Partnerships for Innovation

RSPO 5th European Roundtable 2017
This multimedia report is designed to capture the dynamism of the fifth European Roundtable, and summarises the event’s key discussion and messages. To access videos of the sessions and hear what delegates had to say about the issues raised, follow the links throughout the report to RSPO’s dedicated Vimeo conference site.

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| 19-20 |
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| Media Coverage |
RSPO held its fifth annual European Roundtable event in London on June 13 2017 with a focus on innovations and partnerships that are delivering on commitments to smallholders, labour rights and preventing deforestation. As the world’s third largest palm oil market and home of many leading companies, Europe is pivotal to the market transformation ambitions of RSPO and its members.

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

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

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

The positive uptake data, new partnerships and innovations presented at EURT demonstrate the continued drive and strong commitment to move towards reaching our goal of 100% certified sustainable palm oil in Europe by 2020.
The 5th European Roundtable Conference was moderated by Eliza Anyangwe, a freelance writer & journalist for The Guardian, who writes and speaks about Africa, international development and gender. Eliza helped unpack the paradoxical complexities within the broader palm oil debate.

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

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

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

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

27 COUNTRIES

NORTH AMERICA 6.6%
LATIN AMERICA 2.4%
EUROPE 49.3%
ASIA 11.5%
UNDISCLOSED 30.2%

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

Participants

342 DELEGATES

ATTENDEES

28 NON-MEMBERS

209 MEMBERS

12 PRESS

30 SPEAKERS

30 SPONSORS

33 NGO NON-MEMBERS

INDUSTRIES REPRESENTED

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

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

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

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

Sarah Lake, Global Canopy Project, explored the potential of partnerships with financial institutions, where unprecedented transparency on palm oil exports is being developed.
As of mid-2016, smallholder farmers produce 40% of the world’s palm oil, but continue to suffer from lower yields. This is why RSPO wants to certify more smallholders so that they produce more oil using less land and can access new markets, raising their income and reducing the risk of land conversion which threatens forests and biodiversity.

In 2015, at the 12th General Assembly, RSPO adopted Resolution 6F to develop a comprehensive Smallholder Strategy. Since, RSPO has held a series of consultation groups with smallholders and engaged stakeholders to agree on the objective and goal of the new Smallholder Strategy. The following sessions explored how RSPO can help facilitate partnerships between smallholders and supply chain members downstream as part of the new RSPO Smallholder Strategy.
In this panel debate, four innovative projects working alongside smallholders within the space of sustainability were introduced. Experiences were shared on unlocking challenges around smallholder certification, training and capacity building.

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

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

What can Europe do to support the Smallholder Strategy?

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

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

GABRIEL EICKHOFF
@GABEOTRON

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

DARYLL
@DARYLL_READS

Very well-facilitated smallholders session. Good to hear frank acknowledgement of human rights challenges faced by smallholders. #EURT2017
For the first time at a RSPO European Conference, human and labour rights were discussed, reflecting the palm oil industry’s evolved understanding and position to address complexities through collaboration and partnership.
This panel debate addressed the main risks surrounding people and human rights in the palm oil industry. Discussion centered around the industry’s approach to risk management and the role of businesses in advancing respect for human rights.

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

Avoiding risks and human rights violations to palm oil workers, their families and local communities, formed key parts of the discussion. The panel asserted that the next step will be looking at how the industry, together with the relevant stakeholders, can work in collaboration to find and deliver effective solutions.
UNICEF shared plans for a partnership programme with RSPO which seeks to access and better understand business impacts on children in the palm oil sector, with a focus on identifying the underlying root causes of child labour and key drivers of issues. Delegates learnt that palm oil impacts go beyond child labour, often spilling into other areas of family life.

“It’s important for the industry to acknowledge the social issues it faces, if we want to find sustainable solutions. The partnership with UNICEF represents an opportunity to collaborate, promote best practices across the industry and address some of the existing gaps in our sector”, said Darrel Webber, Chief Executive Officer of RSPO.
As a multi-stakeholder partnership, RSPO places heavy emphasis on working collaboratively across the palm oil supply chain. This was echoed by panellists, who shared an array of new innovations and partnerships that will ultimately drive commitments to 100% sustainable palm oil, and ensure the palm oil sector can play its role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
The final plenary of the event drew together the conference themes - partnership and innovation. The panel observed that whilst partnerships can be challenging and complicated, meaningful participation enables organisations to avoid making the same mistakes of the past. RSPO’s partnership with Global Forest Watch to build on big data in order to take action was discussed, alongside work that the BOS Foundation is undertaking with palm oil companies.

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

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

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

The development of the complaints procedure was an area that the Complaints Panel were keen to discuss with the adoption of interim measures being a vital step forward. Frazer Lanier, Citibank, advised that the system is still being worked through, and the new procedures are there to make the panel more efficient, possess greater expertise and create opportunities for a more inclusive process. Michelle Desilets, Orangutan Land Trust, further corroborated this by outlining the reality and opportunity for development for the Complaints Panel as ‘many cases set a precedent.’
In early 2017 RSPO PalmTrace, the new RSPO traceability system for certified palm oil products, was introduced. In this session, presented by UTZ, the fundamentals of the system were explained.

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

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

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

THEORY OF CHANGE

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

In this lively workshop, participants contributed towards the development of the RSPO Theory of Change, which will also be used as part of the Principles & Criteria 2018 Review to leverage efforts.
In the last year, the biggest growth markets for CSPO production were in Gabon, Columbia and Honduras. Whilst the Book and Claim model is incredibly important for market inclusivity, especially in these new emerging markets, it is encouraging to see significant growth in physical sales of CSPO. Stefano Savi, Global Outreach & Engagement Director, also shared news of positive increases in RSPO membership and ACOP submissions, demonstrating the progress RSPO is making, especially in Europe, in connecting with the broader supply chain to drive market transformation. Time-bound plans are an important feature of ACOP reporting and it was reassuring to see European members’ goals remain set to achieve targets ahead of 2020.
Coverage of the European Roundtable includes 18 articles across Europe, most of which came from English-language media (9) and Italian media (6). Other countries include the Netherlands and Germany.

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<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Spiegel</td>
<td>Unicef hilft umstrittener Palmölorganisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>PROCESS</td>
<td>BASF treibt Produktion zertifizierter Palmölprodukte voran</td>
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<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Food Holland</td>
<td>CNV Internationaal: ‘Veel mis met mensenrechten op Indonesische palmolieplantages’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>VMT</td>
<td>Vijfde editie van de Europese rondetafel over palmolie moet het Europese CSPO doel ondersteunen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>VMT</td>
<td>Groei aantal RSPO-leden, meer voortgangsrapportages duurzame palmolie</td>
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<td>UK/Int.</td>
<td>Cosmetics Design Europe</td>
<td>Collaborating for sustainable palm oil: Cargill gives perspective</td>
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<td>RSPO launches new palm oil data as membership soars</td>
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<td>Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil reports surge in new members</td>
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<td>BASF Strengthens Sustainable Production of Certified Palm Oil Products</td>
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<td>Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil Europe conference Europe highlights partnerships</td>
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<td>Palm Oil Industry Facing Up to Sustainability Issues</td>
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<td>Food Navigator</td>
<td>Palm oil sector moves to save orangutans and put child rights into RSPO standards</td>
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<td>Sostenibilità: Rsopo-Unicef insieme per diritti minori filiera olio di palma</td>
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<td>L’olio di palma è sempre più “sostenibile”. E se lo dice l’Unicef…</td>
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<td>Italia in prima linea per un olio di palma 100% sostenibile</td>
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RSPO ran a social media campaign leading up to the 5th European Roundtable. It was the most successful campaign to date, with a 55% increase in engagement on the day against activity at the 2016 conference. The #EURT2017 hashtag achieved a total reach of over 1 million.

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

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

DARYLL @DARYLL_READS

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

ANNIE ADAMS @ANEADMSSUSTTRD

Had some great discussions on jurisdictional approach & smallholders. Raising the floor. #TheoryofChange #EUR2017

BOS FOUNDATION @BORNEAN_OU

#BOSF wants oil palm companies to commit to engage in a partnership with other stakeholders. #EUR2017

CÉCILE SCHNEIDER @CCILSCHNDR

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

KARIMAH HUDDA @KARIMAHHUDDA

@danimorle @ZSLSPOTT Thank you for organizing this. Incredibly memorable! #EUR2017

PHYLLIS KONG @PHYLLISKONG

Great NGO speakers. Great debate on #HumanRights in #palm oil sector. Lots to be done by business starting from #duediligence #EUR2017 #RSPO

JENNY BRIGGS @JENNYMBRIGGS

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

IAN REMOND @4APES

Good 2c @grasunep award-winner Dr. Jamartin Sihite of @bornean_OU report successful collaboration w #palmoil company 4 #orangutans #EUR2017

CAT BARTON @CAT_BARPLES

Collaboration and partnerships needed to drive impacts #eur2017
More interviews with our speakers and delegates can be found on the official RSPO Vimeo channel.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

GOLD PARTNERS

- BASF
- European Palm Oil Alliance

SILVER PARTNERS

- Cargill
- CONTROL UNION
- Kao
- MUSIM MAS

RECEPTION PARTNERS

CRODA

EXHIBITORS

- ZSL
- LET’S WORK FOR WILDLIFE
- BOS
The RSPO is an international non-profit organization formed in 2004 with the objective to promote the growth and use of sustainable oil palm products through credible global standards and engagement of stakeholders.

www.rspo.org