certified supply chains are rising to meet that expectation with clear standards, independent oversight, and real accountability.

Biodiversity and forests are inseparable as forest loss is a primary driver of biodiversity decline. Read this chapter alongside our Forest chapter to know more about how RSPO tackles forest loss.

For a full overview of how RSPO's Standards, procedures, and supply chain requirements work, visit [RSPO Biodiversity webpage](#).

When you source and support RSPO Certified Sustainable Palm Oil, you are supporting a supply chain that has made protecting the natural ecosystems it relies on a core part of how it operates.



*Photo credit: PT Dharma Satya Nusantara Tbk

Stories from the Ground

Every certified concession is a habitat. These stories bring to life what biodiversity protection looks like in practice from species encountered on plantation edge to waterways restored and wildlife corridors maintained/established.



Sustaining Biodiversity: Conservation Landscapes in Palm Oil Plantation

8,733 ha of conservation area
under active management

6 local
villages engaged in
HCV protection

3+
monitoring technologies
deployed on the ground

14 partner
companies in an integrated Orangutan Conservation
Programme led by Agency for Conservation of Natural
Resources (BKSDA) East Kalimantan

Photo credit: Ecositrop

Conservation Goals and Biodiversity Protection

PT Dharma Satya Nusantara Tbk (DSNG) focuses on habitat restoration, ecological connectivity, and the recovery of wildlife populations. To maintain connectivity across fragmented landscapes, the Company has established wildlife bridges within riparian corridors, enabling species such as orangutans to move safely between habitats. These conservation efforts are supported by rigorous scientific monitoring using SMART Patrol, camera traps, and thermal drones, implemented in collaboration with biodiversity experts from Ecositrop, the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), and SINTAS Indonesia.

In addition, DSNG adopts a landscape approach by collaborating with multiple stakeholders, as demonstrated in the Keraitan Landscape. This approach brings together communities, government, and other partners to manage conservation and sustainable development at a broader scale, ensuring more integrated and long-term environmental outcomes.



Community Engagement and Sustainable Livelihoods

Conservation at DSNG extends beyond the forest edge by empowering local communities as partners in stewardship. Six villages actively manage High Conservation Value (HCV) areas, with residents trained as forest rangers and wildfire first responders. Through Village-Owned Enterprises (BUMDes), the Company promotes a circular supply chain that generates sustainable livelihoods while reducing Scope 3 emissions. Complementary livelihood programmes, including traditional crafts and sustainable food cultivation, further reduce reliance on poaching and forest encroachment.



Alignment and Compliance

These efforts are underpinned by globally recognised sustainability & conservation frameworks. DSNG's programme advances SDG 15 (Life on Land) and aligns with the RSPO Principles and Criteria (P&C). Monitoring and reporting are conducted in accordance with IUCN standards and the RSPO HCV Toolkit, ensuring scientific rigour, transparency, and accountability.



Photo credit: PT Dharma Satya Nusantara Tbk



Photo credit: PT Dharma Satya Nusantara Tbk



Protecting Biodiversity in the Mayan Biosphere: Long-Term Conservation for Lasting Impact

Since 2018, Foresta Foods has supported biodiversity conservation in the southeastern sector of the Laguna del Tigre National Park – one of the largest remaining tropical forests in Mesoamerica and a globally significant landscape for biodiversity and climate resilience.

19,098 ha of high biological value tropical forest protected through a 25-year commitment (2018–2043)

Partnership with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Guatemala's National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP)

Key habitat for jaguar, Baird's tapir, and the endangered scarlet macaw

Net +1,149 ha of forest cover gained between 2016 and 2024

Photo credit: Foresta Foods Corporation

Wildlife recovery

Sustained nest protection and management have delivered measurable results for the scarlet macaw, one of the Maya Forest's most iconic species. In the 2020 breeding season, 41 chicks successfully reached the fledging stage – nearly three times the expected number without intervention – marking the highest Reproductive Success Index recorded in 19 years of monitoring.



Institutional strengthening

By supporting conservation agreements with local communities and resourcing CONAP's interinstitutional operations centres and strategic control posts, Foresta Foods has helped strengthen surveillance, environmental law enforcement, and coordinated responses to illegal activities – reinforcing the institutional presence needed to safeguard one of Guatemala's most important protected areas.



Photo credit: Foresta Foods Corporation



Wildfire prevention

In a landscape where approximately 150 agricultural burns take place each year, Foresta Foods supports community-based early warning systems, fire prevention infrastructure, and coordinated response efforts. Annual maintenance of 18 km of firebreaks, 10 km of access routes, and 22 km of community boundary lines helps prevent controlled burns from escalating into devastating forest fires. During the particularly severe 2024 wildfire season, these efforts helped limit the affected area to 15% of the protected landscape.



A model for long-term impact

The clearest measure of success is that the forest is not just being protected but that it is recovering. The net gain of 1,149 ha of forest cover between 2016 and 2024 demonstrates that sustained collaboration among communities, conservation organisations, government institutions, and the private sector can reverse forest loss and deliver lasting outcomes for biodiversity.



Scarlet Macaws Return to the Wild

Beyond protecting habitats, Foresta Foods also supports the recovery of endangered wildlife through the reintroduction of scarlet macaws into the Maya Biosphere Reserve.

As part of ongoing habitat restoration and species recovery efforts, Foresta Foods supports the release of scarlet macaws into the heart of the reserve. These magnificent birds, bred and raised in a controlled conservation programme, are being reintroduced to help rebuild wild populations that have suffered due to poaching and habitat loss. Each bird released is equipped with an identification ring and monitored to allow scientists and rangers to track its adaptation, flight paths, and integration into the forest. This marks a hopeful milestone in the preservation of the Mayan Biosphere's natural heritage and highlights the power of long-term collaboration among private companies, NGOs, and government institutions.





GREENHOUSE GAS

Reducing Our Climate Footprint in the Palm Oil Sector

Climate accountability is now a baseline expectation across global supply chains. For palm oil, the stakes are clear – the conversion of carbon-rich peatlands and forests releases vast quantities of stored carbon, while ongoing plantation management (from palm oil mill effluent (POME) handling to fertiliser use) generates emissions across the production cycle. Buyers, investors, and regulators now demand evidence on whether emissions are being managed. RSPO Certified supply chains provide that evidence through enforceable standards, verified data, and a system built for continuous improvement.

For a full overview of how RSPO's Standards, procedures, and supply chain requirements work, visit [RSPO Greenhouse Gas Emissions webpage](#).

¹Calculated using the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator.

²Iceland = 306,600 registered vehicles. Source: World Population Review (2024).

Impact in Numbers

When you source and support RSPO Certified Sustainable Palm Oil, you are contributing to a supply chain that actively measures and avoids greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

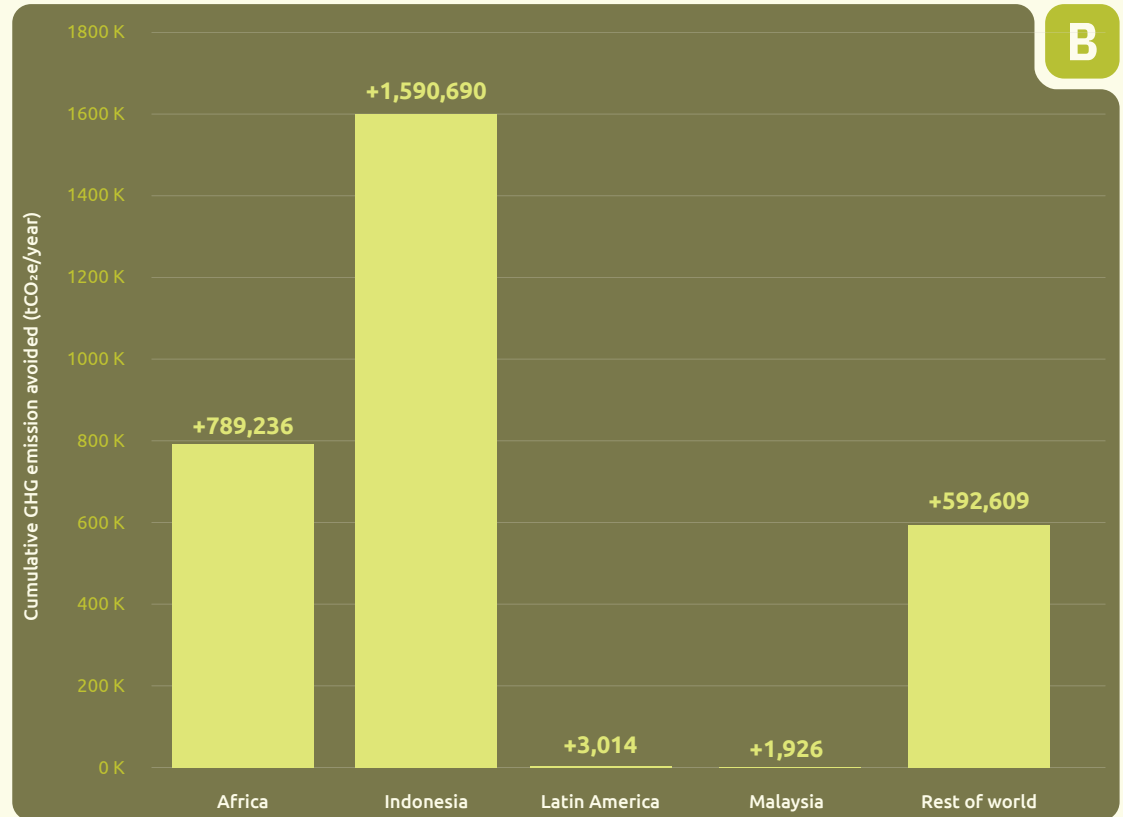
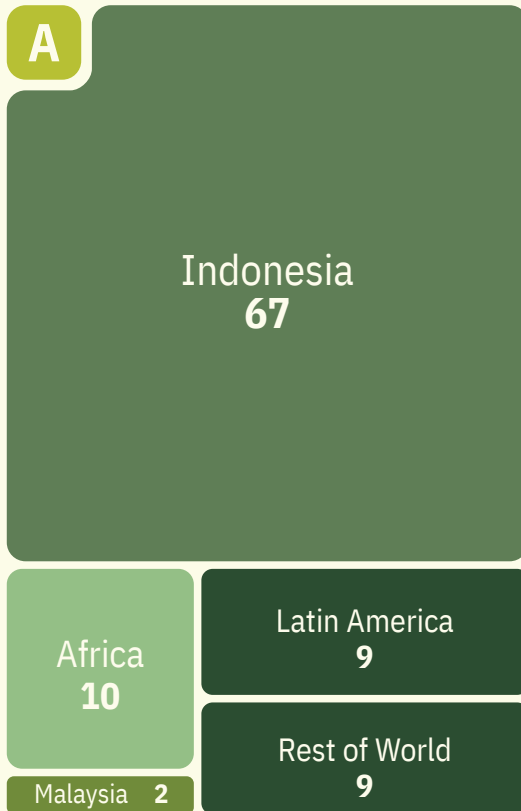


2.98 million tCO₂e/year

in emissions avoided globally through cumulative RSPO New Planting Procedure (NPP) approvals since 2015 across the RSPO Certified supply chain.

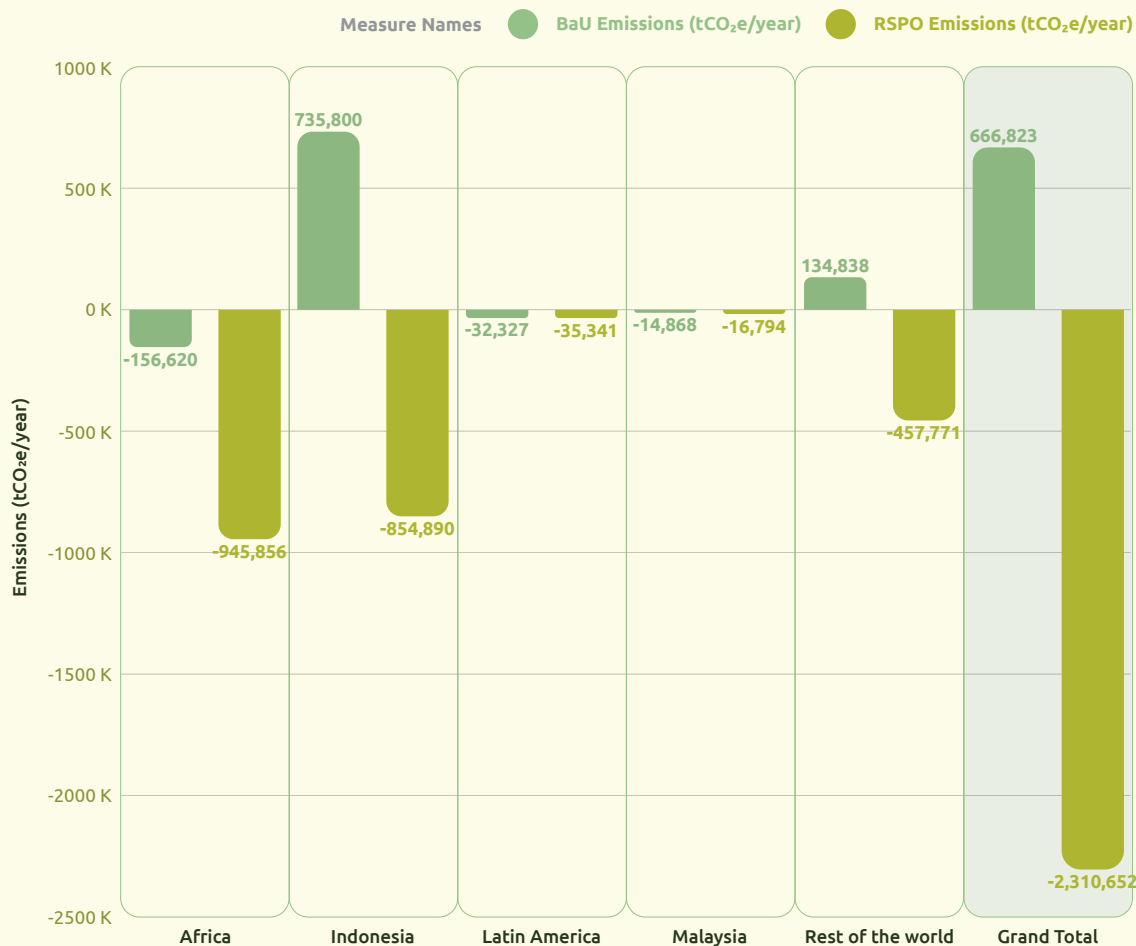
Equivalent to taking 694,512 cars off the road¹, about 2.3 times the registered motor vehicle fleet of Iceland².





(A) Global distribution of total number of New Planting Procedure (NPP) Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Assessment Procedures completed and approved. (B) Potential cumulative GHG emission avoidance through RSPO NPP (2015-2025).

In 2025, four additional NPPs were approved in Indonesia and one in the Rest of the World, contributing an additional 556,836 tCO₂e/year and 130,580 tCO₂e/year in emissions savings, respectively.

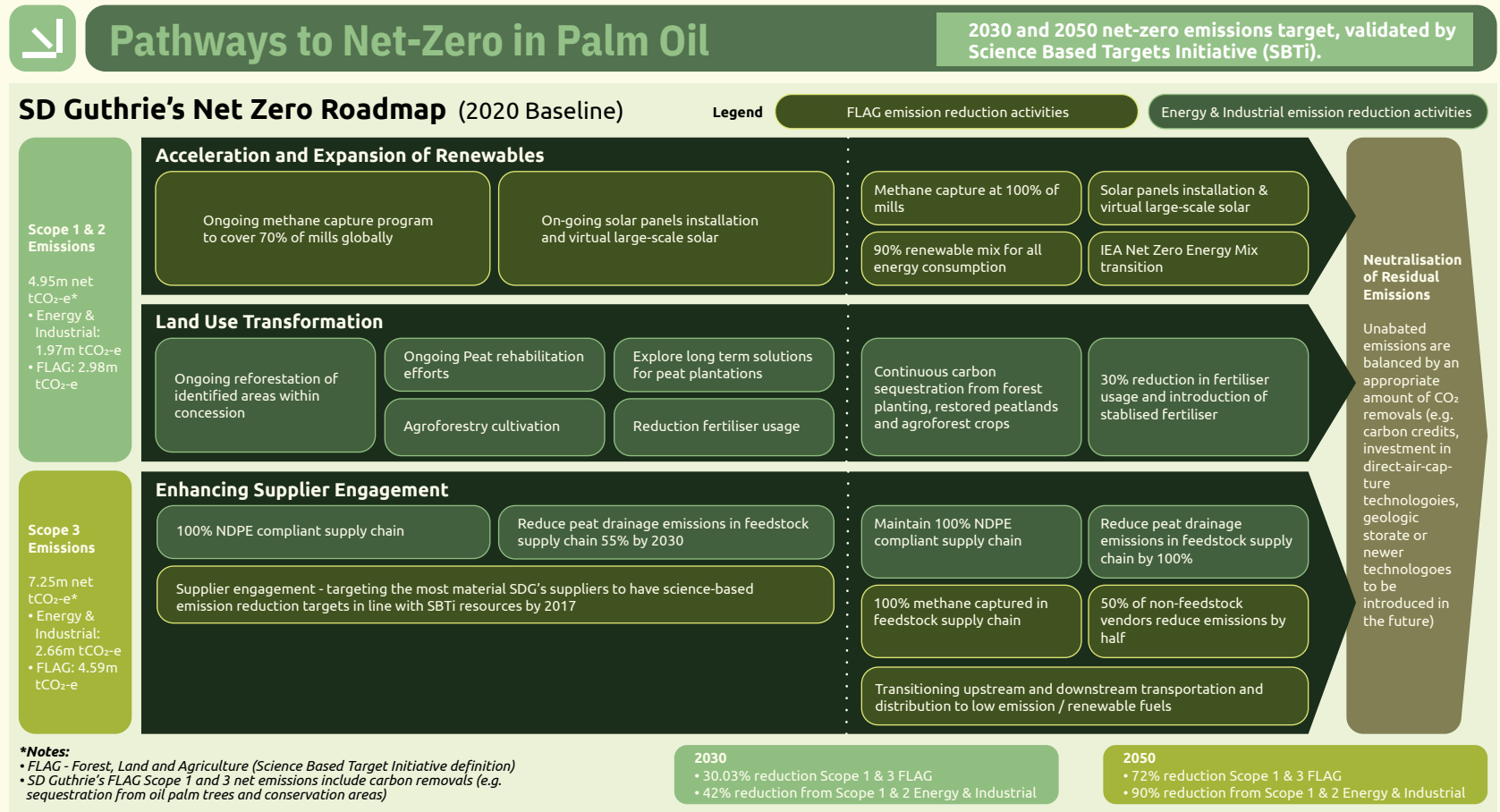


Two scenarios on cumulative GHG emissions since 2015: with RSPO NPP and without RSPO NPP or business-as-usual (BaU)

Without RSPO's NPP, a business-as-usual (BaU) scenario would have led to a net increase in emissions up to 666,823 tCO₂e/year being emitted instead of sequestered. Regionally, Africa, Indonesia and Rest of the World account for the largest share of emission savings — calculated as the difference between RSPO Emissions and the BaU scenario — reflecting the scale of RSPO members' new development in these regions. The lower emission savings in Malaysia and Latin America reflect both the comparatively smaller scale of new development by RSPO Members in these regions, as well as members' collective commitment to avoiding peatland, High Conservation Value (HCV) and High Carbon Stock (HCS) areas. In some jurisdictions, this behaviour is reinforced by national legislation and sustainability mandates that restrict new planting in these areas.

Stories from the Ground

Numbers tell the scale and these stories show the substance. Across RSPO Members' operations, the RSPO P&C is taking shape in practice, from peatland rehabilitation and management to cutting methane emissions through POME capture, proving that climate commitments can be quantified, verified, and delivered.



SD Guthrie's SBTi-validated net-zero target for 2050 is anchored across three pillars: acceleration and expansion of renewables, land use transformation and enhancing supplier engagement.

Acceleration of Renewables Programme

Up to 70% of Guthrie's Scope 1 and 2 emissions stem from mill effluent methane. To address this, 47 biogas plants will be deployed across operations by 2030. While Guthrie does not use the RSPO PalmGHG for reporting purposes, certain emission sources including peat emissions and palm sequestration are calculated using the same formulas as PalmGHG.



Accelerating Engagements with Suppliers

Scope 3 emissions, generated from third-party suppliers or others in the value chain, remain the greatest challenge on Guthrie's net-zero journey. Therefore, Guthrie actively engages key suppliers, within their own operations and across their entire value chain, on climate action and environmental transparency. In FY2025, 89% of Guthrie's palm-based raw materials are deforestation-free across the entire supply chain.



Land Use Transformation

Guthrie is scaling reforestation, conservation, and biodiversity efforts across non-productive agricultural land. Highlights include 51,212 hectares (ha) protected or restored across Guthrie's operations and surrounding landscapes and 400 ha of peat plantations in East Malaysia set aside for peat restoration.



Photo credits: SD Guthrie



Photo credits: SD Guthrie



Photo credits: SD Guthrie



Measuring, Reducing and Sequestering Emissions at Scale

IOI Group's Industry Leadership in Palm Oil GHG Management



A Decade of Climate Leadership

Since establishing its GHG baseline in 2015 under RSPO's Principles & Criteria (P&C), IOI Group has led industry-wide progress on emissions accounting — chairing the RSPO Greenhouse Gas Task Force since 2024 and helping refine the PalmGHG tool used across the palm oil sector.

GHG Accounting & Standards

Plantations: IOI utilizes the RSPO PalmGHG calculator, aligned with the GHG Protocol, audited under the RSPO scheme to quantify emissions.

Manufacturing: GHG emissions verified in accordance with ISO 14064.

83%

of IOI Group's GHG emissions come from the plantation division — led by legacy land conversion and palm oil mill effluent (POME).

2030

Carbon neutrality
(Scope 1 & 2)

2040

Group-wide
net-zero emissions

SBTi

Near-term targets
validated 8 Dec 2025

IOI identifies emission hotspots, evaluates reduction opportunities, and adopts a targeted approach to reduce group-wide GHG emissions. Emission reduction initiatives are embedded within each business division, monitored by the respective sustainability departments, and tracked through regular reporting.



Targeted Mitigation: Engineered & Nature-Based Solutions

Focused interventions where emissions matter most



Engineered Solutions

98%

reduction in plantation Scope 2 emissions since 2020

- Methane capture at POME mills (since FY2015) contributed to an estimated 47% reduction in emissions. Biogas generated from these facilities has displaced the use of 2.9M+ litres of diesel a year (~RM8.4M saved annually).
- Solar PV + Battery Storage currently operational at one estate; 6 more systems in development.
- Biogas engines, biomass boilers, cogeneration facilities and battery-electric field machinery have been installed across operations to improve energy efficiency.



Nature-Based Solutions

1.64M

MT CO₂e sequestered in FY2025

- 97.5% of sequestration comes from oil palm crops; the rest from forested conservation areas
- Remote sensing mapping of riparian zones and forest buffers now underway
- Findings will guide reforestation and biodiversity enhancement, adding further carbon sequestration capacity



Results

46%

GHG intensity reduction since the 2015 baseline

- Surpassed IOI's original 40% reduction target
- On track for carbon neutrality (Scope 1 & 2) by 2030
- Net-zero emissions targeted by 2040, with Scope 3 addressed through deeper supply chain engagement

Ensuring Fair and Safe Work Across the Palm Oil Sector

The palm oil sector is one of the world's largest employers in tropical agriculture, supporting millions of workers and smallholders across producing countries in Southeast Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Yet alongside its economic significance, the sector has long been associated with labour and human rights concerns ranging from the exploitation of migrant workers and forced labour practices to gender discrimination and the use of child labour. That is changing, driven by binding legislation across key markets, growing investor scrutiny, and a sector that can no longer separate commercial viability from the treatment of the people who make it possible. Through RSPO, labour and human rights obligations are enforceable, independently verified, and shared across every level of the supply chain.

For a full overview of how RSPO's Standards, procedures, and supply chain requirements work, visit the [RSPO Labour and Human Rights webpage](#).

¹Based on metrics template from 561 RSPO UoCs as of 31 December 2025.

Impact in Numbers

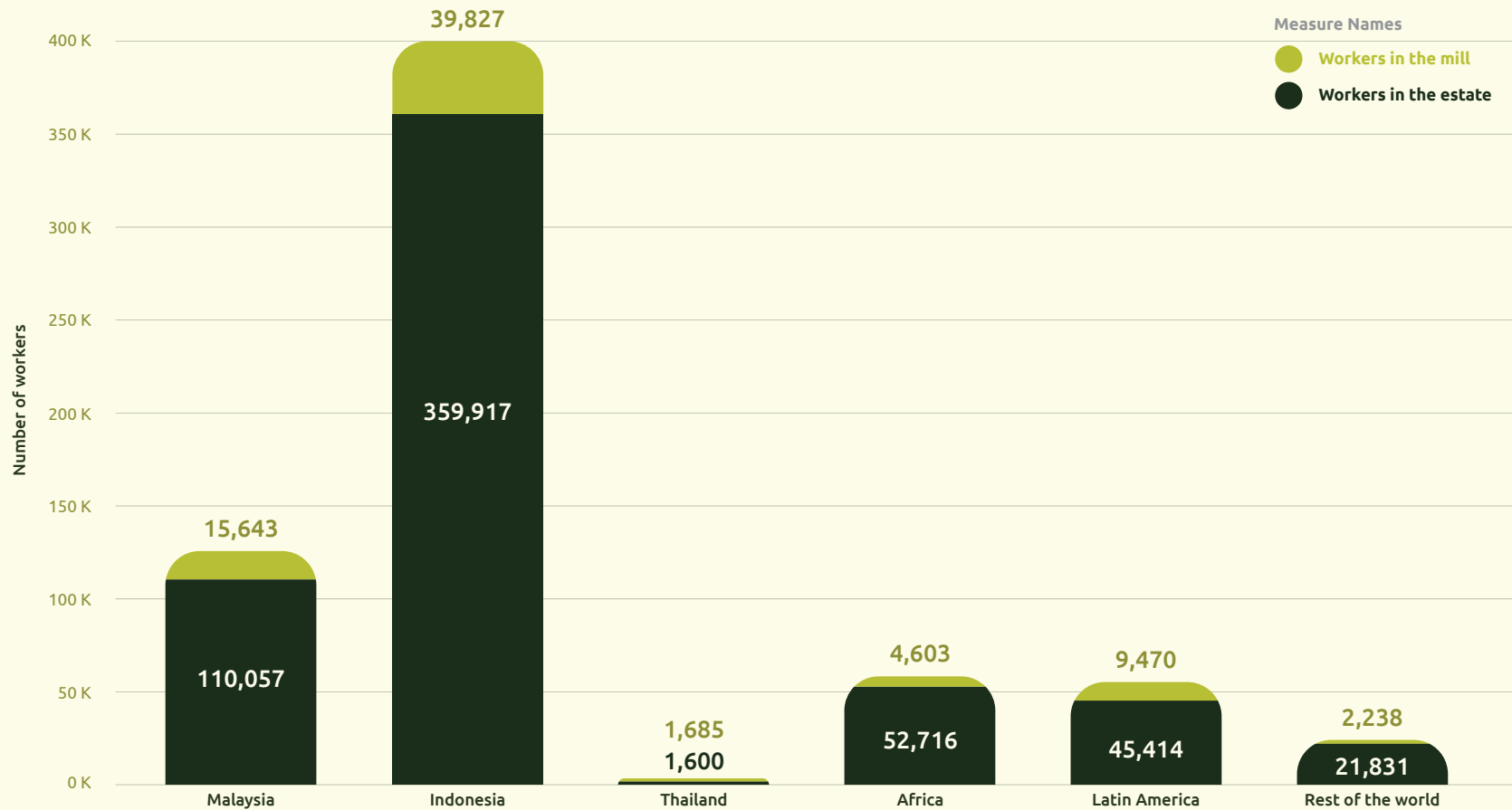
When you source and support RSPO Certified Sustainable Palm Oil, you are contributing to a supply chain where every worker, from field to factory floor, operates within a system designed to protect their rights, safety, and dignity.



661,219
workers

directly employed within
RSPO Certified
operations as of 31
December 2025¹

*Each one working under a
system designed to protect
their rights, freedom and
dignity.*



Total number of workers in mill and estate of RSPO Units of Certification (UoCs) globally

Stories from the Ground

Behind the numbers are RSPO Members turning human rights commitments into concrete protections for workers.



The Global Palm Oil Industry Needs to Go Further and Faster on Human Rights

Op-ed by Leena Ghosh, Head of Human Rights and Social Standards at the RSPO.



The palm oil industry's record on human rights is far from exemplary. With most plantations located in remote areas, migrant workforces, both cross-border and internal, are often isolated and vulnerable to abuses like unfair pay, poor working conditions, and forced labour.

A study by the Overseas Development Institute found that Indonesian migrant workers in Malaysia's palm oil sector must work long hours for low pay with inadequate safety protection. Plantation owners regularly deduct money from salaries, purportedly to cover accommodation costs, pushing workers into cycles of debt. In 2022, the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia found that eight out of every 1,000 workers in the country's plantation sector were subjected to forced labour.

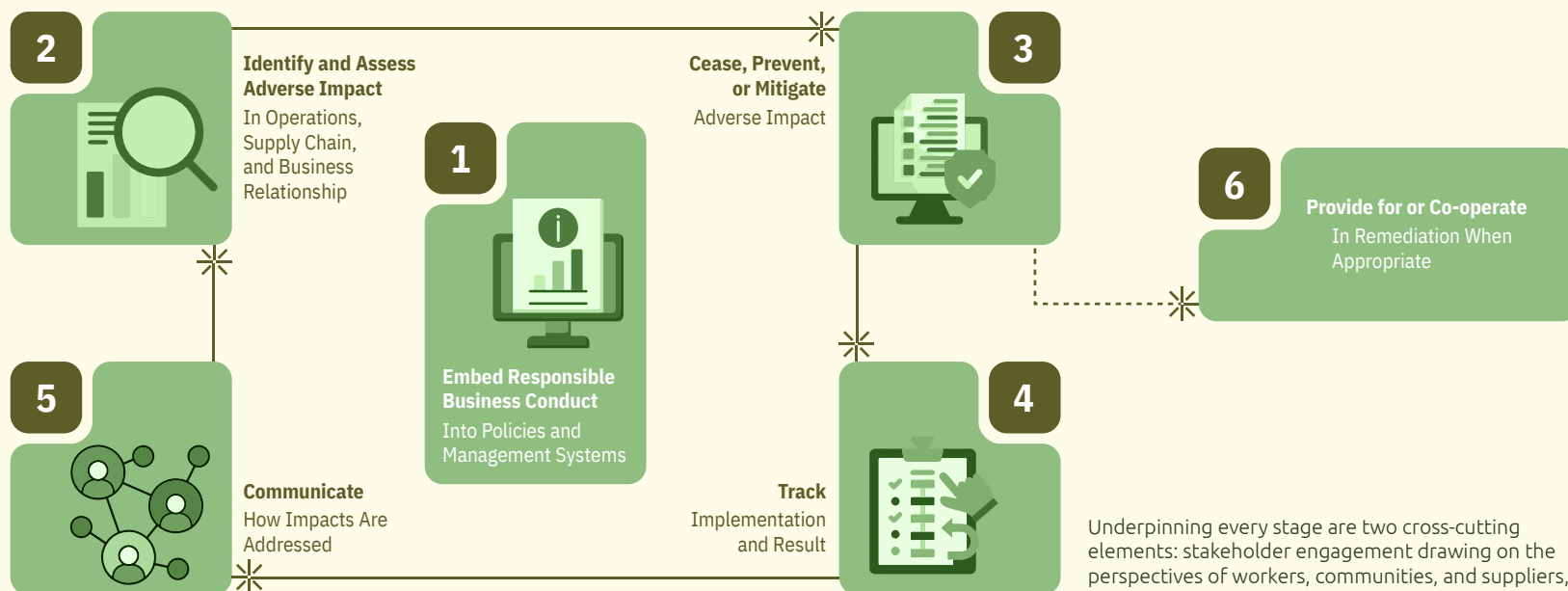
Given that palm oil is found in half of all supermarket products, from bread and pizza to cosmetics and pet food, these injustices cannot be ignored. Despite the complexity of palm oil supply chains, building a viable and sustainable sector depends on protecting the rights of workers and communities at every plantation, mill, and processing facility worldwide.

That is why the RSPO is calling on palm oil producers globally to commit to the newly revised Principles and Criteria (P&C) Standard. For the first time, these require companies to conduct human rights due diligence (HRDD) across their own operations and those of their direct suppliers, addressing issues of forced labour, people trafficking, restriction of movement, and excessive overtime. Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) remains firmly embedded, safeguarding the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities.

Thousands of workers are currently represented under RSPO P&C Certification, with grievances addressed through an impartial Complaints System. Companies can and do change. SD Guthrie, formerly known as Sime Darby Plantation, faced a US import ban following forced labour allegations. The company responded by setting aside RM82.02 million (\$18.5 million) to repay recruitment fees to workers, establishing worker-elected dialogue platforms, and introducing automated systems to monitor working hours.

With investor and consumer expectations around sustainability rising and ESG regulations tightening, getting human rights right is not only a moral imperative but essential to the industry's long-term commercial viability.

Example of RSPO Member's Effort on Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD): Golden Agri-Resource's Six-Stage Process



For RSPO Member Golden Agri-Resources (GAR), policy must be supported by meaningful action. GAR has strengthened its human rights and due diligence (HRDD) system in alignment with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, introducing greater structure, consistency, and accountability to address its most salient human rights risks.

Central to this is a refreshed Human Rights Policy governed by GAR's Human Rights Steering Group. HRDD is treated as a continuous six-stage cycle, with each stage informing the next as it evolves alongside operational realities, emerging risks, and stakeholder expectations. Where grievances are validated, a dedicated remediation process is triggered to provide remedy while maintaining a focus on prevention.

Underpinning every stage are two cross-cutting elements: stakeholder engagement drawing on the perspectives of workers, communities, and suppliers, and continuous policy review to stay aligned with international standards. Effectiveness is tracked through multi-year KPIs, with GAR's priority for 2026 being the full embedding of its Human Rights Policy across operations, procurement, supplier codes of conduct, and training programmes.

This phased approach allows GAR to progressively scale implementation and extend HRDD beyond its own operations to suppliers and business partners, directly supporting its compliance with the new RSPO P&C.

Respecting Rights and Empowering People in the Palm Oil Sector

The lands where palm oil is grown are not empty. They are home to millions of people including Indigenous peoples, local communities, and smallholder families whose livelihoods, cultural identities, and land rights are inseparable from the landscapes that surround them. Where palm oil expansion has proceeded without their meaningful participation, the costs have been damaging: displacement, loss of resources, and inequalities that persist long after the first harvest. Sustainable palm oil cannot be built on those foundations. Through RSPO, community rights are enforceable obligations, independently verified, and embedded across every level of the supply chain.

The social and environmental dimensions of sustainability are deeply connected. For more on how RSPO works to protect the forests and ecosystems that communities depend on, read this chapter alongside our [Forest chapter](#) and [Biodiversity chapter](#).

For a full overview of how RSPO's Standards, procedures, and supply chain requirements work, visit the [RSPO Community webpage](#).

Impact in Numbers

When you source and support RSPO Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO), you are contributing to a supply chain that treats people as rights-holders and requires that communities share equitably in the supply chain's benefits.



9 programmes

in 7 countries and USD 3 million invested with over 6,000 stakeholders and 200 grassroots organisations engaged through RSPO Intermediary Organisation (IMO) Community Outreach and Engagement.

Communities gained practical capacity to use grievance systems, monitor rights, and engage in sustainability processes, demonstrating that sustainable palm oil is built on the foundation of inclusive communities and respected rights.



For more information on RSPO IMO, please visit our [IMO webpage](#).

Stories from the Ground

Policy commitments matter most when they reach people directly. These stories reflect what community rights look like in practice.



The Palm Oil Rights Observatory

A platform established as part of RSPO IMO Community Outreach and Engagement



The Palm Oil Observatory for Human and Labor Rights in Honduras and Guatemala, developed by Oxfam and CNV Internationaal, with financial support from RSPO, is a significant effort to bring to light the conditions of workers and communities near palm oil plantations.

It documents labour practices and living conditions affecting workers and communities near palm oil plantations, giving voice to those historically silenced and driving accountability as well as respect for human rights in palm oil production, as required by RSPO Certification principles.

By collecting and disseminating accurate data, the Observatory promotes transparency between businesses and consumers, advocates for legislative and policy reform, and empowers communities to defend their rights through education and awareness campaigns. It serves as the central platform for findings from CNV Internationaal's Fair Work Observatory and Oxfam's human rights research, translating evidence into meaningful, lasting change.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the Observatory.



Women Transforming Sustainability: Iveth and Nuri, Leading Community Engagement in Southeastern Mexico

Women in palm oil embody resilience, courage, and community. With steady hands and unbreakable spirit, they transform palm into well-being, hope, and opportunity, sustaining local economies and the dreams of future generations.

Umbal, a Mexican company dedicated to sustainable palm oil production, puts this spirit into practice. For Umbal, sustainability goes beyond agricultural practices. It is, above all, a story of human and community impact, fully aligned with RSPO Principles & Criteria that promote transparent, mutually beneficial relationships with local communities.

This commitment comes to life in the partnership between Iveth Hernández Rincón, Umbal's Head of Community Relations, and Nuri Vázquez Pérez, delegate of the ejido (a communal landholding system in which land is managed and used collectively by its members) El Barrial in Jonuta, Tabasco. Over seven years of friendship and trust, their alliance has driven initiatives in education, health, and economic development that have transformed lives. Nuri, re-elected six times by her community, is living proof of the opportunities Umbal's presence has created.

Most recently, their collaboration led to an innovation workshop where 38 women learned to produce palm oil-derived soaps, a step toward economic independence and community empowerment.

Stories like theirs remind us that sustainability has a human face. And through partnerships like this, companies like Umbal build a fairer, more equitable, and hopeful future, one community at a time.



Nuri and Iveth (3rd and 4th from right to left) during the productive innovation workshop, where 38 women from the community learned to make soaps using palm oil derivatives.

Empowering Smallholders at the Heart of Sustainable Palm Oil

Smallholder farmers cover approximately 40% of the world's palm oil production area, yet for too long, sustainability systems were built around large producers, leaving smallholders on the margins and that gap matters. Where smallholders are sidelined, forests face greater pressure and rights protection weakens. Conversely, when they are included and supported, the results are clear: stronger environmental outcomes, more resilient rural communities, and supply chains that can withstand the highest level of global scrutiny. For RSPO, smallholder inclusion is not a supplementary concern or a recent pivot; it is a strategic imperative that has anchored our standards and operations for years.

For a full overview of RSPO's smallholder programmes, Standards, and resources, visit the [RSPO Smallholder Webpage](#).

Impact in Numbers

When you source and support RSPO Certified Sustainable Palm Oil, you are contributing to a supply chain that ensures the farmers at its foundation are not left behind, but are recognised, supported, and enabled to share the benefits of a sustainable sector.



Since 2019,

the RSPO Smallholder Trainer Academy (STA) has reached 17,717 smallholders, 430 group managers/organisers and 2,072 Train-the-Trainer (ToT) trainers - supported by a network of 275 Master Trainers developed under the programme.

Building lasting grassroots capacity for sustainable farming practices.

179,443 ha

of independent smallholder group lands covering 9 countries and territories have achieved RSPO Certification

Proving that smallholder farming can meet the global benchmark for sustainable palm oil.

147 projects

funded across 14 countries through the RSPO Smallholder Support Fund (RSSF) since 2013

Benefitting the livelihoods of 44,796 smallholders and counting.

Stories from the Ground

Behind every certified smallholder group is a community that chose to invest in a different way of farming. These stories show what that choice looks like and what it makes possible.



From Cocaine Processing to Cultivating Palm Oil: Resilience takes root in a Colombian community



The transition from cocaine processing to cultivating palm oil has transformed lives in San Pablo, a town in southern Bolívar, Colombia.

For decades, this region was trapped in a cycle of violence and poverty. From the 1980s to 1990s, San Pablo became a battleground, as guerrilla groups like the ELN and FARC – later followed by paramilitary forces such as the AUC – fought for control of the cocaine trade. Fertile farmland was turned into conflict zones, and many farmers, with no other options, turned to coca cultivation to survive. Communities lived in constant fear, facing threats, assassinations, and forced displacement that tore families apart.

But today, the story is changing.

In 2018, with support from the RSPO Smallholder Support Fund (RSSF), a group of 208 smallholders, organised under PromoAgrosur with facilitator Promotora Superior S.A.S, embarked on a difficult yet hopeful journey. Starting with national certification through APSColombia, they are now on track for RSPO Certification.

Yet the road to certification has been far from easy. Like many communities in post-conflict regions, they faced deep mistrust, scarce resources, and the lingering effects of generational trauma. Yet through it all, their unity grew stronger—fueled by support from mills and local allies who believed in a different future.

For the RSPO team, witnessing this transformation has been deeply emotional. Here, certification is more than a market tool—it is a symbol of resilience, dignity, and shared triumph.

As security slowly returned, families came home, reclaiming lands once lost to conflict. Coca fields gave way to palm plantations. Illegal economies were replaced by legal livelihoods.

Today, palm oil is the lifeblood of San Pablo's economy and a source of collective pride. Remarkably, 90% of the palm oil growers here are independent smallholders, managing their land with autonomy and purpose. Their success has revived not only local incomes and food security, but has also attracted workers from neighboring regions, breathing new life into a town once silenced by war.

Beyond an economic recovery, San Pablo's transformation is a powerful story of rebuilding from the ground up, driven by hope, trust, and the unwavering determination of farmers who chose peace over fear, and sustainability over survival.



Rooted in Sustainability, Growing with Purpose



Photo credit: Perkumpulan Petani
Mitra Harapan



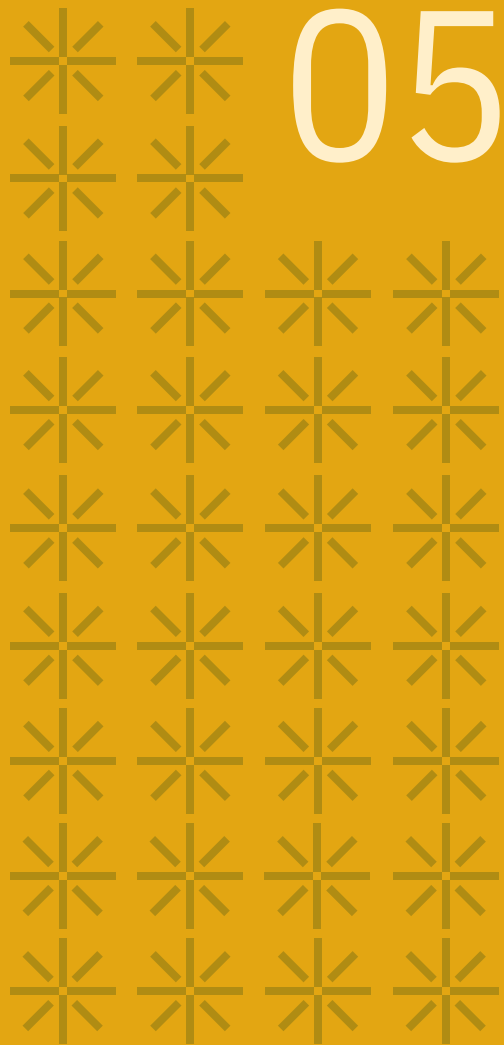
Photo credit: Perkumpulan Petani Mitra Harapan

Based in Ketapang Regency, West Kalimantan, Mitra Harapan Farmers Association (PPMH) is an independent oil palm smallholder organisation of 698 members managing 3,303 hectares across 1,542 plots. In October 2023, PPMH achieved RSPO Certification, a milestone reflecting their commitment to responsible palm oil production.

PPMH members are stewards as much as they are farmers. Since 2022, the organisation has protected 51 hectares of Community Customary Forests, which is home to rare trees and indigenous species, choosing preservation over conversion. Formal Village and Customary Regulations are being pursued to lock in these protections, backed by active rehabilitation efforts on the ground.

PPMH's conservation work reaches beyond the forest. The planting of 1,000 Gaharu (agarwood) stems anchors a growing biodiversity programme, with additional wood and fruit species planned. Rivers and ponds are being restocked with fish, supporting both ecosystems and community livelihoods.

To root conservation in culture, Robertus Mamang has been appointed Demung Rimba, a traditional stewardship role dedicated to mobilising the community around forest and river protection. It is a powerful reminder that at PPMH, sustainability is not imposed but lived.



Scaling Our Impact



SCALING OUR IMPACT: STRATEGY BY REGION

One vision. Many markets. Global Impact.

RSPO's vision of a **global partnership to make palm oil sustainable** is one we hold with both conviction and humility. Today, 20% of the world's palm oil is RSPO Certified. That figure is a reminder of the real progress that has been made and how much work remains. This is why our regional strategies exist: to close that gap, market by market, supply chain by supply chain.

Across every region where palm oil is grown, traded and consumed, we are working to expand certified supply, strengthen responsible demand, and build the partnerships that make sustained change possible. The strategy is tailored to context, recognising that producer markets differ from buyer markets, and that emerging and mature markets require different supporting policy environments and market levers. But the goal remains: more sustainable palm oil, wider adoption, with RSPO Membership and Certification as a signal of strong commitment and the mechanism of accountability for a sustainable sector industry.

As we progress with our work, we do not underestimate the challenges ahead. Structural barriers, market dynamics, policy gaps and financial constraints are real, and we explain them in the sections that follow. Our regional teams are working with and alongside these complexities every day, and it is from that understanding that our strategies are built.

For data on RSPO membership and certification growth, as well as CSPO uptake by region, please refer to the Reach Chapter at the front of this Impact Report.



Malaysia

Malaysia represents one of RSPO's most established palm oil production markets, with the majority of key producers already certified. Yet, maturity brings its own challenges. Production growth has been broadly flat in recent years, and the industry's attention has shifted to replanting with quality seed materials, which is a technically and financially demanding transition. While large growers have largely met RSPO's requirements, smallholder inclusion remains the most critical outstanding work as thousands of smallholder farmers continue to operate outside certified supply chains and reaching them requires targeted financial support and ground-level engagement.



November 2025: RSPO, the National Association of Smallholders (NASH), and Asia School of Business (ASB) joined forces through a three-year MoU to empower Malaysia's smallholders with capacity building, traceability tools, and dual RSPO-MSPO certification readiness. Read more [here](#).



Southeast Asia

Southeast Asia is home to the largest palm oil producing nations. The region is where some of the most important conversations about putting sustainable production into practice are taking place. While significant progress has been made here, the scale of the task remains substantial. Bringing smallholders into certified supply chains, addressing land rights, local regulations, and sustaining momentum in established buyer markets are challenges that define the region's agenda.

Thailand

Thailand has a meaningful advantage where strong government support for sustainable palm oil creates a favourable policy environment for RSPO's work. This is further reinforced through structured public-private cooperation and formal partnerships, including initiatives supported by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and industry players¹, which are scaling smallholder capacity, low-carbon production, and alignment with global regulations such as the EU Deforestation Regulation.

However, structural realities on the ground limit progress. The majority of certified volume is produced by independent smallholders and consumed domestically rather than reaching export markets where demand for CSPO is strongest. Independent smallholders, who represent most of Thailand's producers, face cost barriers that make certification economically out of reach without targeted support. To this end, RSPO is positioning Thai sustainable palm oil more visibly in markets both domestically and internationally, strengthening industry networks, enhancing smallholder inclusion and certification support, as well as working with policy stakeholders to make certification more accessible in Thailand.

¹ GIZ-Thailand, GGC-GIZ scales up cooperation towards low-carbon sustainable oil palm production, 2024, <https://www.thai-german-cooperation.info/news/ggc-giz-scales-up-cooperation-towards-low-carbon-sustainable-oil-palm-production/>

Indonesia

Indonesia's scale is unmatched as the world's largest palm oil producer and a major consumer; the decisions made here shape the global palm oil story. RSPO has a strong foothold, but the work of certification has not kept pace with the scale of production. Legal-administrative considerations, the scale and diversity of independent smallholders, and the expansion of Indonesia's downstream palm oil processing sector all create pressure points that require sustained, nuanced engagement. These are areas where RSPO Certification – as a recognised mechanism for market access, traceability, and responsible production – has a clear role to play. RSPO remains committed to supporting responsible growth and ensuring that as Indonesia's industry evolves, sustainability standards evolve with it.

September 2025: RSPO and Indonesian Palm Oil Farmers Association (APKASINDO) signed an MoU to accelerate certification, close the yield gap, and secure fair market access for Indonesia's smallholder farmers. Read more [here](#).

October 2025: RSPO, Agriterra, and cooperative Koperasi Sekunder Karya Sawit Mandiri Jaya (KSMJ) joined forces under the EU-funded Palm Oil Sustainability and Traceability Enhancement Programme (PALMSTEP) programme to strengthen sustainable palm oil value chains and empower farmer cooperatives in Central Kalimantan. Read more [here](#).



Africa

Africa's palm oil sector is one of the most complex regions that RSPO operates in. Smallholder farmers, artisanal mills, and wild palm harvesting dominate the landscape. Production is consumed almost entirely domestically, and this is coupled with low awareness of RSPO or sustainable palm oil as well as a ready market for conventional palm oil across the continent. We recognise that the model of certification that has worked in other regions cannot simply be replicated here as the context requires adaptation, patience and partnership.

Nonetheless, we have identified that the drivers of change are real: financial institutions are increasingly requiring RSPO compliance as a condition, EU market access creates export-side pull, and large multinational companies are de-risking their operations and applying pressure through their supply chains. RSPO's strategy in Africa is built on these leverage points: raising awareness in priority markets across the continent, providing capacity building and technical support to growers and mills, deepening engagement with financial institutions, and exploring how certification frameworks might evolve to include artisanal and wild palm operations.

RSPO advanced its understanding of Africa's unique palm oil landscape by completing a study on artisanal milling practices in 2025 across key producing countries including Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone, identifying key sustainability challenges such as health and safety, effluent management and child protection, and recommending stepwise group-based certification pathways to bring informal mills into the sustainable palm oil supply chain. Complementing this, a separate study on wild palms in West and Central Africa remains ongoing, together laying the groundwork for more inclusive and context-appropriate certification approaches in the region.



Latin America

Latin America holds the highest volume of CSPO production globally, which positions the region as an important supplier to the world. Yet supply alone does not create impact. RSPO's work here is increasingly focused on building the demand and market connections that give certified supply its full value. However, we understand that there are persisting challenges within the region such as low domestic uptake of CSPO despite the growth in domestic consumption of palm oil (e.g., Ecuador and Colombia), low awareness of RSPO among local downstream actors and consumers, and weak smallholder linkages across the supply chain. Compounding this, the region relies heavily on independent smallholder production, and while RSPO group membership and certification rates have grown, smallholders continue to face considerable barriers such as high certification costs and limited access to financial support or microcredit mechanisms to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs).

RSPO is working through the Shared Responsibility framework to increase CSPO uptake by Latin American members, and through convenor-led engagement to bring the entire sector into the conversation on sustainable palm oil. In parallel, we continue to identify country-specific partners to support independent smallholders in overcoming barriers and progressing toward certification. We also work on connecting Latin American producers with North American buyers to unlock new levels of regional impact by applying their global sourcing commitments to local supplier relationships – a mechanism that bridges producer and buyer markets in a direct and practical way.

May 2025: RSPO, AAK, Solidaridad, and the National Association of Edible Oils and Shortening Producers (ANIAME) extended their Mexico Memorandum of Understanding to scale up smallholder support across Veracruz and Chiapas, building on a pilot that assessed 260 producers and charted their path toward RSPO Certification with a focus on zero-deforestation. Read more [here](#).

September 2025: At the 21st International Oil Palm Conference in Cartagena, RSPO signed an MoU with APSColombia (the national certification body for the palm oil sector in Colombia) to align international and national certification standards, reducing duplication and strengthening technical capacity for Colombian producers. Read more [here](#).





North America

North America represents an important market for RSPO's continued growth in CSPO uptake. Palm oil imports into North America have seen a steady increase, and the market is projected to continue growing. This was achieved largely through business-to-business (B2B) engagement: sourcing policy commitments by major brands, supply chain pressure, and direct member and supplier engagement. Consumer demand, government policy, and media attention has played a smaller role compared to other markets, but there is growing attention in these areas. The large market presence and forward thinking by RSPO Members have created a strong foundation that will allow for RSPO to be better positioned as a leader and reference point when government, media, and consumers become more engaged.

As the North American market is approaching maximum certified uptake under the current membership base, RSPO's strategy is shifting from domestic growth to deepening engagement with members that have a footprint in other markets. While North America represents about 3% of palm oil consumption, North American companies operating globally influence much larger volumes in markets with lower uptake. Priority lies in converting existing members into active Shared Responsibility participants, bringing in the largest buyers who remain outside of RSPO, and leveraging the market's influence to drive certification in producing regions and low uptake regions. North America is emerging as one of the most powerful voices in the global palm oil conversion, and we are working to continue activating that potential.

In 2025, RSPO strengthened North American member engagement through smallholder tours to producing regions and road show visits to member headquarters, fostering direct connections that have resulted in members donating to and partnering with smallholders, NGOs, and conservation projects, and purchasing RSPO ISH credits for the first time. A notable outcome of these efforts is North American members' support for the Ecuador Jurisdictional Approach to Certification pilot, exemplified by Rich Products' donation to Conservation International to advance sustainable landscape management in a key sourcing region. Read more [here](#).



Europe

Europe is home to approximately 50% of RSPO's global membership and thus, making it the region whose members carry the greatest collective influence on uptake markets and the organisation's international standing. CSPO uptake among European members has remained steady over the years, underscoring the region's continued commitment and its importance as a demand market. Nonetheless, it is also one of the most complex markets that RSPO operates in. The narrative around palm oil reflects genuine public concerns, and companies are navigating these carefully, underscoring why credible, independent certification remains essential. We acknowledge these dynamics directly and recognise that they are not background noise but they are systemic issues that require coordinated responses.

At the same time, regulations are opening new opportunities: the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) offers an unprecedented opening. By placing palm oil alongside other commodities in a deforestation-free framework, it has the potential to normalise its place in sustainable supply chains and give RSPO a more prominent role in regulatory dialogue. RSPO has already used the EUDR's development to strengthen its visibility with policymakers and businesses. More recently, the Empowering Consumers Directive has created a new framework for sustainability communications across the EU, only allowing credible and third party verified labels on the EU market and placing greater control on environmental claims.

This momentum is the platform for the region's four strategic goals: maintaining RSPO's market relevance for European members, stimulating further demand for certified palm oil and its derivatives, in different sectors; improving public awareness and sentiment by working closely with the network of national alliances, and establishing RSPO as the go-to authority on palm oil sustainability in European policy.

September 2025: RSPO strengthened its footprint in Europe by being recognised as one of the Netherlands' top sustainability labels by Milieu Centraal (click [here](#) for more), and formally accepted by the Dutch food safety authority (NVWA) as a private control system for EUDR compliance (click [here](#) for more), reinforcing RSPO Certification as a trusted mark for both consumers and regulators.





Asia

In the Asian continent, India and China are the world's largest importers of palm oil. They are also among the most important frontier markets for expanding RSPO's reach into buyer economies where sustainable sourcing is still in early development. Both markets represent enormous opportunity, and both present significant structural challenges that RSPO is approaching carefully. Japan, while a smaller importer by volume, has emerged as a regional leader in sustainable sourcing, with RSPO Membership growing strongly since 2018 and CSPO now accounting for a significant share of its imports.

India

India is the world's largest importer of vegetable oils, with palm oil imported primarily for food security. Price competitiveness of palm oil against soy and sunflower alternatives dominates purchasing decisions, and as palm oil is an imported commodity, domestic incentives to source sustainably remain limited. Additionally, the Indian government is actively working to increase domestic palm oil production to reduce its heavy reliance on imports.

For RSPO, a key opportunity lies in certifying low-risk domestic production and stimulating the market through local certified supply. The RSPO Smallholder Support Fund (RSSF) project to certify Indian Sustainable Harvested palm oil, alongside the National Interpretation (NI) endorsed in 2025, lays the groundwork for this. In the non-food sector, where 60% of RSPO Members in India operate, EUDR compliance is creating a real commercial pressure to demonstrate deforestation-free sourcing. Furthermore, the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BSBR) framework, mandated by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for India's top 1000 companies based on market capitalisation, also recognises RSPO as a sustainable sourcing example and serves as a meaningful policy lever for broader market engagement.

RSPO is working to engage upstream producers on smallholder certification, to activate financial institutions and NGOs as advocates for certification, and to deepen relationships with multinational companies whose global commitments can drive change locally.

In 2025, RSPO convened India's first National Interpretation (NI) Task Force for the Independent Smallholder (ISH) Standard, uniting producers and sector stakeholders to adapt RSPO's global requirements to India's unique regulatory landscape. A field visit to oil palm plantations and the Godrej Agrovet Samadhan Centre grounded the process in smallholder realities, informing how the Standard's four core principles are interpreted for Indian conditions ([click here](#) for more). The India ISH Standard NI was subsequently endorsed by the RSPO Board of Governors on 6 November 2025 and became effective for certification on 13 November 2025, making RSPO Certification practical and accessible for India's smallholder farmers who exclusively drive domestic oil palm cultivation.



China

China's palm oil consumption is mainly driven by the food and oleochemical sectors. In recent years, import volumes have been relatively flat and are highly influenced by soy dynamics shaped by price fluctuations and a broader macroeconomic slowdown, while sustainability awareness remains low with RSPO Membership largely dependent on efforts by international brands and NGOs. For RSPO, the basic supply chain infrastructure is now in place within the region, though significant work remains to build structured demand for certified supply.

Nevertheless, the policy environment is becoming increasingly favorable. ESG reporting mandates from China's stock exchanges and Ministry of Finance are opening new conversations around sustainable sourcing, and emerging policies promoting green trade present additional avenues for market engagement. RSPO intends to build on these developments to deepen institutional partnerships and position itself as the credible standard for sustainable palm oil in the Chinese market.



July 2025: Marking a decade of operations in China, RSPO celebrated its growth to 480 members at the 9th China Forum in Guilin, highlighted by the country's first-ever RSPO Identity Preserved (IP) certified palm oil shipment which is a milestone signalling China's emergence as a key driver of global sustainable palm oil demand. Read more [here](#).



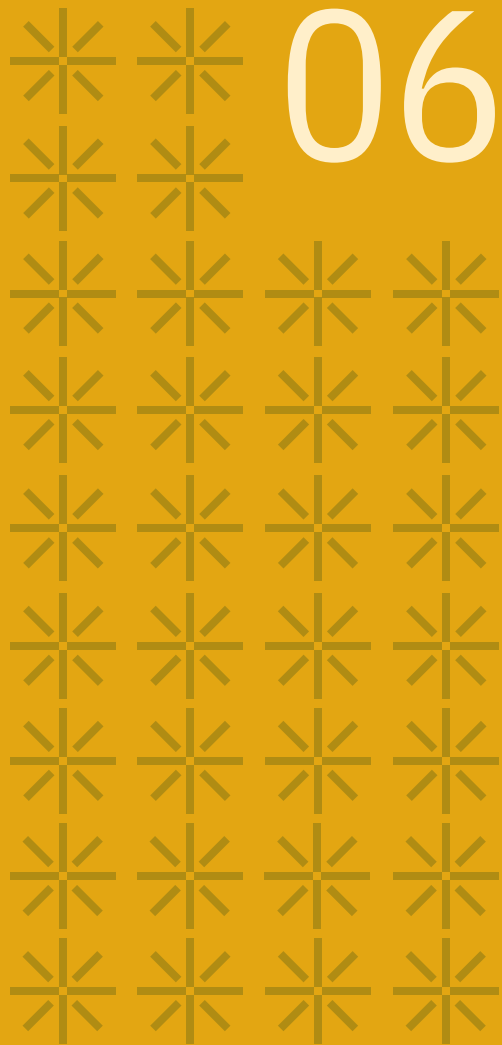
Japan

Japan has developed a strong corporate culture around responsible sourcing, making it a distinctive market in the region. Underpinning this is a steady increase in RSPO Japan membership and certified volume uptake, driven by a growing number of Japanese companies committed to achieving 100% sustainable palm oil procurement in alignment with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) Midori Policy target by 2030.

RSPO's focus in Japan is on accelerating conversion to certified supply through direct procurement transition support with major local importers, targeted engagement with key consumer-facing companies, and leveraging retailer procurement requirements through both established and newly joined members in Japan. RSPO will also work to shift existing certified volumes towards ISH Credits, reflecting Japan's favourable disposition towards smallholder support. Annual engagement through the RSPO and Japan Sustainable Palm Oil Network (JaSPON) platform will remain central to socialising certification tools and updated methodologies, with RSPO's newly appointed representative in Japan playing a key bridging role with the member community.

October 2025: RSPO and the Japan Sustainable Palm Oil Network (JaSPON) co-hosted the RSPO x JaSPON Conference 2025 in Tokyo, bringing together industry leaders, government agencies, and smallholder representatives to strengthen cooperation between Thailand and Japan in building responsible palm oil supply chains. With smallholders managing around 85% of Thailand's oil palm production area, certified independent smallholders have already sold up to 90% of their physical CSPO volumes, the world's highest share mobilised by independent smallholders. The conference underscored how cross-border RSPO membership and collaboration can place smallholders at the centre of global, inclusive supply chains.





Continuous Improvement



Advancing the RSPO Jurisdictional Approach

2025 marked a year of significant momentum for the RSPO Jurisdictional Approach (JA), with milestones spanning institutional development, technical innovation, field implementation, and growing global interest.

At the institutional level, a new Jurisdictional membership category was formalised, opening a structured pathway for governments and jurisdictions to engage with RSPO. Building on this, the Jurisdictional HCV-HCS assessment methodology cleared key approval milestones and moved into field testing, bringing a credible landscape-scale conservation tool closer to reality. Complementing these advances, field testing of the Jurisdictional Remediation and Compensation Procedure in Sabah, Malaysia, and Seruyan, Indonesia generated critical on-the-ground evidence to shape a robust remediation framework.

These developments also attracted growing partner interest. Our member Mitsui and Co.,Ltd engaged directly with RSPO, the Sabah JA pilot and other partners for a district level project, signaling private sector confidence in the approach. Meanwhile, Cross River and Ondo states in Nigeria formally declared interest in the RSPO JA, marking a historic expansion into Africa and demonstrating its growing global relevance.

Strengthening Risk Management Across RSPO

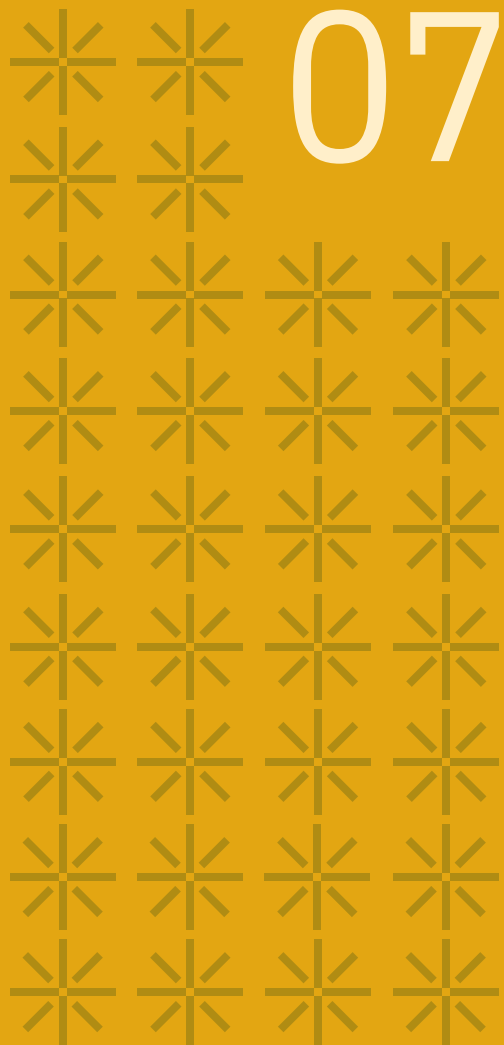
RSPO has also taken deliberate steps to embed risk-based thinking across the organisation, both in how we manage our own operations and how we deliver assurance to the supply chain. Underpinned by the same organisational philosophy of moving from compliance-based to risk-informed decision-making, two key initiatives have been advancing in parallel: the Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) framework, focused internally on RSPO as an organisation, and the Risk-Based Approach (RBA) to certification, focused externally on the palm oil supply chain.

Since the finalisation of the ERM Framework in 2024, efforts have focused on increasing risk awareness, strengthening internal risk monitoring, and improving visibility of key risks across the RSPO Secretariat. Building on the 18 key strategic risk profiles identified through the organisation-wide risk assessment in 2023, RSPO has continued to engage with risk owners, refine existing assessments, and develop Key Risk Indicators (KRIs) to support the monitoring of risk trends and potential areas of concern across the organisation.

Externally, the RSPO Secretariat (Risk Unit) is developing a Risk-Based Approach (RBA) to certification, endorsed by the Assurance Standing Committee (ASC) as part of the Five-Year Workplan. Commenced in March 2025, the RBA aims to shift from a traditional compliance-focused process toward a comprehensive assurance model that prioritises actions based on risk exposure – covering the full membership journey from pre-membership through to post-certification. RSPO is currently undertaking the risk identification and assessment components, collecting data and stakeholder insights through workshops, consultations, and engagement sessions with both internal and external parties.

Together, these two initiatives reflect RSPO's broader commitment to proactive, risk-informed governance. As the ERM framework continues to mature, insights from enterprise-level risk oversight will increasingly inform the design and calibration of the RBA, ensuring that both internal governance and external assurance are grounded in the same risk-based principles.





Glossary

Affected Communities: All communities that are likely to be affected directly and significantly by the proposed development, i.e., those with land holdings and usage rights within the affected area who must be included in the assessment and FPIC process. Other communities that are likely to be affected only indirectly, e.g., by possible longer-term changes to the ecosystem services provisions due to the water usage of the operation, also need to be taken into account.

Affiliate Members: RSPO membership category consisting of organisations and individuals that are not directly involved in the palm oil supply chain in the Ordinary membership, but want to support the RSPO's objectives and activities. Membership extends to donors, academics, research organisations, professional organisations, and government agencies. Affiliate Members do not have voting rights.

Annual Communication of Progress (ACOP): Reports submitted by RSPO members to gauge their progress towards producing, processing, consuming or supporting 100% RSPO certified sustainable palm oil. These reports are mandatory for Ordinary and Affiliate members, and are submitted each year.

Best Management Practices (BMPs): Practical guidelines to enhance oil palm management.

Certified Area: The certified area includes land that are planted with oil palm and/or associated developments, including the ones that fall within the scope of certification. This specifically refers to areas owned or directly managed by the Unit of Certification (UoC).

Certification Body (CB): A third-party conformity assessment body that undertakes an RSPO certification assessment and issues a certificate.

Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO): Palm oil that has been grown on a plantation that has been managed and certified in accordance with the RSPO Principles & Criteria.

Communities: Communities refer to indigenous peoples, tribal peoples, local communities (including RSPO P&C 2018 women, children, and people with disabilities), displaced persons, migrants, and other land users.

Crude palm oil (CPO): A type of unrefined vegetable oil obtained from the fruit of the oil palm tree.

Forest: Natural ecosystem characterised by a significant tree cover, with species composition, structure, and ecological functions that support biodiversity, carbon storage, and other ecosystem services as identified through High Conservation Value (HCV) and High Carbon Stock Approach (HCSA) assessments required by the RSPO. This includes:

- Primary forests that have not been subject to major human impacts in recent history.
- Regenerated (second-growth) forests that were subject to major impacts in the past (for instance by agriculture, livestock raising, tree plantations, or intensive logging), but where the main causes of impact have ceased or greatly diminished and the ecosystem has attained much of the species composition, structure, and ecological function of prior or other contemporary natural ecosystems.
- Managed natural forests where much of the ecosystem's composition, structure, and ecological function exist in the presence of activities such as:
 - Harvesting of timber or other forest products, including management to promote high-value species.
 - Low intensity, small-scale cultivation within the forest, such as less-intensive forms of swidden agriculture in a forest mosaic.

- Forests that have been partially degraded by anthropogenic or natural causes (e.g., harvesting, fire, climate change, invasive species, or others) but where the land has not been converted to another use and where degradation does not result in the sustained reduction of tree cover below the thresholds that define a forest or sustained loss of other main elements of ecosystem composition, structure, and ecological function.

Fresh Fruit Bunch (FFB): Bunch harvested from the oil palm tree. Each bunch can weigh from 5 to 50 kilogrammes and can contain 1,500 or more individual fruits.

Greenhouse gas (GHG): Gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorb and emit radiation at specific wavelengths within the spectrum of infrared radiation emitted by the Earth's surface, the atmosphere, and clouds.

Growers: Growers are beneficial owners, land owners, or businesses with more than 500 hectares RSPO P&C 2024 (accumulative) of cultivated and harvested oil palms.

Hectares (ha): A unit of measurement equivalent to 10,000 square metres, or 100m x 100m.

High Carbon Stock Forest: Forests that have been identified using the High Carbon Stock Approach (HCSA) Toolkit Version 2.0

High Conservation Value (HCV): The areas necessary to maintain or enhance one or more High Conservation Values (HCVs):

- HCV 1 – Species diversity. Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered (RTE) species, that are significant at global, regional, or national levels.

- HCV 2 – Landscape-level ecosystems, ecosystem mosaics, and Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL). Large landscape-level ecosystems, ecosystem mosaics, and IFL that are significant at global, regional, or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.
- HCV 3 – Ecosystems and habitats. RTE ecosystems, habitats, or refugia.
- HCV 4 – Ecosystem services. Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.
- HCV 5 – Community needs. Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities or indigenous peoples (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.), identified through engagement with these communities or indigenous peoples.
- HCV 6 – Cultural values. Sites, resources, habitats, and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological, or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic, or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or indigenous peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or indigenous peoples.

High Carbon Stock (HCS) Forest: Forests that are important to local communities or that have high carbon or biodiversity values.

Hotspot: A small area with a relatively high temperature in comparison to its surroundings.

Human Rights Due Diligence: Human rights due diligence is a way for businesses to proactively manage potential and actual adverse human rights impacts with which they are involved. It involves requiring businesses to identify, prevent, mitigate, and account for how they address actual and potential impacts on human rights.

Identity Preserved (IP): The Identity Preserved supply chain model assures that RSPO certified palm oil is kept separate from oil that is not RSPO certified. This oil can be physically traced back to its plantation of origin.

Independent Smallholder: An oil palm grower who has the following characteristics:

- Enforceable decision-making power on the operation of the land and production practices;
- Ability and freedom to choose how the land and type of planted crops is organised, managed, and financed;
- Meet any further criteria or definition relative to the applicability of the RSPO P&C and ISH standards, provided in the relevant National Interpretation for a specific country;
- The total size of their oil palm production area is smaller than or equal to 50 hectares (ha) if no threshold is defined in a National Interpretation; OR smaller than or equal to the maximum size defined in a National Interpretation (e.g., for Indonesia this implies the threshold size is 20 ha or below; for Ecuador 75 ha or below); and
- Not a scheme smallholder

Jurisdictional approach (JA): In the context of sustainable palm oil, the jurisdictional approach involves the certification of palm oil production at the provincial level, utilising a particular model of rural development. The approach facilitates collaboration between local stakeholders and regional governments to improve the welfare of small-scale farmers, curb the use of environmentally destructive practices such as slash-and-burn clearing, and iron out supply chain inefficiencies.

Mass balance (MB): Supply chain model that allows certified claims to be transferred from one oil palm product to another, either through physical blending or administratively under strictly controlled circumstances.

Metric tonne (MT): A unit of mass equivalent to 1,000 kilogrammes.

New Planting Procedure (NPP): Provides guidance on how and under what conditions new oil palm plantings should be carried out.

Oil palm: A species of palm (*Elaeis guineensis*) and the principal source of palm oil. It is native to west and southwest Africa, but is now cultivated in over 26 countries. Ideal growing conditions occur up to 10 degrees either side of the equator.

Ordinary members: RSPO membership category consisting of organisations that have direct involvement in the palm oil supply chain or associated NGOs, banks or investors. These members have voting rights at the annual RSPO General Assembly (GA) and are allowed to publicly state that they are an Ordinary Member. They can also be elected to the RSPO Board of Governors as representatives of their sector and actively influence processes by participating in technical committees on behalf of their constituents.

PalmGHG: A calculator developed by the RSPO to estimate and monitor net GHG emissions from current estate and mill operations, as well as new plantings.

Palm Oil: Edible oil extracted from the fruit of the oil palm. Palm oil is one of the few highly saturated vegetable fats. It remains semi-solid at room temperature and is suitable for a wide variety of applications. Palm oil is an ingredient in a large number of products, including margarine, baked goods, chocolate, ice cream, soaps and cosmetics. It is also used as fuel for vehicles and power plants.

Peat: A soil with cumulative organic layer(s) comprising more than half of the upper 80 cm or 100 cm of the soil surface, containing 35% or more of organic matter (35% or more Loss on Ignition) or 18% or more organic carbon. Note for management of existing plantations in Malaysia and Indonesia, a narrower definition has been used, based on national regulations, namely: soil with an organic layer of more than 50% in the top 100 cm, containing more than 65% organic matter.

Remediation and Compensation Procedure (RaCP): Procedure whereby RSPO members are required to remediate and compensate for land clearance without prior HCV assessment since November 2005.

Riparian: Riparian is used to refer to land located next to natural lakes, as well as streams and rivers, although the latter are more commonly found within oil palm concessions.

RSPO Credits: Model where the supply chain is not monitored for the presence of sustainable palm oil. Manufacturers and retailers support the production of RSPO certified sustainable oil palm products through the purchase of credits from RSPO certified growers, crushers and independent smallholders.

RSPO Smallholder Support Fund (RSSF): A fund established by the RSPO to help small, independent operators secure sustainable palm oil certification while minimising costs. The RSSF is funded from income generated through the trading of CSPO.

Segregated (SG): The Segregated supply chain model maintains separation between sustainable palm oil from different certified sources and ordinary palm oil throughout the supply chain. The model assures that RSPO certified oil palm products delivered to the end user come only from RSPO certified sources.

Smallholders: An oil palm grower with a total accumulative planted area of oil palm that is smaller than or equal to 50 hectares (ha). The definition of a smallholder farmer and threshold of planted area of oil palm may vary by country, to be determined by the relevant National Interpretation of the RSPO P&C and ISH standards. In the absence of an NI developed for a specific country that has been formally endorsed by the RSPO Board of Governors, the definition of a smallholder farmer in the generic RSPO P&C shall prevail.

Supply Chain: The series of processes/steps through which agricultural raw materials pass from the primary producer through to the end-product manufacturer (i.e. oil palm cultivation, harvesting, milling, storage, transport, refining, distribution, processing, manufacturing, retailing, etc.)

Supply Chain Associates: RSPO membership category consisting of organisations that are active in the palm oil supply chain and purchase less than 500 metric tonnes of palm oil and palm oil products per year. This membership does not include voting rights at the yearly RSPO General Assembly. These members are allowed to publicly state that they are a Supply Chain Associates Member of the RSPO.

Smallholder Trainer Academy (STA): The RSPO STA was developed with a focus on improving smallholders' livelihoods and sustainable farming practices. Through a unique "train-the-trainer" approach, the STA provides access to high-quality training materials, ultimately aiming to build a pool of Master Trainers across sectors and organisations and forming a global community that promotes sustainable oil palm practices through smallholder training.

Unit of Certification (UoC): The Unit of Certification is the collective area proposed for certification under the RSPO P&C standard, including:

- The mill(s) and its supply base(s), which shall include both directly managed land (and estates) and scheme smallholders, where estates have been legally established with proportions of lands allocated to each;
- Oil palm production areas managed by growers, medium growers, and/or smallholders; and
- Set-aside conservation areas within the concession area under the management control of the UoC.