



SDG Materiality Report

Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)

Business Guidance



About the Report

This SDG Materiality Report represents an important tool for businesses who wish to support the sustainable palm oil transition.

Lead Author: Dr. Kristjan Jespersen - Copenhagen Business School (CBS) Dalgas Have 15, 2Ø022, Frederiksberg, Denmark, kj.msc@cbs.dk

Authors and Collaborators: Naoko Matsutakeya (CBS), Katarína Svocáková (CBS)

Special mention: Nana Foxby-Jacobsen (Blue Tree ApS), Michael, Jakobsen (Preferred by Nature), Paul Lee, Gloria Imeh Thompson-Duruibe, Didier Santos Castro

We would like to thank the generous contributions from the following partners:

1. The Ministry of Environment of Denmark
2. Preferred by Nature
3. Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)

Photo credits:

© RSPO, Jonathan Perugia: Coverpage, p.4, p.19, p. 21, p. 27, p. 35, p. 39, p. 41, p. 45, p. 48, p. 51, p. 55, p. 59, p. 64
© UNICEF, Fauzan, 2018: p. 15, p. 25, p. 31
© RSPO, Ernst Young: p. 6, p. 7, p. 8, p. 9, p. 10, p. 11, p. 12, p. 13, p. 16, p. 60, p. 61, p. 62, p. 63
© RSPO, PT. BGA: p. 47

Design & Layout:

4PLUS4

Contents

Preface.....	5
The UN and Sustainable Development Goals.....	6
Palm Oil Industry	7
Methodology.....	8
How RSPO Corresponds to the SDGs.....	11
1. NO POVERTY	14
2. ZERO HUNGER.....	17
3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	20
4. QUALITY EDUCATION.....	23
5. GENDER EQUALITY.....	26
6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	29
7. AFFORDABLE CLEAN ENERGY.....	33
8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH.....	36
9. INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE.....	40
10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES.....	43
11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES.....	46
12. RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	49
13. LIFE ON LAND	52
14. PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS.....	56
How to use this Document – Managing your Sustainability Transition.....	60
Appendix.....	61



Preface

This SDG Materiality Report represents an important tool for businesses who wish to support the sustainable palm oil transition. Critically, businesses should be supported who are committed to achieving sustainable and inclusive development that merges long-term profitability with social justice and environmental sustainability. This is particularly important in the context of palm oil, which is a forest risk commodity. It is projected that palm oil that is grown and harvested unsustainability results in approximately 8% global deforestation per annum¹. Clearly, there is strong demand, both from investors and civil society, along with ethically minded businesses and consumers for clarity about the actual impact of organizational operations related to this commodity. This means that reporting on materiality is also about bringing more transparency to stakeholders and setting a higher degree of accountability for organizations involved in the palm oil sector.

It is the ambition of this report to:

- support businesses who wish to illustrate and report their impact through their support of the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO).
- augment the profile of RSPO and certified sustainable palm oil - both in terms of familiarity with the certification and the impact associated with such preferential purchasing.
- provide a range of information on companies and brands that are RSPO certified to guide future consumption and champion brands leading in this domain.
- Provide an easy mechanism to send a message to industry leaders encouraging their sustained work to prioritized RSPO certified palm oil, and accordingly leverage further change and leadership by tracking these positive actions.
- assist national governments (Amsterdam Declaration signatories²) in their goal of securing the import of 100% certified sustainable palm oil.
- translate the support of sustainable palm oil into the common language of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

¹ <https://research.wri.org/gfr/forest-extent-indicators/deforestation-agriculture>

² <https://ad-partnership.org/>

The UN and Sustainable Development Goals

United Nations is an international organization with a mission to act towards confronting issues such as peace, security, human rights, climate change and sustainable development³.

In 2015, member states of the United Nations agreed upon Sustainable development agenda 2030 which contained 17 sustainable development goals to achieve in 15 years. This framework has been provided to aid countries in ending poverty, fighting inequality and injustice, and protect the planet. The SDG framework provides a holistic approach to address the world's most urgent sustainability challenges and plans for a better future. The success of the agenda depends on the mutual effort of all parties in the society collaborating together, including NGOs and businesses⁴.

Agenda 2030 includes 17 goals, 169 targets and 244 indicators that are potentially seen as a positive change for corporations taking the action and reporting. Transparency can drive the change of how can future businesses be conducted and showcase the impact by reporting sustainable practices. The SDG framework can help companies to report on its social, economic and environmental performance.



³ United Nations (2019)

⁴ Global Reporting Initiative (2018)

Palm Oil Industry

Oil palm production has become an important component of livelihoods and development strategies for Southeast Asian countries, and interest in the industry is growing in other tropical forest countries. Despite its economic benefits, there is clear evidence that palm oil production can drive forest loss, leading to greenhouse gas emissions, posing risks to the environment, and relying on exploitative labour conditions. Since 2004, the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) has worked to develop and promote a standard for sustainable palm oil production, aimed at mitigating the negative social and environmental externalities generated by oil palm plantations. The RSPO is an alliance of civil society and private sector organizations that manages a private standard by which firms producing or using palm oil can be certified as sustainable. Sustainable practices are defined by the organization's Principles and Criteria (P&C; RSPO, 2018⁵).

Given its significant social externalities, there has been growing concern about the sustainability and desirability of oil palm production. Recent large-scale assessments, however, suggest that moving away from oil palm would likely displace consumption to crops with lower per-hectare yields, displacing deforestation elsewhere (Meijaard, et al. 2018), making it imperative to find ways to make palm oil production more sustainable. Following some high-profile investigations of exploitative labour practices on oil palm plantations (Amnesty International, 2016), there has been increased interest in the capacity of certification to lead to improved labour practices, as compared to other producers.

5 RSPO P&C 2018 <https://rspo.org/principles-and-criteria-review>.

Methodology

For identifying how RSPO contributes to SDGs the steps listed below were applied. The materials used in the methodology were 1) 169 targets and 244 indicators of SDGs, and 2) 163 indicators of RSPO⁵.

The steps are:

- Step 1.** Generate keywords for each SDG indicator.
- Step 2.** The keywords created in step 1 were mapped to the RSPO indicators.
- Step 3.** The SDGs indicators and RSPO indicators which shared the same keywords were identified.

More specifically, in the first step all indicators were mapped to a specific keyword containing the essence of that indicator (see examples in Table 1). In total, 89 keywords were generated for 244 SDGs indicators (see appendix). The indicators which address responsibilities and policies of governments were eliminated in this process as this report is addressed to the business sector.

Table 1. Examples of SDGs indicators and the generated keywords.

SDGs Indicators		Keyword
16.7.2	Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group	Inclusive decision-making
16.10.1	Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months	Human rights

The 89 keywords were then applied to the RSPO indicators, which are listed in “Principles and Criteria⁶” published in 2018. In the case that there are more than one keyword that can be associated with an RSPO indicator, all the keywords were used. Table 2 shows such an example.

⁶ RSPO. (2018). RSPO Principles & Criteria for the Production of Sustainable Palm Oil. Retrieved from: <https://rspo.org/principles-and-criteria-review>

Table 2. Example of RSPO indicator and its matching keywords.

RSPO Indicators		Keyword 1	Keyword 2
4.2.1	(C) The mutually agreed system, open to all affected parties, resolves disputes in an effective, timely and appropriate manner, ensuring anonymity of complainants, HRDs, community spokespersons and whistleblowers, where requested, without risk of reprisal or intimidation and follows the RSPO policy on respect for HRDs.	Inclusive decision-making	Human rights

For the RSPO indicators which had no matching keywords, SDGs targets which share similar content were used (Table 3).

Table 3. Example of matching RSPO Indicators and SDGs targets

RSPO Indicators		Keywords	SDGs target 1	SDGs target 2
3.7.1	(C) A documented programme that provides training is in place, which is accessible to all staff, workers, Scheme Smallholders and outgrowers, taking into account gender-specific needs, and which covers applicable aspects of the RSPO P&C, in a form they understand, and which includes assessments of training.	No match	4.7	5.1

Finally, the matched SDG indicators or SDG targets were listed for each RSPO indicator. Table 4 shows an example where two RSPO indicators are listed alongside their corresponding SDGs. From this table, the connection between RSPO and SDG is completely clear.

Table 4. Examples of matching RSPO indicators, SDG targets and indicators.

RSPO Indicators		SDGs indicator 1	SDGs indicator 2	SDGs target 1	SDGs target 2
3.7.1	(C) A documented programme that provides training is in place, which is accessible to all staff, workers, Scheme Smallholders and outgrowers, taking into account gender-specific needs, and which covers applicable aspects of the RSPO P&C, in a form they understand, and which includes assessments of training.	-	-	4.7	5.1
4.2.1	(C) The mutually agreed system, open to all affected parties, resolves disputes in an effective, timely and appropriate manner, ensuring anonymity of complainants, HRDs, community spokespersons and whistleblowers, where requested, without risk of reprisal or intimidation and follows the RSPO policy on respect for HRDs.	16.7.1.	16.10.1	-	-

How RSPO Corresponds to the SDGs

Summary

This report demonstrates the guide for businesses committed to a sustainable palm oil transition to achieve inclusive and sustainable development that will support long term social and environmental sustainability. In response to the demand from stakeholders from the palm oil industry and civil society, the business guide can become an important tool to justify concrete contributions to SDGs.

The authors in this document explain a short three steps methodology leading to a specific RSPO contribution on a target level and providing an example of cases supporting these results.

The unit of certification has the highest contribution to three SDGs, #15 Life on land, #2 Zero Hunger, and #16 Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. Results show RSPO aims to achieve decent employment, preservation of life on land, sustainable agriculture, and promote peaceful and impactful society.

SDGs #13 Climate action, #14 Life below water, and #17 Partnerships for the goals are not amongst goals directly contributing, due to very little or no concern to the scope of action of the scheme.

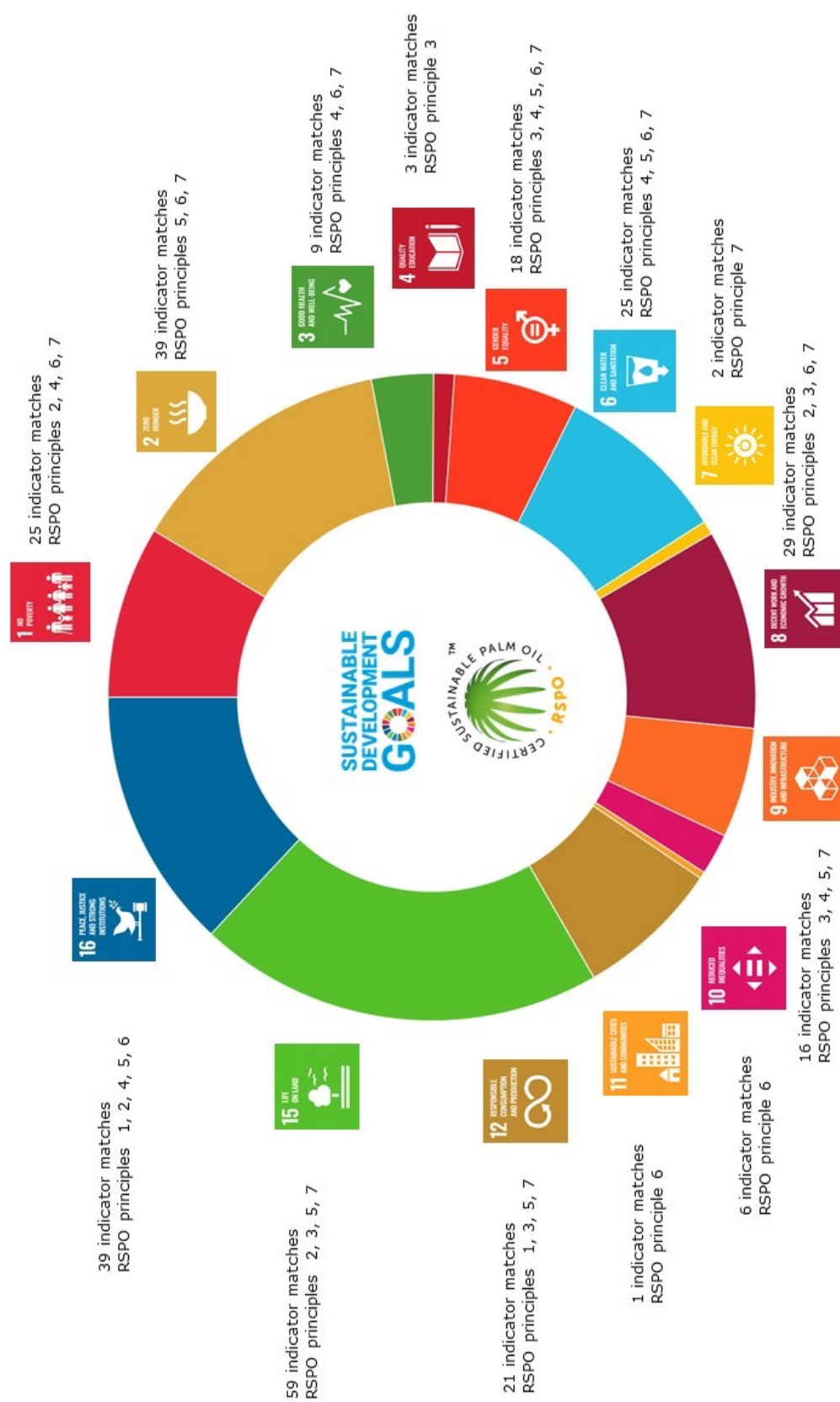
Figure 1. RSPO contribution to SDGs on principle and indicator level

Table 5. SDGs and matching RSPo indicators - The following table outlines the number of RSPo Principles and Criteria 2018 (P&C 2018) matches to the specific SDG Goals and Indicators. The specific numbers of matches are denoted by the legend above, and is further substantiated in the Appendix and the specific SDG examples found below.

SDG / RSPo	PRINCIPLE 1	PRINCIPLE 2	PRINCIPLE 3	PRINCIPLE 4	PRINCIPLE 5	PRINCIPLE 6	PRINCIPLE 7
#1 NO POVERTY		●		■		●	●
#2 ZERO HUNGER					●	●	▲
#3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING				●		●	●
#4 QUALITY EDUCATION			●				
#5 GENDER EQUALITY			●	●	●	●	●
#6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION				●	●	●	■
#7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY							●
#8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH		●	●			■	●
#9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE			●	●	■		●
#10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES						●	
#11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES						●	
#12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	●		●		●		●
#13 CLIMATE ACTION							
#14 LIFE BELOW WATER							
#15 LIFE ON LAND		●	●		●		▲
#16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	●	●		■	●	●	
#17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS							

▲ Over 20 matches ■ 11-20 matches ● 1-10 matches



NO POVERTY

Goal 1 aims to end poverty in all its forms by 2030. People living in extreme poverty struggle to fulfil the most basic needs including health, education, access to water and sanitation, and more. In 2015, more than 700 million people (10 percent of the world population) lived in extreme poverty - people living on less than \$1.90/a day. The number of people living in extreme poverty has declined since 1990, however, the COVID-19 pandemic is reversing this trend of reduction.⁷

RSPO supports SDG 1 with ensuring the stakeholders to operate legally, respect community and human rights including workers' rights.

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RSPO INDICATORS

SDG Targets	RSPO Indicators
<p>1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day</p> <p>1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions</p>	<p>RSPO: 6.2.6</p> <p>RSPO requires a decent living wage to be paid to all workers and staff.</p>
<p>1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.</p>	<p>RSPO: 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 4.4.1, 4.4.2, 4.4.3, 4.5.1, 4.5.2, 4.5.3, 4.5.4, 4.5.5, 4.5.6, 4.5.7, 4.5.8, 7.12.3, 7.12.5</p> <p>The RSPO Principles & Criteria clearly identifies how to protect the local community and indigenous peoples rights.</p>

⁷ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/>

More information

The RSPO indicator 4.4.1 states documents showing legal ownership of the land should be available. Also, a document of an agreement-making process that shows the consultation with all affected groups in the communities (4.4.2), and maps showing the extent of recognized rights which are developed through participatory mapping involving affected parties (4.4.3) should be available. Legal, customer and user rights (4.5.1), rights to the territories, lands and resources (4.5.2), right of veto by local people (4.5.3) food and water security (4.5.4), access to information (4.5.5), evidence that community gave consent to the initial plan (4.5.6), expropriations of land (4.5.7, 4.5.8) are also mentioned in RSPO, which contributes the target 1.4, SDG 1. Indicators 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 7.12.3 and 7.12.5 support SDG target 1.4 by ensuring tenure rights to land and land rights.



SDG1 Case study

Farmers Association In Ghana

Organisation name: RSPO

Region: Ghana Eastern, Western, Central and Ashanti regions

In Ghana, smallholder oil palm farmers have low yields because of limited access to proper training and support. Farmers Association In Ghana project supported 2000 independent smallholder farmers. Project activities include forming farmers groups, providing training and so on. As a result, the 2000 farmers' income had increased by 150%.⁸



⁸ <http://rsep.rspo.org/index.php/oil-palm-smallholder-initiatives-worldwide/item/farmers-association-in-ghana>



ZERO HUNGER

Extreme hunger and malnutrition hinder sustainable development. Goal 2 seeks to end hunger, realize food security as well as improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. In 2018, there were about 2 billion people who were affected by severe food insecurity which has increased over 20% since 2014.⁹

RSPO believes that protecting current workers' and the next generation's food security is important. More than 25 RSPO indicators include such perspective.

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RSPO INDICATORS

SDG Targets	RSPO Indicators
<p>2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round</p> <p>2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons</p>	<p>RSPO: 6.2.5</p> <p>RSPO's indicator 6.2.5 clearly states that the workers' right to access to adequate, sufficient and affordable food should be protected.</p>

⁹ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/>
https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/2_Why-It-Matters-2020.pdf

SDG Targets	RSPO Indicators
<p>2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment</p>	<p>RSPO: 7.4.1, 7.4.2</p> <p>To increase the income of workers in the supply chain, sufficient yield is needed. Practices to maintain and improve soil fertility to sustained yield is mentioned in the RSPO principle 7.</p>
<p>2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality</p>	<p>RSPO: 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.1.3, 7.2.1, 7.2.2, 7.2.3, 7.2.4, 7.2.5, 7.2.6, 7.2.9, 7.4.1, 7.4.2, 7.4.3, 7.4.4, 7.5.1, 7.5.2, 7.5.3, 7.6.1, 7.6.2, 7.6.3, 7.7.1, 7.7.2, 7.7.3, 7.7.4, 7.7.5, 7.7.6, 7.7.7</p> <p>To protect ecosystems and the environment is at the heart of RSPO. In principle 7, various indicators denote reducing pollution, minimising resource use, optimising productivity, protecting the ecosystem, and reducing pollution.</p>

SDG2 Case study

Title: SDG 2: Zero Hunger – Challenging the Hegemony of Monoculture Agriculture for Forests and People

Authors: Terry C. H. Sunderland, Alida O'Connor, Giulia Muir, Lauren Nerfa, Giulia Rota Nodari, Camilla Widmark, Nur Bahar and Amy Ickowitz

This study investigates the impacts of SDG 2 on forests and forest-dependent people. The study shows that to achieve SDG 2 sustainably, agricultural production and forest conservation should be considered together.¹⁰

¹⁰ Sunderland, T., O'Connor, A., Muir, G., Nerfa, L., Rota Nodari, G., Widmark, C., Ickowitz, A. (2019). SDG 2: Zero Hunger – Challenging the Hegemony of Monoculture Agriculture for Forests and People. In P. Katila, C. Pierce Colfer, W. De Jong, G. Galloway, P. Pacheco, & G. Winkel (Eds.), *Sustainable Development Goals: Their Impacts on Forests and People* (pp. 48-71). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

More information

In the RSPO Principles & Criteria, pest control (7.1.1, 7.1.3), harmful species control (7.1.2) are mentioned. It is also mentioned that pesticides shouldn't harm workers, community and environment; document of justification (7.2.1) and records (7.2.2) of all pesticides should be provided, use of pesticides should be minimised (7.2.3), prophylactic use of pesticides should be in accordance to national best practice guidelines (7.2.4), use of pesticides that are listed in international conventions should be validated by a due diligence (7.2.5), safe usage of the pesticides (7.2.6) and aerial spraying (7.2.9). Good agricultural practices to manage soil fertility (7.4.1), periodic sampling (7.4.2), nutrient recycling strategy (7.4.3), and records of fertiliser inputs (7.4.4) are addressed as well. Furthermore, regarding erosion and degradation of soils, maps that identify marginal and fragile soils (7.5.1), limiting use of steep terrain (7.5.2, 7.5.3), soil surveys and topographic information (7.6.1, 7.6.3) soil management plan (7.6.2) and peat management (7.7.1, 7.7.2, 7.7.3, 7.7.4, 7.7.5, 7.7.6, 7.7.7) are mentioned.





GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Goal #3 aims to ensure healthy lives for all and to promote well-being. Healthy lives and well-being of all at all ages are important for building prosperous societies. After decades of decline, the number of people who are suffering from hunger has been increasing again in 2015. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has heavily impacted the health systems and threatens already achieved health outcomes.¹¹

Protecting workers' health and well-being is essential for RSPO. Numbers of RSPO indicators support SDG 3.

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RSPO INDICATORS

SDG Targets	RSPO Indicators
3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes	RSPO: 6.5.2 RSPO indicator 6.5.2 requires to implement and communicate a policy for protecting reproductive rights to all workers.
3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all	RSPO: 6.2.4, 6.7.4, 7.2.10 RSPO obliges stakeholders to provide medical care, accident insurance and to cover the cost incurred from work-related incidents to all workers. Adequate housing, sanitation facilities, water supplies, medical, educational and welfare amenities are also required to be provided.

¹¹ https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/3_Why-It-Matters-2020.pdf

More information

More specifically, RSPO ensures medical amenities that match national standards (6.2.4) and medical care and accident insurance (6.7.4) of all workers. It is also required to provide annual medical surveillance for pesticide operators (7.2.10).

RSPO mentions that food and water provisioning option should be considered (4.5.4), sanitation facilities and medical amenities should be provided (6.2.4), more efficient use of water that avoids negative impact on other users should be implemented (7.8.1), and identify significant pollutants and plan to reduce and minimise them should be implemented and monitored (7.10.2)



SDG Targets	RSPO Indicators
3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination	RSPO 4.5.4, 6.2.4, 7.8.1, 7.10.3 Four RSPO indicators correspond to SDG target 3.9. Especially 7.8.1 ensures the water management. Other pollutants are mentioned in 7.10.3

SDG3 Case study

Project title: RSPO and Ulula partner to better monitor working conditions in Oil Palm Plantations

Organisations: RSPO, Ulula (ulula.com)

RSPO and a social enterprise Ulula partnered to introduce a feed-back and monitoring system. This system is free to use through simple feature phones for the workers to submit complaints in case of any intimidation or retaliation. This system gives palm oil workers a greater voice and opportunity to be more visible in the supply chain.¹²

¹² <https://www.rspo.org/latest-news/rspo-and-ulula-partner-to-better-monitor-working-conditions-in-oil-palm-plantations>



QUALITY EDUCATION

Education is a key for escaping poverty. SDG 4 protects inclusive and quality education for all and encourages life-long learning. Access to education and school enrolment rate at all levels, particularly for girls were significantly increased over the past decade. However, more than half of all children and adolescents globally are under the minimum proficiency standards in reading and mathematics.¹³

RSPO supports SDG 4 with ensuring proper training for all staff and workers.

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RSPO INDICATORS

SDG Targets	RSPO Indicators
4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development	RSPO: 3.7.1, 3.7.2, 3.7.3 RSPO requires that workers should be provided opportunities for training of necessary skills to accomplish the tasks.

¹³ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/education/>

SDG4 Case study

Project title: RSPO Smallholder Trainer Academy

Organisation: RSPO

Region: Medan and Aceh, Indonesia; Accra, Ghana; and Santa Marta, Colombia

RSPO Smallholder Trainer Academy is an initiative to improve smallholders' livelihood. The Academy adopts the "Train-the-trainer" approach, and provides training, training guides and materials to stakeholders. The initiative was launched in 2019, four trainings were already conducted in Indonesia, Ghana and Colombia which resulted in 27 organizations participating and training 75 future master trainers (as of April 2020).¹⁴

¹⁴ <https://portal.sta.rspo.org/aspx/Training>
<https://www.rspo.org/news-and-events/news/rspo-smallholder-trainer-academy-aims-to-improve-smallholders-livelihoods>



More information

RSPO indicator 3.7.1 requires a documented programme of training which is accessible to all relevant stakeholders in a form they understand. It is also mentioned that records of training should be maintained (3.7.2), and for the staff who are in charge of tasks related to Supply Chain Certification Standards, appropriate training should be provided (3.7.3).



GENDER EQUALITY

Gender equality is a fundamental human right. SDG 5 aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. There are many challenges under this goal - access to school for girls, early marriage of the girls etc. Over the last decades, there has been progress, nevertheless, there is still a big gap to be fixed to achieve the goal.¹⁵

Human rights of everyone including women in the supply chain is respected by RSPO. Everyone engaged in palm oil production has equal opportunities for their human rights to be protected.

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RSPO INDICATORS

SDG Targets	RSPO Indicators
5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere	RSPO: 3.7.1, 4.6.2, 4.6.3, 5.1.4, 5.2.1, 6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.1.3, 6.1.4, 6.1.5, 6.1.6, 6.5.3 RSPO makes sure to eliminate discrimination. Fair compensation, equal opportunities for land titles are addressed in the RSPO principle 4. In Principle 5, equal opportunities for all in the decision-making process and understanding contracts, support improving their livelihoods are mentioned. Furthermore, policy and evidence of non-discrimination and equal opportunity, setting a gender committee are required in principle 6
5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation	RSPO: 6.5.1 RSPO indicator 6.5.1. requires a policy to prevent all forms of harassment and violence.

¹⁵ https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/4_Why-It-Matters-2020.pdf

More information

More specifically, RSPO indicator 3.7.1 notes that gender-specific needs should be considered in a documented training program. In RSPO Principle & Criteria, a mutually agreed procedure for identifying gender-equal compensation should be established (4.6.2), evidence of equal opportunities provided to both men and women for holding land should be available (4.6.3), decision-making processes of contracts such as loans, finance, and so on should include women (5.1.4), women's voice about needs for support to improve their livelihoods and interest in RSPO certification should be listened (5.2.1) are also mentioned. In Principle 6, which aims to respect workers' rights and conditions, seven indicators mention protecting women's rights. Indicator 6.1.1 mentions that a publicly available non-discrimination and equal opportunity policy should be implemented. Furthermore, following points are also mentioned; evidence of non-discrimination should be available (6.1.2), equal opportunities in hiring process, access to training and promotion should be promised (6.1.3), pregnancy testing should not be taken place as a discriminatory measure (6.1.4), a gender committee should be available (6.1.5), evidence of equal pay should be available (6.1.6) and new mothers's needs should be consulted and actions towards the needs should be taken (6.5.3).

RSPO indicator 4.4.2 mentions that in the processes of agreement-making, evidence should be available that a plan has been developed through consultation with all affected groups including gender groups. It is also mentioned that a mutually agreed procedure for identifying gender-equal compensation should be established (4.6.2), evidence of equal opportunities provided to both men and women for holding land should be available (4.6.3). Human rights of local communities including women are respected even when considering protection of ecosystems (7.12.2, 7.12.5).



SDG Targets	RSPO Indicators
5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws	RSPO: 4.4.2, 4.6.2, 4.6.3, 7.12.3, 7.12.5 RSPO principles 4 and 7 supports SDG target 5.a with mentioning fair compensation, equal opportunities of land titles, as well as the evidence of agreement making process.

SDG5 Case study

Project title: Pilot Project in Indonesia Supports Gender Equality in Sustainable Palm Oil

Organisations: International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Government of Canada and Musim Mas Group (RSPO member)

Region: Riau Province of Indonesia

"Gender equality is a core principle of the project and actively supports the participation of women, recognising their importance in managing farms and household finances, as well as family well-being".

Perkumpulan Pekebun Swadaya Kelapa Sawit Rokan Hulu (PPSKS-Rohul) is a pilot project in Indonesia established by International finance corporation with the government of Canada and RSPO member Musim Mas Group that helps farmers to improve their management practices such as productivity and sustainability. Before launching the project, women were not represented in smallholders cooperatives, no access to agricultural training, nor credits as all money from oil palm sale went to men. Therefore, the project focused on gender equality, supporting participation of women and addressing gender related issues and challenges. The project also developed health and nutrition training that improved women's knowledge about balanced diet and encouraged home gardening¹⁶.

¹⁶ <https://www.rspo.org/news-and-events/news/pilot-project-in-indonesia-supports-gender-equality-in-sustainable-palm-oil>



CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Goal 6 aims to ensure access to safe water sources and sanitation for all. Access to water, sanitation and hygiene is not only a human right but also essential to health, poverty reduction, food security, peace, ecosystems and education. In 2017, 3 billion people weren't able to safely wash their hands at home¹⁷.

RSPO's one of the goals is conserve, protect, and enhance the ecosystem that provides for the next generation. RSPO ensures avoiding water pollution and providing access to safe water, sanitation facilities for all workers.

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RSPO INDICATORS

SDG Targets	RSPO Indicators
6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	RSPO: 6.2.4, 7.8.1 RSPO principles 6 and 7 require an appropriate water management plan to avoid a negative impact on other uses and access to clean water for workers.
6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations	RSPO: 6.2.4 Adequate sanitation facilities are required in the RSPO indicator 6.2.4.
6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally	RSPO: 7.8.1, 7.8.3 RSPO indicator 7.8.1 ensures an appropriate water management plan to avoid negative impacts. Indicator 7.8.3 requires proper treatment of mill effluent.

17 https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/6_Why-It-Matters-2020.pdf

SDG Targets	RSPO Indicators
<p>6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity</p>	<p>RSPO: 4.5.4, 7.7.4, 7.7.5, 7.8.1, 7.8.2, 7.8.4</p> <p>RSPO ensures the efficient use of water to avoid water scarcity.</p>
<p>6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate</p>	<p>RSPO: 4.5.4, 7.7.4, 7.7.5, 7.8.4</p> <p>RSPO supports SDG target 6.5 in principles 4 and 7. RSPO indicator 4.5.4 mentions that water provisioning options should be considered to ensure local water security, and transparency of the process should be promised. Indicator 7.7.4 requires a documented water and ground cover management program. Recording mill water use per ton (7.8.4) and the drainability assessment for the plantation planted on peat (7.7.5) are also mentioned.</p>
<p>6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes</p>	<p>RSPO: 7.7.4, 7.7.5, 7.8.2, 7.8.3</p> <p>RSPO ensures protection of water-related ecosystems. In RSPO principle 7, a documented water and ground cover management program (7.7.4), the drainability assessment for the plantation planted on peat (7.7.5), as well as protection of water courses and wetlands (7.8.2) and proper treatment of mill effluent (7.8.3) are mentioned.</p>

More information

Indicator 4.5.4 mentions that water provisioning options should be considered to ensure local water security. It also mentions that transparency of the process should be promised. Within principle 7, management of water usage is mentioned in a number of indicators. It includes water management plan for promoting efficient use and sustainable water sources (7.8.1), a documented water and ground cover management program (7.7.4), protection of water courses and wetlands (7.8.2), recording mill water use per ton (7.8.4) as well as the drainability assessment for the plantation planted on peat (7.7.5).

SDG6 Case study

Project title: Oil palm plantations threaten water quality

A news article by Rob Jordan about a study by Carlson et al.

A study by researchers from Stanford University and the University of Minnesota warns that there are threats to freshwater streams by oil palm cultivation. This change of freshwater ecosystem will not only impact drinking water, but it could also give a negative impact on fisheries, coastal zones and coral reefs.¹⁸



¹⁸ <https://news.stanford.edu/pr/2014/pr-palm-oil-water-062614.html>



AFFORDABLE CLEAN ENERGY

Global electricity usage is increasing rapidly. Electricity is essential for all sectors including business, education, agriculture and so on. For decades, a major electricity source has been fossil fuels such as coal, gas and oil. However, fossil fuel is harmful to the environment since it emits a large number of greenhouse gasses. Thus, a sustainable electricity supply is important for countries. SDG 7 aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.¹⁹

To conserve the environment lies at the heart of RSPO. RSPO Principle 7 supports SDG 7.

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RSPO INDICATORS

SDG Targets	RSPO Indicators
7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption	RSPO: 7.9.1
7.3.1 Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP	RSPO Indicator 7.9.1 mentions a plan of efficient usage of fossil fuel and optimization of renewable energy.

SDG7 Case study

Project title: PalmGHG Calculator

Organisation: The Greenhouse Gas Working Group 2, RSPO

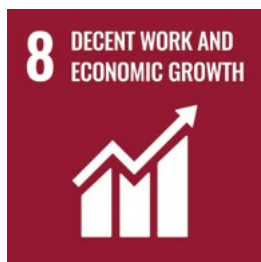
The PalmGHG Calculator was developed by the Greenhouse Gas Working Group 2 (GHG-WG2) of the RSPO, as a tool for oil palm growers to estimate and monitor their net greenhouse gas emissions. The tool also gives oil palm growers an opportunity to identify crucial areas in their production chain so that they can initiate actions for emission reduction. The initial version was launched in 2012, and in December 2018, Version 4 was released.²⁰

¹⁹ https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/7_Why-It-Matters-2020.pdf

²⁰ <https://rspo.org/certification/palmghg/palm-ghg-calculator>
https://www.rspo.org/file/RSPO_PalmGHG%20Beta%20version%201.pdf







DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Goal #8 focuses on the economic part where sustaining economic growth, ensuring high level of productivity and technological innovation plays an important role to encourage entrepreneurship and job creation. In 2019, 22% of the world's youth population did not engage in education, employment nor training²¹. The current COVID-19 crisis has caused global recession and even higher increase in unemployment. The pandemic also caused, that 1.6 billion workers in the informal economy were put in risk to lose their subsistence. Overall, it is predicted that COVID-19 will cause more than 400 job losses in 2020²².

RSPO certification contributes to goal #8 and to four targets related to decent employment, promotion of younger workers, eradicate child labour and ensure workers safety.

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RSPO INDICATORS

SDG Targets	RSPO Indicators
8.5. By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value	RSPO: 6.2.2, 6.2.3, 6.2.6, 6.2.7 Target 8.5 matches with four indicators, ensuring employee contract and decent working conditions such as regular working hours, sick leave and holiday rights (6.2.2). RSPO indicators 6.2.3, 6.2.6, 6.2.7 support productive employment and legally complies to specific conditions, providing decent living wage and full-time permanent employment.
8.6. By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training	RSPO: 2.2.3 Indicator 2.2.3 specifically focuses on the employment of young workers and urges to ensure their protection in the contract.

²¹ https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/8_Why-It-Matters-2020.pdf

²² <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal8>

SDG Targets	RSPO Indicators
<p>8.7. Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms</p>	<p>RSPO: 2.2.3, 6.4.2, 6.4.3, 6.4.4, 7.2.11</p> <p>SDG target 8.7 matches to 5 RSPO indicators that are prohibiting child, forced and trafficked labour (2.2.3). It is meeting the minimum working age requirement on a national and company level where young workers are protected and not allowed to do any hazardous work (6.4.2, 6.4.3). The policy disallows child labour and its negative effects are promoted (6.4.4). All workers under 18 are informed and communicated about not working with pesticides or any other hazardous work (7.2.11).</p>
<p>8.8. Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment</p>	<p>RSPO: 3.6.1, 3.6.2, 6.2.1, 6.2.3, 6.3.1, 6.3.2, 6.3.3, 6.7.1, 6.7.2, 6.7.3, 6.7.5, 7.2.6, 7.2.10</p> <p>The certification has a higher number of matches with SDG target 8.8. The worker is protected, health and safety procedures are in place and the risk is assessed, ensuring safe contract and working environment, collective union and choosing their own representatives. Employees are trained including first aid with first aid equipment and safe working with pesticides (7.2.6)</p>

SDG 8 Case study

Title: The impacts of RSPO on the livelihood of smallholders: case studies in east Malaysia

Organization: Roundtable on sustainable palm oil

Region: Keresia, Sapi (Malaysia)

RSPO smallholders in Malaysia, in the small city Keresia have experienced positive social change, improving their health and wellbeing, educational facilities and increasing their income by 25% compared to non-certified farmers. Certification helped independent smallholders work closely together with plantation companies, which helped them to organize fertilizer purchases and reduce the cost. Since having the certification, there has been a difference in practices being more environmentally friendly. Reduction of water pollution, protection of plants and wild animals came as a result of better management practices²³.

23 The impacts of RSPO on the livelihood of smallholders: case studies in east Malaysia, (2015)

A photograph of two men in a palm oil plantation. They are both wearing yellow hard hats and safety vests. The man on the left is wearing a white vest with 'RSPO' on it, and the man on the right is wearing a green vest. They are both looking down at a pile of palm fruit on the ground. The background is a lush green palm oil plantation.

More information

The certification has a higher amount of matches with SDG target 8.8. The risk of operation is assessed based on health and safety procedures to protect employees (3.6.1, 3.6.2). The right to a union, collective agreement and legal compliance with contracts ensure a safe working environment (6.2.1, 6.2.3). Workers have rights to elect representatives (6.3.2), free to associate and to collective bargaining (6.3.1) without any interference (6.3.3). Palm oil organizations identify the person responsible for H&S procedure (6.7.1), emergency procedure is presented and understood by every employee including first aid, first aid equipment and the record of accidents (6.7.2) using specific Lost Time Accident metrics (6.7.5). In order to ensure safe working space, employees working with pesticides are trained (7.2.6) and wear personal protective equipment (6.7.3). Indicator 7.2.10 aims to collect medical records of people working with pesticides to treat health conditions.



INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal #9 was created to rebuild resilient infrastructure, promote more inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation. According to UNDP, the world is changing very fast, and everybody, equally, should be able to change and adapt to it. However, in 2019, 3.5 billion people in less developing countries did not have access to the internet²⁴. Therefore, the aim of this goal is to promote innovative sustainable technologies and establish across the globe equal access to information and commercial markets.

RSPO scheme respectively contribute to goal #9 and specifically matching 16 indicators. In addition, it enhances industry value added by smallholders and enterprises, and provides services that incorporate organizations into the value chain with the form of credit.

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RSPO INDICATORS

SDG Targets	RSPO Indicators
9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets.	<p>RSPO: 3.1.1, 4.7.3, 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.1.3, 5.1.4, 5.1.5, 5.1.6, 5.1.7, 5.1.8, 5.2.1, 5.2.2</p> <p>RSPO ensures access to land and land rights, provided prices are fair and well explained. The unit of certification offers services to all parties to understand contracts including receipt of payment specifies price, deduction and weight. It is important that the livelihood of workers is improving regularly as well as their management skills (5.2.2).</p>

24 https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/9_Why-It-Matters-2020.pdf



More information

RSPO ensures small holders have a business plan for a minimum of 3 years (3.1.1), opportunity for communities to benefit from plantation development due to losing access and land rights (4.7.3). Small holders have access to period prices for Fresh Fruit Bunch (5.1.1) and regular price explanation (5.1.2), fair and premium pricing if applicable (5.1.3). The unit of certification provides services to all parties to understand contracts (5.1.4) that are fair, legal and transparent (5.1.5), receipt of payment specifies price, deduction and weight (5.1.6) on an equipment by a verified third party (5.1.7). RSPO supports small holders with mutual agreement such as an internal control system, person holding certificate and selling certified material (5.1.8). Consultations are provided to interested parties (5.2.1) and livelihood improving program is in place to enhance productivity, quality and managerial skills (5.2.2).

SDG Targets	RSPO Indicators
9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities	RSPO: 7.10.1, 7.10.2 Indicators 7.10.1 and 7.10.2 aim to minimize green gas emission from development areas, control it through Palm oil GHG calculator and publish the report.

SDG 9 Case study

Title: Smallholders use CSPO funds for community initiative

Organization: UD Lestari (RSPO member), FORTASBI (Forum for Sustainable Oil Palm Smallholders Indonesia), Unilever

Region: Simpang Kopi, Nagori Bandar Tinggi, and Nagori Bandar Rejo

Villagers from Simpang Kopi, Nagori Bandar Tinggi, and Nagori Bandar Rejo received money from RSPO certified smallholder group UD Lestari to fund buying four ambulances that will be transferring patients to the nearest hospital. UD Lestari also provides regular health checks to its members as a prevention for spray workers and protect pregnant and breastfeeding women who do not participate in spraying activities²⁵.

25 <https://www.rspo.org/news-and-events/news/smallholders-use-cspo-funds-for-community-initiative>



REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Goal #10 aims to reduce inequality amongst all countries around the world in regards to equal opportunity for everyone, inclusive decision-making and income growth. Despite initiatives supporting equal rights, 70% of the global population still experiences inequality in different forms. COVID-19 pandemic, has shown that already existing inequalities tend to hit the poorest and most vulnerable communities even more, during the unfortunate events such as COVID-19. This goal calls for self-sufficiency of each individual, which is a key to the world's prosperity²⁶.

Based on the current RSPO's P&C, the certification contributes to the goal #10 and addressing anti discriminatory values in target 10.3.

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RSPO INDICATORS

SDG Targets	RSPO Indicators
10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.	RSPO: 6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.1.3, 6.1.4, 6.1.5, 6.1.6 Certification directly matches SDG target 10.3 with six indicators. Non-discriminatory policy provides equal opportunity for vulnerable groups such as local communities, women and migrants with transparent hiring based on necessary skills and qualifications needed, and additionally offering training. Safe working environment for women is in place, supported by an equal pay and gender committee which helps to address issues and where women's rights are respected.

26 https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/10_Why-It-Matters-2020.pdf

SDG 10 Case study

Title: Human right

Organization: RSPO, Human Rights Working Group (HRWG)

RSPO's P&C recent version from 2018 has incorporated protection of human rights as a priority for all members. Due to changes in Principles and criteria, Human Rights Working Group (HRWG) was formed to oversee how it is implemented and support RSPO members and stakeholders with guiding documents, toolkits and training to meet the new criteria. The main aim of the certification is to ensure that provided wage can meet worker's basic needs and additionally bring some extra income and achieve better living standards²⁷.

²⁷ <https://rspo.org/news-and-events/news/rspo-commits-to-human-rights-and-social-standards>





SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Sustainable development goal #11 aims to ensure affordable housing for everyone, provide sustainable transport and strengthen inclusive and sustainable urbanization by 2030. This is due to the fact, cities produce 70% of global carbon emission and accounts for more than 60% resource use. Sustainable development needs to apply the transformative approach, by which the urban spaces are being built and managed, taking into the account, that in the next decades, more than 90% of urban development will take place in the developing countries²⁸.

The RSPO certification contributes achieving goal #11, by providing adequate housing and services to improve the infrastructure. (target 11.1.)

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RSPO INDICATORS

SDG Targets	RSPO Indicators
11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums	RSPO: 6.2.4 Scheme indicator 6.2.4 ensures adequate housing is available for workers and contributes to achieving SDG target 11.1.

²⁸ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/cities/>



SDG 11 Initiative

Title: Moving forward together (Sustainability report 2017)

Organization: Wilmar International, collaborating with BSR, Amnesty International, Verité

Region: Medan, Indonesia

Wilmar International, as a member of RSPO helps palm oil companies to ensure human and labour rights in the agriculture sector are protected. As a result, “Decent Rural Living Initiative” was created to provide recommendations on a practical level. Through collaboration with other organizations such as BSR, training sessions were organized in Indonesia for suppliers engaged in Human resources and Labour. Workshop provided perspectives from government, unions and civil society speakers talking about wages, employment contract status and grievance mechanisms²⁹.



²⁹ <https://www.wilmar-international.com/sustainability/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Wilmar-Sustainability-Report-2017.pdf> p.66



RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Responsible consumption and production goal aims to promote sustainable practices for businesses, ensure effective use of resources and reduce the global footprint. One third of produced food is not consumed due to poor transportation and harvesting practices. Agriculture is one of the biggest consumers of water globally where systematic change of production and consumption is needed. This calls for a more resource efficient economy, supply chains and production³⁰.

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RSPO INDICATORS

SDG Targets	RSPO Indicators
12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment	RSPO: 7.2.8, 7.3.1, 7.3.2, 7.3.3 RSPO supports the environment with waste management plan, documenting reduction, recycling, reusing (7.3.1). Proper disposal of pesticides is demonstrated to workers, who must follow specific procedures prohibiting waste disposal in open fire.
12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse	RSPO: 7.3.1, 7.4.3 The unit of certification contributes to target 12.5 with a waste management plan and nutrient recycling strategy, documenting reduction, recycling, reusing and disposal.

30 <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-consumption-production/>

SDG Targets	RSPO Indicators
<p>12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle</p>	<p>RSPO: 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.1.4, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.3.3, 3.4.1, 3.4.2, 3.4.3, 5.2.5, 7.10.1</p> <p>SDG target 12.6 matches to twelve scheme indicators. RSPO demands public management documents provided in a language all stakeholders can understand. Based on consideration of social and environmental impacts the action plan for improvement is in place, monitoring and reporting on the process annually and records are available. Social and environmental impact assessment (SEIA) is communicated with affected stakeholders, who are participating in developing, implementing and reviewing social, environmental management and monitoring plans regularly.</p>

SDG12 Case study

Title: Shared Responsibility

Organization: RSPO (members), Shared Responsibility Task Force (SRTF)

“Shared responsibility” rules were created as a commitment by RSPO members so the palm oil industry can become more inclusive, transparent and resilient sector. It contains various membership categories and actions to achieve the shared goal. It will aim to ensure that the rights of communities and indigenous communities will be protected. Every year, the progress of SR will be reviewed and monitored to help growers, supply chain actors, banks and investors, and lastly NGOs to reach the goal³¹.

31 <https://www.rspo.org/about/supporting-bodies/shared-responsibility-working-group>

More information

SDG target 12.6 matches to twelve scheme indicators. Management documents are public (1.1.1), provided in a language all stakeholders can understand (1.1.2), requests and responses are registered, as well as consultations are available for everyone (1.1.3, 1.1.4). Based on consideration of social and environmental impacts the action plan for improvement is in place (3.2.1), monitoring and reporting on the process annually (3.2.2) and records are available (3.3.3). Social and environmental impact assessment (SEIA) is communicated with affected stakeholders (3.4.1), who are participating in developing, implementing and reviewing social, environmental management and monitoring plans regularly (3.4.2, 3.4.3). Reports on smallholders programs are available and reviewed on a regular basis (5.2.5). Indicator 7.10.1 aims to report on controlling and reducing green gas emission through Palm oil GHG calculator.



LIFE ON LAND

Sustainable development goal #15 focuses on human activities which have negative impacts such as forest degradation, wildlife trafficking and resulting in intensified climate change. Agricultural sector is significantly responsible for 10 mil. hectares of forest land destroyed every year due to deforestation and affecting 3,2 billion people and wildlife species³². 80% of the human diet consists of plant life, therefore agriculture should be respected as a crucial economic source³³. The key element to protect life on the land is the sustainable approach towards the usage of our ecosystems and preservation of biodiversity.

Based on provided results, the certification has the most significant contribution to goal #15, towards ecosystem conservation and wildlife protection.

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RSPO INDICATORS

SDG Targets	RSPO Indicators
15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements	RSPO: 2.1.3, 3.1.2, 7.7.7, 7.11.1, 7.11.2, 7.11.3, 7.12.1, 7.12.2, 7.12.4, 7.12.7, 7.12.8
15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally	RSPO: 3.1.2, 7.11.1, 7.11.2, 7.11.3, 7.12.1, 7.12.2, 7.12.4, 7.12.7, 7.12.8

³² <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/12/1052591>

³³ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/12/1052591>

SDG Targets	RSPO Indicators
15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development	RSPO: 3.1.2, 7.11.1, 7.11.2, 7.11.3, 7.12.1, 7.12.2, 7.12.4, 7.12.7, 7.12.8
15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world	RSPO: 2.1.3, 5.2.4, 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.1.3, 7.2.1, 7.2.2, 7.2.3, 7.2.4, 7.2.5, 7.2.6, 7.2.9, 7.5.1, 7.5.2, 7.5.3, 7.6.1, 7.6.2, 7.6.3, 7.11.1, 7.11.2, 7.11.3, SDG target 15.3 matches respectively with 21 indicators which aim to ensure a safe working environment and protect endangered species. Principle 7 focuses on reducing pollution, minimizing resource use, optimizing productivity and protecting the ecosystem with a variety of indicators.
15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species	RSPO: 2.1.3, 7.12.6, 7.12.7
15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products	RSPO: 7.12.6

The aim for the certification is to put clear boundaries on planting peatland areas, where no infrastructure is allowed to be built. RSPO uses fire prevention and control measures in order to preserve and protect land areas. Certification monitors rare, threatened and endangered species, natural ecosystem and peatland conservation areas.

Scheme provides clear legal and authorized boundaries where planting is not allowed (2.1.3). Principle 7 showcases the effort to protect endangered species with indicator 7.12.6, the workforce is regularly educated and measures are taken seriously in case of capturing, harming or killing these species by a company's individual. Certification monitors rare, threatened and endangered species, natural ecosystem and peatland conservation areas (7.12.7)

SDG 15 Case study

Title: Delivering deforestation-free sustainable palm oil

Organization: RSPO

RSPO, created an initiative to minimize risk of global deforestation, protect forest, wild-life and the areas of biodiversity. The unit of certification encourages European Union Commission and European Parliament implementing rules and ensuring companies act responsibly, following high standards addressing social and environmental challenges. This calls for collaboration across all levels such as agricultural-commodity industries, supply chains, and with governments and NGOs that will create change³⁴.

³⁴ <https://www.rspo.org/news-and-events/news/uniting-to-deliver-deforestation-free-sustainable-palm-oil-more-critical-than-ever>

More information

Scheme provides clear legal and authorized boundaries where planting is not allowed (2.1.3). Annual replanting program is in place (3.1.2), regulating already existing plantations on peat (7.7.7). Land can not be prepared for new plantations by burning (7.11.1), establishing fire prevention for areas managed by certification (7.11.2) and consulting with relevant stakeholders about fire measures (7.11.3). Certification protects land and forest areas (7.12.1, 7.12.2) explicitly prohibits planting on peat after November 2018 and strongly regulates already existing plantations on peat which positively impacts productive agriculture (7.12.4). Certification monitors rare, threatened and endangered species, natural ecosystem and peatland conservation areas (7.12.7). The indicator 7.12 applies the Remediation and Compensation Procedure if the land was not cleared.

SDG target 15.3 matches respectively with 21 indicators. The unit of certification trains smallholders handling pesticides (5.2.4), implementing and monitoring integrated pest management (IPM) (7.1.1) protecting species from Global invasive species database (7.1.2) and lastly prohibiting using fire for pest control (7.1.3). RSPO makes sure pesticide used are documented and handled by trained personnel, specific pesticides are prohibited (7.2.1, 7.2.2, 7.2.3, 7.2.4, 7.2.5, 7.2.6, 7.2.9). Principle 7 focuses on reducing pollution, minimizing resource use, optimizing productivity and protecting the ecosystem with a variety of indicators.



PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

The goal #16 aims to ensure inclusive sustainable development, access to justice for everyone and build institutions, effective and accountable at all levels. Strong institutions such as police can prevent violence and deaths, reduce corruption accounting for US \$1.26 trillion each year in many developing countries. Peace and security have a higher risk of threat due to the pandemic COVID 19. Therefore, developing transparent, accountable and effective institutions is a key target³⁵.

Certification scheme strongly contributes to eradicate child abuse, protect human rights and create inclusive decision making.

SDG TARGETS AND RELATED RSPO INDICATORS

SDG Targets	RSPO Indicators
16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	RSPO: 4.1.2, 6.5.1 Any form of harassment and violence is not tolerated. It is regulated by specific policy and communicated to all levels of employees.
16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children	RSPO: 2.2.3, 6.1.1, 6.4.1, 6.4.4, 6.6.1, 6.6.2 The unit of certification does not allow child, forced and trafficked labour or any form of discrimination. The policy for the protection of children and disallowing child labour is communicated to all parties, promoting the negative effects. The indicator 6.6.1 encourages only voluntary work, freedom to resign, no penalty if terminating the employment. The specific labour policy is in place if employing temporary migrant workers (6.6.2).

³⁵ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/peace-justice/>

SDG Targets	RSPO Indicators
<p>16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all</p>	<p>RSPO: 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.2, 4.1.2, 5.2.3</p> <p>RSPO complies with all contract and legal requirements, using a system which tracks any law changes important to all parties. The policy aims to prevent all forms of harassment and violence. The scheme provides support to smallholders with legal FFB production.</p>
<p>16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels</p>	<p>RSPO: 1.1.5, 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3, 4.2.4, 4.3.1, 4.4.4, 4.4.5, 4.4.6, 4.6.1, 4.6.2, 4.6.4, 4.7.1, 4.7.2, 5.1.4, 5.1.9, 5.2.1, 6.5.4</p> <p>Principle 4 identifies an inclusive system of complaints where all parties are informed and the conflict is resolved. It is demanded communities are involved in community development and specific agreements are reviewed and consulted with all parties. The unit of certification ensures the fair compensation procedure is in place and all stakeholders are included in decision making.</p>
<p>16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements</p>	<p>RSPO: 4.1.1, 4.2.1</p> <p>Indicator 4.1.1 aims to protect human rights, documenting and communicating to employees at every level and prohibiting harassment and intimidation. The implementation of a system for complaints is in place and protects anonymity of a spokesmen.</p>

SDG 16 Case study

Title: Pursuing 100% certified sustainable palm oil by 2025

Organization: Forever Sabah

Region: Sabah and Central Kalimantan

The project of sustainable palm oil in Sabah aims to empower stakeholders, improve the production activities which will have a positive impact on livelihoods and the environment. Smallholders are supported with a variety of intervention models to adopt better sustainable agricultural practices and raise their chances for certification. The project focuses on two landscapes that are important for palm oil production and the certification jurisdiction to succeed³⁶.

36 <https://www.foreversabah.org/sabah-rspo-2025>



More information

Principle 4 identifies the system of complaints is in place (4.2.1), where all parties are informed and the conflict is resolved in an effective, timely and appropriate manner. It is demanded communities are involved in community development (4.3.2) and all information is available in appropriate language. Communities choose a representative or an institution that works within their interests (4.4.5). Specific agreements are reviewed and consulted with all parties (4.4.6). The unit of certification ensures the fair compensation and procedure is in place and all negotiated agreements are documented (4.6.2, 4.6.4, 4.7.1). Principle four primarily contributes strongly to build an inclusive society by promoting inclusive decision making and preventing violence. RSPO includes all stakeholders in the decision making process, and provides a better understanding of contracts, finance, loan and repayable and other supporting mechanisms (5.1.4). Women as smallholders are supported and included in the conversations (5.2.1). Grievance mechanism is in place and respects the anonymity of complaints (5.1.9, 6.5.4).

How to use this Document – Managing your Sustainability Transition

As a company who is actively committed to supporting the sustainability transition, and supports the 100% uptake of sustainable palm oil, this SDG materiality report is aimed to support your work. In order to achieve this mission and vision of sustainable sourcing, as well as contributing to the 2030 agenda, you will need to develop internally a strategy that involves every level of your organization in supporting this mission.

One approach would be to develop a stepwise approach set of key-performance indicators (KPIs) in order to map your progress in meeting your 100% sourcing commitment. An example of a useful approach is the Accountability Framework initiative (Afi), which clarifies to companies how to evaluate the benefits of certification and demonstrate a time-bound commitment for change. Such a strategy must move past the CSR/Marketing Department, and must include all keys stakeholders from across the company.

Secondly, as a company you should consider becoming a member of the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). The RSPO is a multi-stakeholder initiative that helps define what is sustainable palm oil through their P&C Review. It is also an important forum from which to learn about new trends and foci with respect to this important commodity. The RSPO also requires that you submit an Annual Communication of Progress (ACOP). This submission illustrates internationally your commitment to supporting sustainable palm oil.

Thirdly, your organization should develop a clear communication strategy to inform both B2B and B2C customers about your support of sustainable palm oil. This commodity is one of least recognized but most controversial. Greater efforts must be focused on studying consumer response to different prompts and actions, documenting behaviour change and the impact of actions relating to your company/organization, or the countries commitment to and shifting to RSPO certified palm oil. Recognizing that there may be issues of scale and resources, efforts should be made to measure consumer knowledge, awareness, and behaviour change.

Appendix

Table of SDGs and matching RSPO principles

SDGs	Matching RSPO Principles
#1 NO POVERTY	2. 3.4.6.7
#2 ZERO HUNGER	5. 6. 7
#3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	4.6.7
#4 QUALITY EDUCATION	3.
#5 GENDER EQUALITY	3.4.5.6.7
#6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	4.6.7
#7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	7
#8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	2. 3.6.7
#9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	3.4.5.7
#10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	6
#11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	6
#12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	1. 3. 5. 7
#13 CLIMATE ACTION	-
#14 LIFE BELOW WATER	-
#15 LIFE ON LAND	2. 3.4.5.7
#16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	1. 2. 4.5.6
#17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	-

Table RSPO principles and matching SDGs indicators

RSPO principles	Matching SDGs, targets and indicators*
1 Behave ethically and transparently	SDG 12 (12.6.1) SDG 16 (16.7.2)
2 Operate legally and respect rights	SDG 1 (1.4.2), SDG 8, 8.8 (8.6.1) SDG 15 (15.1.1, 15.3.1, 15.5.1) SDG 16, 16.3 (16.2.1, 16.2.2)
3 Optimise productivity, efficiency, positive impacts and resilience	SDG 4, 4.7 SDG 5, 5.1 SDG 8, 8.5 (8.8.1), SDG 9 (9.3.1), SDG 12 (12.6.1), SDG 15 (15.1.1, 15.2.1, 15.4.2)
4 Respect community and human rights and deliver benefits	SDG 1 (1.4.2), SDG 3 (3.9.2), SDG 5 (5.1.1, 5 a.1), SDG 6 (6.4.1, 6.4.2, 6.5.1, 6.5.2), SDG 9 (9.3.1, 9.3.2), SDG 16 (16.1, 16.1.1, 16.1.2, 16.1.3, 16.1.4, 16.3.1, 16.7.2, 16.10.1)
5 Support smallholder inclusion	SDG 2 (2.4.1), SDG 5 (5.1.1) SDG 9 (9.3.1, 9.3.2) SDG 12 (12.6.1) SDG 15 (15.3.1) SDG 16 (16.3, 16.7.2)

RSPO principles	Matching SDGs, targets and indicators*
6 Respect workers' rights and conditions	SDG 1 (1.1.1 ,1.2.1, 1.2.2), SDG 2 (2.1.1, 2.1.2) SDG 3 (3.7.1, 3.7.2, 3.8.1, 3.9.2) SDG 5 (5.1.1) SDG 6 (6.1.1, 6.2.1) SDG 8, 8.5. 8.8 (8.5.1, 8.7.1, 8.8.1, 8.8.2) SDG 10 (10.3.1) SDG 11 (11.1.1) SDG 16 (16.1.3, 16.2.1, 16.2.2, 16.2.3, 16.7.2)
7 Protect, conserve and enhance ecosystems and the environment	SDG 1 (1.4.2) SDG 2 (2.3.1, 2.4.1) SDG 3 (3.8.1, 3.9.1 3.9.2) SDG 5 (5.a.1) SDG 6 (6.1.1,6.3.1, 6.3.2, 6.4.1, 6.4.2 ,6.5.1, 6.6.1) SDG 7 (7.2.1, 7.3.1) SDG 8 (8.7.1, 8.8.1) SDG 9 (9.4.1) SDG 12 (12.4.1, 12.4.2, 12.5.1, 12.6.1) SDG 15 (15.1.1 , 15.1.2, 15.2.1, 15.3.1, 15.4.1,15.4.2, 15.5.1, 15.7.1)

*Goals are written in bold, targets are in regular font, indicators are in ()

Table The 89 keywords

Keyword	
#1 NO POVERTY	
#1-Fight poverty	#1-Land rights
#1-Basic services	#1-Disaster resilience
#2 ZERO HUNGER	
#2-Undernutrition	#2-Sustainable agriculture
#2-Agricultural productivity	#2-Agricultural conservation
#2-Agricultural income	
#3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	
#3-Mortality	#3-Health services
#3-Fight diseases	#3-Tobacco
#3-Reproductive health care	
#4 QUALITY EDUCATION	
#4-Education	#4-Educational institutitons
#4-Sustainable development education	#4-Scholarship
#5 GENDER EQUALITY	
#5-Gender equality	#5-Unpaid care
#5-Sexual violence	#5-Women's Empowerment
#5-Forced marriage	#5-Sex education
#6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	
#6-Sanitation	#6-Water-use efficiency
#6-Water quality	#6-Ecosystem conservation

Keyword	
#7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	
#7-Energy services	#7-Energy efficiency
#7-Renewable energy	
#8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	
#8-Economic growth (GDP)	#8-Eradicate child Labor
#8-Decent employment	#8-Tourism
#8-Resource efficiency	#8-Bank
#8-Youth employment	
#9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
#9-Public infrastructure	#9-CO2 emission
#9-Manufacturing	#9-Research and development
#9-Promote small-scale industry	#9-Access to communication
#10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	
#10-Economic growth (poor)	#10-Developing countries' empowerment
#10-Fight discrimination	#10-Migration
#11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	
#11-Decent housing	#11-Urban waste management
#11-Public transport	#11-Urban air quality
#11-Sustainable urbanization	#11-Public space
#11-Heritage preservation	#11-Sexual harassment
#11-Disaster resilience	

Keyword**#12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**

#12-Resource efficiency

#12-Circular Economy

#12-Food waste/ loss

#12-Reporting sustainable production

#12-Hazardous waste management

#12-Tourism

#13 CLIMATE ACTION

#13-Disaster resilience

#13-Climate change

#14 LIFE BELOW WATER

#14-Marine ecosystem conservation

#14-Increase marine scientific knowledge

#14-Sustainable fishing

#14-Small scale fishing

#15 LIFE ON LAND

#15-Terrestrial ecosystem conservation

#15-Wildlife trafficking

#15-Fight degradation

#16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

#16-Violence

#16-Fight corruption

#16-Fight child abuse

#16-Public services

#16-Human trafficking

#16-Inclusive decision-making

#16-Legal system

#16-Human rights

#16-Illegal financial and arms flows

#16-Fight discrimination

#17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

#17-Foreign investment

#17-Macroeconomic stability

#17-Technological knowledge-sharing

#17-Partnerships

#17-SDG implementation

#17-Statistic institutions

#17-Liberal trading system

