



SPOTT

**TRACKING TRANSPARENCY
SUPPORTING SUSTAINABILITY**

Annual Report 2018

SPOTT.org

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70

palm oil producers
and traders
assessed

48%

Average score for
palm oil producers
and traders

50

timber and pulp
producers
assessed

31%

Average score for
timber and pulp
producers



Foreword

2018 has been an eventful and productive year for SPOTT, as we expanded our scope, strengthened our links with the finance sector, and embarked upon a program of work with a geographical focus on the Congo Basin for the timber and pulp assessments.

In January, we launched a joint publication with Aviva Investors addressing the risks, complexities, and key issues relating to responsible investment in the palm oil sector.

March saw the launch of SCRIPT – the Soft Commodity Risk Platform, developed by Global Canopy – which SPOTT is proud to support as a data partner. In April, we published an analysis of the land-use approaches used by palm oil companies assessed on SPOTT.

In July we more than doubled the number of timber and pulp companies assessed on SPOTT, taking the total to 50. Funding awarded by the Department for International Development (DFID) under its Forest Governance, Markets and Climate (FGMC) grant will see this number double again in 2019, with a focus on timber companies in Voluntary Partnership Agreement countries at various stages of forestry sector reform.

As the global demand for palm oil production continues to grow, oil palm plantations are encroaching on new frontiers in Central and South America, and Africa. To address this, we added 20 major companies with operations in all production regions to our assessments in November 2018, bringing the total number of palm oil companies to 70. A further 30 will be added in 2019, and in partnership with French consultancy Transitions these will include assessments of companies at key nodes in the supply chain: crushers and refiners.

2018 assessment results showed that while some companies continue to make significant progress in their environmental, social and governance commitments and disclosure, the majority of those assessed are lagging behind. Average assessment scores declined for both palm oil (from 50% in 2017 to 48% in 2018) and timber and pulp (from 37% in 2017 to 31% in 2018). However, this drop partly reflects the increase in SPOTT coverage, as many low-scoring companies were added to the assessment process. Encouragingly, most companies assessed in both 2017 and 2018 saw their scores increase: 34/50 (68%) of palm oil company scores improved, compared with 17/24 (71%) of timber and pulp companies.

In response to an external scoping study commissioned in 2017, in October we announced that we will also expand our sector coverage in the coming year. Natural rubber was identified as the commodity with the greatest opportunity for SPOTT to have an impact, due to the growing sustainability challenges within the sector, and the increasing interest from finance sector and supply chain actors to promote sustainable natural rubber production. Our first assessments of natural rubber producers will be published in autumn 2019.

Momentum is building in both responsible finance and sustainable commodity production. We are going to establish a 'Supporter Network' to formalise our engagement with the finance sector, and further raise the profile of SPOTT. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead as we continue to develop the tools and information needed to engage companies, drive the adoption of best practices, and increase transparency and accountability in forest-risk commodity sectors.

Joyce Lam, SPOTT Manager,
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

ZSL | **LET'S WORK
FOR WILDLIFE**

Palm oil assessments

SPOTT assesses 70 palm oil producers and traders on the public disclosure of their policies, operations and commitments to environmental, social and governance (ESG) best practice, to facilitate corporate engagement and increase industry transparency. We encourage stakeholders to engage with producers, as company policies and commitments may not always translate into effective implementation on the ground. SPOTT scores companies using up to 119 ESG indicators across 10 categories.

Average score: 47.9%



Key findings

- The **average score** of companies is **47.9%** in November 2018, compared to 50.4% during the last assessment of palm oil companies in November 2017.
- 25 companies have an overall score of **at least 66% (higher transparency)**, compared to 17/50 companies in November 2017.
- 23 companies have a score **below 33% (lower transparency)**, compared to 14 in the last assessment round.
- 34/50 companies assessed in 2017 saw an **increase** in their scores in 2018 – the average change in score was +6%.
- 14/50 companies assessed in 2017 saw a **decrease** in their scores in 2018 – the average change in score was -3%.
- Companies perform best in the categories **Sustainability policy and leadership** (average score: 58.4%) and **Community, land and labour rights** (average: 55.7%).
- There is room for improvement in **Certification standards** (average: 35.8%) and **Smallholders and suppliers** (average: 37.2%).
- The average score of **Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) members**, including companies with subsidiary RSPO members, is 60% vs. 20% for **non-RSPO members**.



Sustainability policy and leadership

- 48 companies have put in place clear **sustainability policies** that apply to all their operations. Only 31 companies extend their sustainability policy to **all their suppliers**.
- 45 companies are full members of the RSPO, but only 17 are members of **other external industry schemes**.¹



Landbank, maps and traceability

- 51 companies report a **planted area, totalling over nine million hectares (ha)**.²
- 30 companies have made at least **some of their estate maps available**, with 22 having made **all their estate maps available**.^{2,3}
- 42 companies report their areas **set aside for conservation or High Conservation Values (HCV) areas, totalling over one million hectares**.²
- 18 companies with trading operations achieved **> 80% traceability to mill level**.
- 22 companies have achieved **> 75% traceability to plantation for their own mills**.⁴
- Two companies have achieved **> 75% traceability for supplier mills**.⁵



Deforestation and biodiversity

- 46 companies have a **clear commitment to zero deforestation**, and a further three companies have an unclear commitment. 26 companies **extend their zero deforestation commitments to all suppliers**.
- 42 companies report **habitat management/restoration activities**.²
- 19 companies provide **strong evidence of monitoring deforestation**, and a further five companies provide **some evidence** of monitoring deforestation, but they **lack clear methodologies or timeframes**.



HCV, HCS and impact assessments

- 44 companies commit fully to the **High Conservation Value (HCV) approach**. 24 companies extend their **HCV commitment to smallholders and/or suppliers**.
- Although 45 companies have **High Carbon Stock (HCS) related** commitments, 34 companies commit fully to conducting **HCS assessments** and to applying the **HCS Approach** for all assessments. 25 companies have **no HCS-related commitments** in place to date.
- 17 companies have made **HCS assessments publicly available** to date.⁶
- 33 companies have made **social and/or environmental impact (SEIA) assessments** publicly available to date.²

¹ e.g. Consumer Goods Forum, Global Agri-business Alliance, High Carbon Stock Approach Steering Group, High Conservation Value Resource Network, Forum for the Future of Agriculture, Natural Capital Coalition, Palm Oil Innovation Group, The Forest Trust, Tropical Forest Alliance 2020, UN Global Compact, World Business Council For Sustainable Development, or others focused on sustainability.



Peat, fire and GHG emissions

- 34 companies have a commitment to **no planting on peat of any depth**. A further 16 companies have weak or unclear commitments that **fail to specify all depths of peat**. 20 companies have **no commitment prohibiting development on peat**.
- 48 companies have a clear commitment to **zero burning**, with 28 companies **extending their no burning commitment to smallholders and/or suppliers**.
- 33 companies disclose data relating to **monitoring/managing fires**.²
- While 11 companies **report progress on reducing GHG emissions** over time, only nine companies have a **time-bound plan to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions**.⁷



Water, chemical and pest management

- 11 companies **report progress on water use**, and 11 have a **time-bound commitment to reduce water use**.⁷
- 47 companies are clearly implementing an **Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach**.²
- 27 companies **no longer use paraquat**, with a further three having a **time-bound plan to phase out paraquat**.



Community, land and labour rights

- 15 companies **do not have a public commitment to respect human rights**.
- 45 companies commit to the principle of **free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)**.
- 32 companies clearly commit to all eight fundamental International Labour Organization (ILO) **Conventions or Free and Fair Labour Principles**.
- 12 companies have provided evidence that they are **paying the minimum wage**.



Certification standards

- 16 companies have **RSPO-certified more than 75% of their mills**,⁴ and only nine companies have **RSPO-certified more than 75% of their estates**.²
- 32 companies are certified under **other voluntary certification schemes**, including organic certification, International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISSC), Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN), Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB), RSPO NEXT, etc.



Smallholders and suppliers

- 27 companies report a clear process for **prioritising, assessing and/or engaging suppliers on compliance with their policy and/or legal requirements**, and a further seven companies have a **weak or unclear process**.
- 18 companies disclose **suspension or exclusion criteria for suppliers**, nine of which publish unclear criteria with **no timeframes for action or steps taken**.



Governance and grievances

- 53 companies have commitments to **both ethical conduct and prohibition of corruption**, and 10 companies have **no commitment to ethical conduct or the prohibition of corruption**.
- 32 companies recognise **whistleblowers** and have relevant procedures on whistleblowing. 17 companies **allow whistleblowing but provide no procedure**.
- 21 companies have published **no information on whistleblowing**.
- 19 companies report **full details of grievances** publicly, and a further four companies disclose partial details.

² Seven companies are only processors or traders and do not own land and therefore are excluded.

³ Companies have submitted maps to the RSPO; however, not all may be publicly available yet.

⁴ Six companies assessed do not own mills and therefore are excluded.

⁵ 36 companies do not source from supplier mills and therefore are excluded.

⁶ 17 companies assessed are only traders and do not own land, or have not undertaken any new planting since January 2016, and therefore are excluded.

⁷ Two companies are only traders and do not have any processing facilities and therefore are excluded.

Sustainable palm oil and responsible investment

In January, ZSL collaborated with Aviva Investors to publish *Sustainable Palm Oil and Responsible Investment*. This report highlights the power that investors have to transform the whole palm oil industry, by encouraging the companies they finance to adopt more responsible policies on deforestation, land conflicts and labour conditions. Covering the role of certification, and focusing on the palm oil investment case through case studies, the guide outlines key questions that institutional investors should ask during their engagement with oil palm growers, traders and buyers to help incentivise improvements to their environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices.

Read the full report here: spott.org/news/sustainable-palm-oil-responsible-investment/



Crushers and refiners: key bottlenecks in the palm oil supply chain

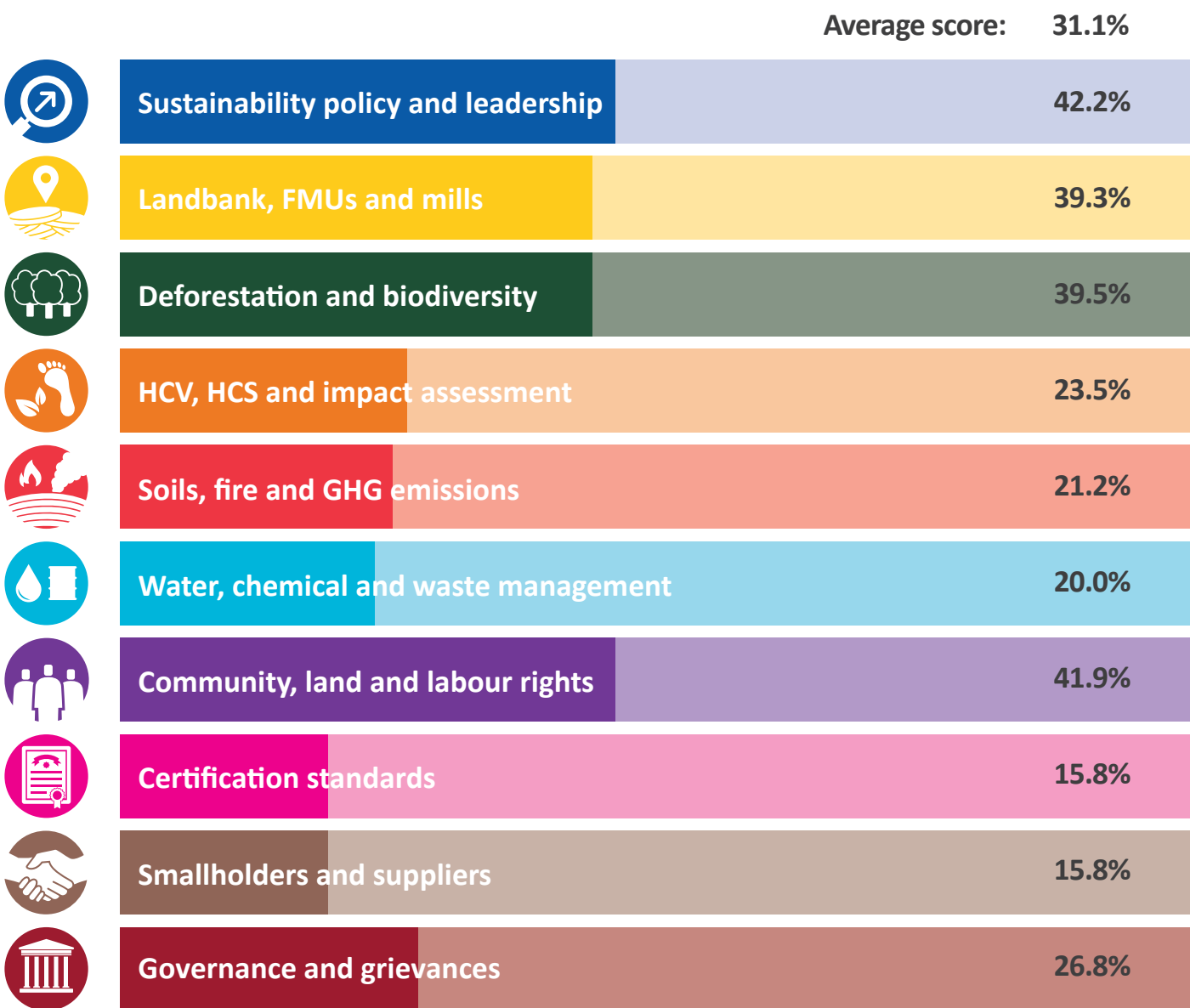
Crushers and refiners centralise the sourcing of crude palm oil, crude palm kernel oil, and palm kernels from thousands of palm oil mills, then process, ship and re-inject value-added raw materials into the downstream supply chains. Even though some have committed to No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation (NDPE) policies, many crushers and refiners continue to source oil palm products without consideration of any sustainability criteria. Their central position within the supply chain gives them significant leverage to drive sustainability in the sector, and a responsibility to help transform current practices in mills and plantations.

To incentivise sustainable practices by these key supply chain actors, in 2018 we partnered with Transitions to develop an indicator framework for palm oil crushers and refiners. Crusher and refiner assessments will allow downstream companies who use palm oil, palm kernel oil and palm-based derivatives to measure conformity of their direct and indirect suppliers with their own commitments. The first full assessments including these supply chain segments will be published in November 2019.



Timber and pulp assessments

SPOTT assesses 50 timber and pulp producers on the public disclosure of their policies, operations and commitments to environmental, social and governance (ESG) best practice, to facilitate corporate engagement and increase industry transparency. SPOTT encourages stakeholders to engage with producers, as company policies and commitments may not always translate into effective implementation on the ground. The first assessments were published in November 2017, with 24 key timber, pulp and paper producers being selected for the initial assessments. The second round of assessments published in July 2018 saw the number of companies assessed expanded to 50. SPOTT scores timber and pulp producers using up to 110 ESG indicators across 10 categories.

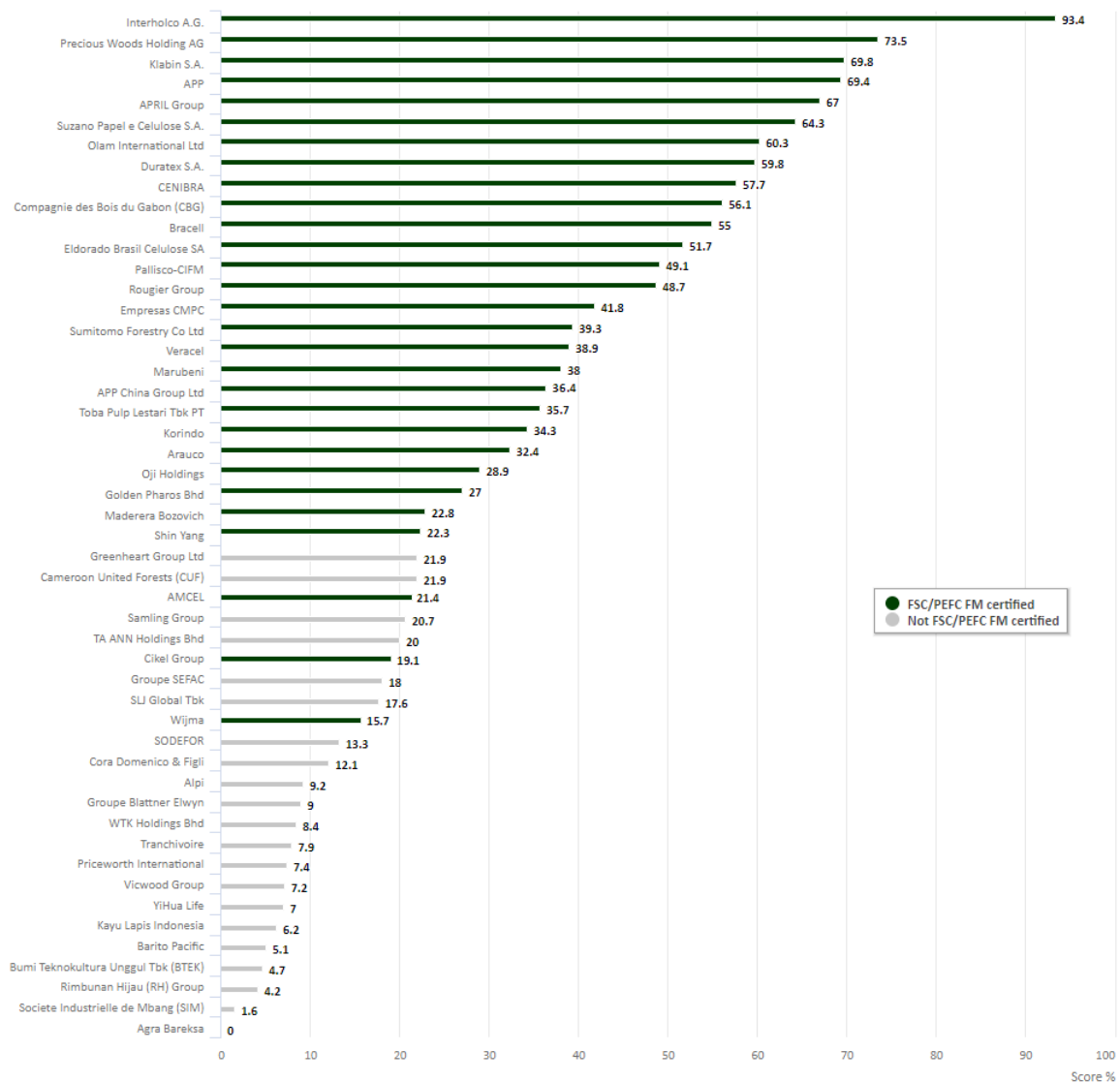


Key findings

- The **average score** of companies is 31.1% in July 2018, compared to 37.1% during the last assessment of timber and pulp companies in November 2017.
- 5/50 (10%) companies have an overall score of **at least 66% (higher transparency)**, compared to 3/24 (13%) in November 2017.
- 29/50 (58%) companies have a score **below 33% (lower transparency)**, compared to 11/24 (46%) in the last assessment round.
- 17/24 (71%) companies assessed in 2017 saw an **increase** in their scores in 2018 – the average change in score was +3.9%.
- 7/24 (29%) companies assessed in 2017 saw a **decrease** in their scores in 2018 – the average change in score was -3.6%.
- Companies perform best in the categories **Sustainability policy and leadership** and **Community, land and labour rights**, scoring an average of 42% within these categories.
- There is room for improvement in **Certification standards** and **Smallholders and suppliers**, with companies scoring an average of 16% within these categories.
- The average score of companies with some or all of their landbank **Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Forest Management (FM) certified** or **Programme for Endorsement of Forestry Certification (PEFC) FM certified** is 45% compared to 11% for companies lacking such certification.

Average scores of producers with some/all FSC/PEFC Forest Management certified land versus those with no certified land

Source: 50 timber and pulp producers assessed on SPOTT





Sustainability policy and leadership

- 22/50 (44%) companies have put in place a clear and comprehensive **sustainability policy**. Only six (12%) companies extend their sustainability policy to third parties.
- 21/50 (42%) companies have published a **sustainability report** in the last two years.
- 23/50 (46%) companies are working with **government, non-governmental organisations, or academic institutions** to improve the sustainability of forest products.



Landbank, FMUs and mills

- 20/38¹ (53%) companies clearly disclose their **total area of forest plantation**, while just 14/37² (38%) disclose the **total area of natural forest** they control for wood/wood fibre production.
- 27/50 (54%) companies have made at least some **maps available for their Forest Management Units (FMUs)**, but only 8/50 (16%) companies have provided georeferenced **maps for all their FMUs**.
- Only 1/38³ (2%) companies discloses the **total area of intact forest landscape**⁴ found within its operational area.



Deforestation and biodiversity

- 10/37² (27%) companies have a clear commitment to minimise the impact of **logging roads**.
- Just 7/50 (14%) companies are implementing a **landscape approach** to biodiversity conservation.
- 32/50 (64%) companies have a clear commitment to **set-aside areas for conservation**, while 27/50 (54%) provide **examples of how they are managing these areas** for the benefit of biodiversity.



HCV, HCS and impact assessments

- Only 12/50 (24%) companies have a commitment to **conduct High Conservation Value (HCV) assessments** for all new development and planting. 5/47⁵ (11%) companies extend this commitment to their outgrowers and/or independent suppliers.
- 6/50 (12%) companies make all their **HCV assessment reports publicly available**.
- 9/50 (18%) companies have a clear commitment to **conduct Social and Environmental Impact Assessments (SEIAs)** for all new development and planting.
- Just 3/50 (6%) companies made the results of all their **SEIAs publicly available**.



Soils, fire and GHG emissions

- 8/50 (16%) companies commit to **best management practices for soils and/or peat**.
- Only 8/37² (22%) companies have a commitment to use **reduced impact logging (RIL)** techniques across all their operations.
- 14/50 (28%) companies provide evidence of undertaking both **fire monitoring and management** activities.
- Just 3/50 (6%) companies have a **time-bound commitment to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) intensity**. All of these companies are reporting progress to their GHG targets.

¹This indicator is disabled for companies that do not own forest plantations.

²This indicator is disabled for companies that do not own natural forests for wood/wood fibre production.

³This indicator is disabled for companies that have no intact forest landscape within their operations.

⁴ Can be defined as a territory within today's global extent of forest cover minimally influenced by human economic activity, with an area of at least 500 km² (50,000 ha) and a minimal width of 10 km.

⁵ This indicator is disabled for companies that have no outgrower scheme and no independent suppliers.



Water, chemical and waste management

- 4/20⁶ (20%) companies with pulp or paper mills have **time-bound commitment to improve water use**, while three (15%) are reporting progress towards their water use commitment.
- Just 8/50 (16%) companies report that they are using **buffer or riparian zones to protect natural waterways** across all their operations.
- 9/50 (18%) companies have a commitment to not use⁷ **World Health Organisation (WHO) Class 1A and 1B pesticides**, while only 7/50 (14%) have an equivalent commitment for **chemicals listed under the Stockholm Convention and Rotterdam Convention**.



Community, land and labour rights

- 37/50 (74%) companies have a commitment to **respect human rights**, while 34/47⁵ (72%) companies extend this to their outgrower scheme and/or independent suppliers.
- 35/50 (70%) companies are committed to respect **indigenous and local communities' rights**, but just 8/50 (16%) have a full commitment to obtain **free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)** prior to all new developments.
- 35/50 (70%) companies clearly commit to **all eight fundamental International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions**.⁸
- Only 7/50 (14%) companies provide evidence that they are paying the **minimum wage** to all their workers.



Certification standards

- 19/50 (38%) companies have **more than 75% of their area verified as being in legal compliance** by a third party. Just 3/47⁵ (6%) report any of their supply as being verified legal by a third party.
- Only 4/50 (8%) companies are **100% Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Forest Management (FM) certified**.
- 6/47⁵ (13%) companies have a commitment to only source wood or wood fibre that meets **FSC Controlled Wood requirements**.



Smallholders and suppliers

- 8/40⁹ (20%) companies have a programme to **support outgrower smallholders**, but only two (5%) provide details of how many outgrowers are supported.
- Only 12/47⁵ (26%) companies report they have a process for prioritising, assessing and/or **engaging suppliers on compliance with their policy and/or legal requirements**.
- 9/47⁵ (19%) companies report the **number of suppliers that they have assessed or engaged**.



Governance and grievances

- 25/50 (50%) companies have a clear commitment to **ethical conduct** and the prohibition of corruption.
- 13/50 (26%) companies have a **grievance procedure that is open to both internal and external stakeholders** such as employees and local communities.
- 7/50 (14%) companies report some **details of grievances**, but just three (6%) provide comprehensive details of the grievances reported to them and their resolution.

⁵ This indicator is disabled for companies that have no outgrower scheme and no independent suppliers.

⁶ This indicator is disabled for companies that do not own pulp or paper mills.

⁷ No use at all or only in emergency/exceptional circumstances (e.g. have a Pesticide Derogation from the FSC).

⁸ Eight Fundamental ILO Conventions: Freedom of Association (No. 87); Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining (No. 98); No Forced Labour (No. 29 & No. 105); Minimum Age (No. 138); Worst Forms of Child Labour (No. 182); Equal Remuneration (No. 100); No Discrimination (No. 111).

⁹ This indicator is disabled for companies that have no outgrower scheme smallholders.

Expanding our scope: forest legality and engagement in VPA-partner countries

Through a recent grant from the Department for International Development's Forest Governance, Markets and Climate (FGMC) programme, SPOTT is now expanding to assess and engage more timber and pulp companies in Voluntary Partnership Agreement-partner countries at various stages in forestry sector reform – specifically, Indonesia, Cameroon, Republic of Congo and Gabon. At the same time, SPOTT will expand to assess timber traders in China that source timber from Africa.

Project activities will include the development of country-specific SPOTT indicators on legality, annual SPOTT assessments of 100 companies, the development of a SPOTT Supporter Network for investors and other users, and direct support to companies looking to increase their transparency. To inform these activities we will hold two multi-stakeholder workshops in each of the target geographies (in early 2019 and 2020).



Supporting SCRIPT

We are proud to support SCRIPT – Soft Commodity Risk Platform – as a data partner. Launched in March by Global Canopy, in partnership with WWF and Ceres, the platform helps users perform rapid assessments of risk exposure and efficient mitigation planning based on innovative company datasets. SPOTT's in-depth assessments of companies in the palm oil and forestry sectors complements SCRIPT's breadth of coverage – with around 1,000 companies on the platform.

SCRIPT currently hosts two tools: the Policy Benchmarking Tool assesses the strength of policies against peers, and the Portfolio Risk Tool screens for high risk clients and issue areas. We look forward to enhancing our relationship with Global Canopy as we continue to work together in the year ahead.



script
SOFT COMMODITY RISK PLATFORM

KELOLA Sendang

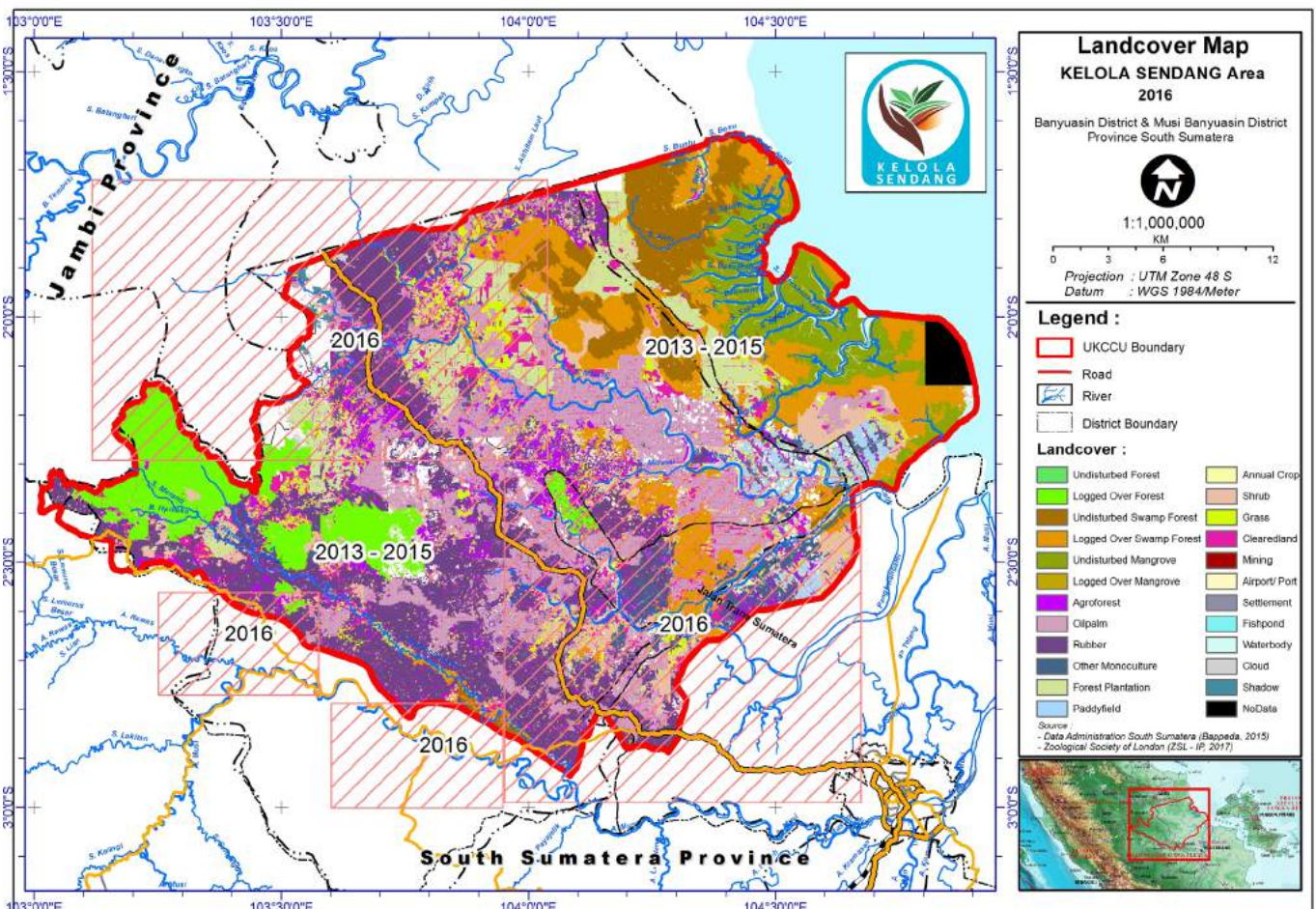
ZSL is working in Indonesia with the Government of South Sumatra on a sustainable landscape management project, KELOLA Sendang. This public-private-people partnership aims to address the complex and critical challenges of deforestation, peatland degradation, wildfires and their associated climate impacts within the context of green growth and biodiversity conservation.



Key to addressing these issues is the active participation of multiple actors operating in the landscape. KEmitraan PengeLOaan LANskap means “Partnership for Landscape Management” in Bahasa Indonesia, while Sendang loosely translates to mean “spring water” and alludes to the landscape where the project operates: SEmbilang-DANGku. The project supports the government, private sector (including commodity-producing companies) and local communities, to pilot a sustainable management model across the Sembilang-Dangku landscape of north-eastern South Sumatra.

An important component of this project is to assess the transparency of commodity-producing companies on SPOTT, including those operating within the Sembilang-Dangku landscape. By informing and facilitating dialogue between companies and their buyers and financiers, SPOTT supports the delivery of corporate sustainability commitments by incentivising best practice on the ground. KELOLA Sendang implements BMP trainings and support, as well as other interventions on the ground, to aid in realising this goal. Through an in-depth understanding of the challenges on the ground, ZSL can work with other stakeholders in the landscape to support the implementation of sustainability commitments, and identify opportunities for green growth in the South Sumatra landscape, across Indonesia, and beyond.

KELOLA Sendang landscape



Use of HCV and HCS approaches by palm oil companies assessed on SPOTT


In March, SPOTT published an analysis of the land-use planning approaches used by 50 palm oil companies assessed on SPOTT in November 2017.

The High Conservation Value (HCV) and High Carbon Stock (HCS) approaches to land-use planning are used to identify and protect important environmental and social values that need to be conserved. These approaches are of great importance to companies' approaches to conservation in general. They also contribute to risk reduction, the implementation of commitments to no deforestation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and safeguarding the rights of local communities.

The report found that over 70% of palm oil producers and traders had made clear commitments to the HCV approach, increasing from 54% in October 2015. But despite this progress, only a third of companies clearly extend their HCV commitments to scheme smallholders and independent suppliers, indicating potential ESG risks.

Read the full report here: SPOTT.org/news/hcv-hcs-approaches-palm-oil-companies/





The use of the High Conservation Value (HCV) and High Carbon Stock (HCS) approaches by palm oil companies assessed on SPOTT

Figure 1: A comparison illustrating SPOTT that have had a satisfactory review of their HCV assessments (interim review January 2016-Nov 2017)

Category	Percentage
Yes	54%
Partial	12%
No	34%

Figure 2: Companies assessed on SPOTT with clear commitments to the HCS approach

Month	Percentage
Oct 2015	54%
May 2016	62%
Oct 2016	68%
Jan 2017	72%
Nov 2017	76%

Figure 3: Companies assessed on SPOTT with clear commitments to the HCV and HCS approaches

Category	Percentage
Yes	30%
Partial	10%
No	60%

Figure 4: Companies assessed on SPOTT with clear commitments to the HCV approach

Category	Percentage
Yes	72%
Partial	12%
No	16%

Figure 5: Companies assessed on SPOTT with clear commitments to the HCS approach

Category	Percentage
Yes	32%
Partial	12%
No	56%

HCV/HCS ALS Quality Assurance for HCV assessment reports

The HCV/HCS ALS Quality Assurance for HCV assessment reports provides mandatory quality assurance reviews for all HCV assessment reports produced by ALS in respect of HCV assessments. The review of HCV assessment reports undertaken by SPOTT members with new planning since January 2015 under the RSPO New Planting Procedure (NPP).

The Quality HCV/HCS ALS Quality Assurance for HCV assessment reports provides ALS procedures and the HCV Assessment Manual and checks that the reports adequately meet the criteria based on 'Key Issues'. Reports that do not fully meet the criteria are passed as 'unacceptable'. Reports that fail on one or more key issues cannot be passed as satisfactory upon first submission to the Quality HCV/HCS ALS Quality Assurance for HCV assessment reports. The key issues are:

- Key issues after the first review: If the key issues remain unsatisfactory after two report submissions, the second report is deemed unsatisfactory and is not passed.

More information is available on the ALS website: [link](#)

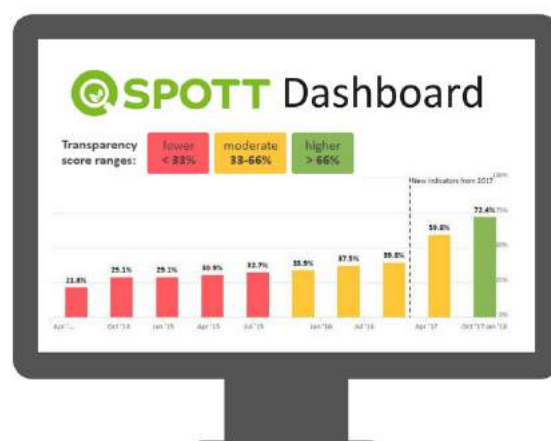


SPOTT Dashboard

During 2018 over 18,000 users visited the SPOTT website. In total, visitors to the website spent 1,370 hours on the site, and viewed pages more than 134,000 times.

To offer users a greater range of ways to explore and analyse SPOTT assessment results, and enhance user experience, we launched the free SPOTT Dashboard in March. The Dashboard enables users to organise favourite pages, download assessment data, track trends and score changes over time, and view past assessments.

As of February 2019, over 415 users had registered for an account, and 80 companies had been favourited by users. To learn more and to register for an account, visit SPOTT.org/dashboard



Timeline

January 2018

- SPOTT collaborates with Aviva Investors to publish *Sustainable Palm Oil and Responsible Investment*

March 2018

- New companies are selected for assessment in 2018, bringing the total to 50 timber and pulp producers, and 70 palm oil producers and traders
- Global Canopy launches SCRIPT, supported by SPOTT as a data partner

April 2018

- SPOTT publishes *HCV and HCS Approaches by Palm Oil Companies Assessed on SPOTT*

July 2018

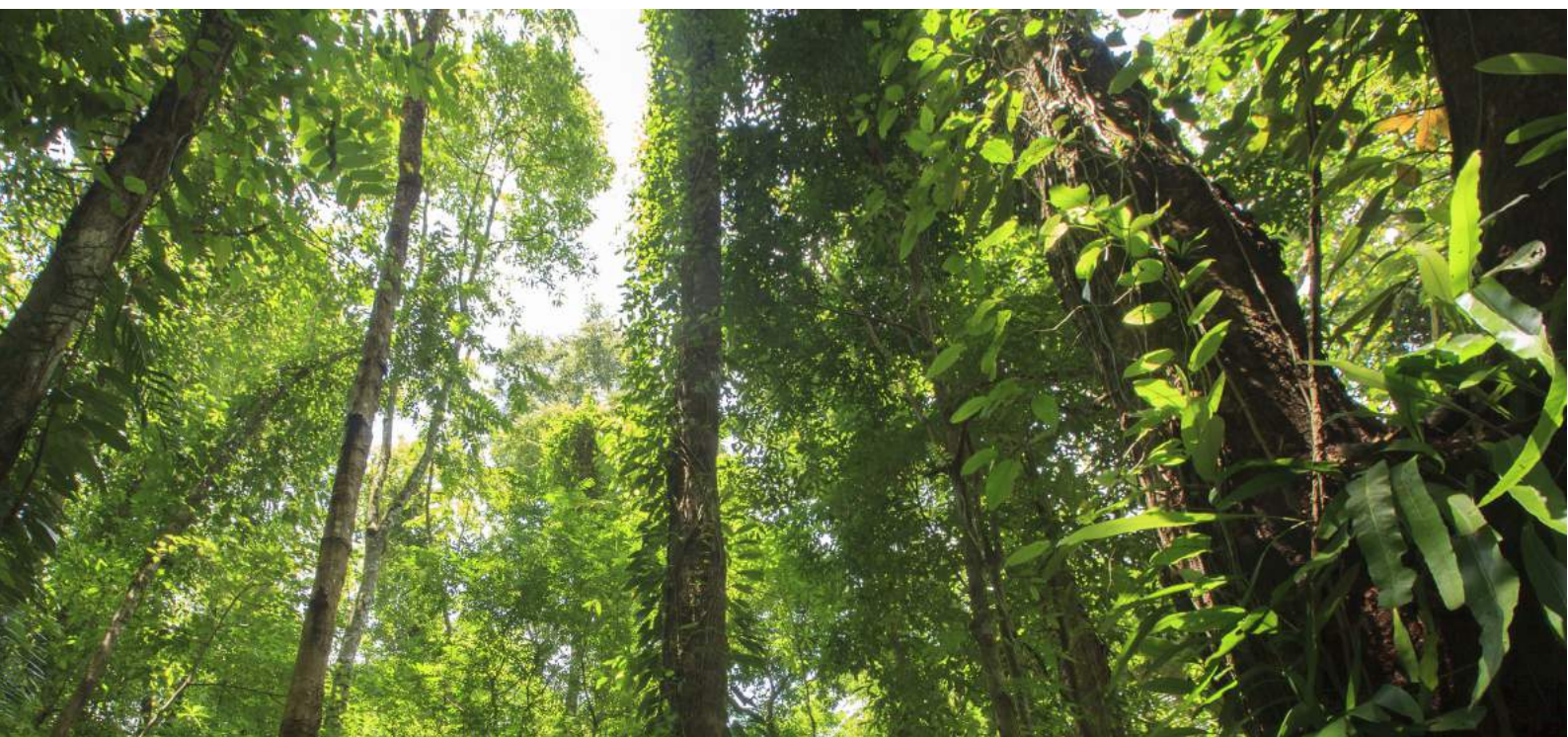
- SPOTT publishes assessments of 50 timber and pulp companies
- Awarded funding from DFID's FGMC programme to expand scope to include forest legality and engagement in VPA-partner countries

October 2018

- SPOTT announces it will expand assessments to include natural rubber producers in 2019. Read the announcement here: [SPOTT.org/news/rubber-does-natural-mean-sustainable/](https://spott.org/news/rubber-does-natural-mean-sustainable/)

November 2018

- SPOTT publishes assessments of 70 palm oil companies
- SPOTT team members attend the RSPO RT16 and moderate a panel session with members of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil's Financial Institutions Task Force



ZSL would like to thank the following organisations

The SPOTT initiative is funded with the generous support of the following donors; however, the views expressed do not necessarily reflect our donors' views or official policies.



About SPOTT

SPOTT is a free, online platform supporting sustainable commodity production and trade. By tracking transparency, SPOTT incentivises the implementation of corporate best practice.

SPOTT assesses commodity producers and traders on the public disclosure of their policies, operations and commitments related to environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues. SPOTT scores tropical forestry and palm oil companies annually against over 100 sector-specific indicators to benchmark their progress over time.

Investors, buyers and other key influencers can use SPOTT assessments to inform stakeholder engagement, manage ESG risk, and increase transparency across multiple industries.

SPOTT is an initiative developed by ZSL (Zoological Society of London).

About ZSL

ZSL (Zoological Society of London) is an international conservation charity working to create a world where wildlife thrives. From investigating the health threats facing animals to helping people and wildlife live alongside each other, ZSL is committed to bringing wildlife back from the brink of extinction. Our work is realised through our ground-breaking science, our field conservation around the world and engaging millions of people through our two zoos, ZSL London Zoo and ZSL Whipsnade Zoo.