



**ZSL**  
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FOR WILDLIFE

**2019**

APRIL 2019

# COMMITTED TO SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL?

## ANALYSIS OF 2018 ACOP REPORTING BY RSPO MEMBER COMPANIES

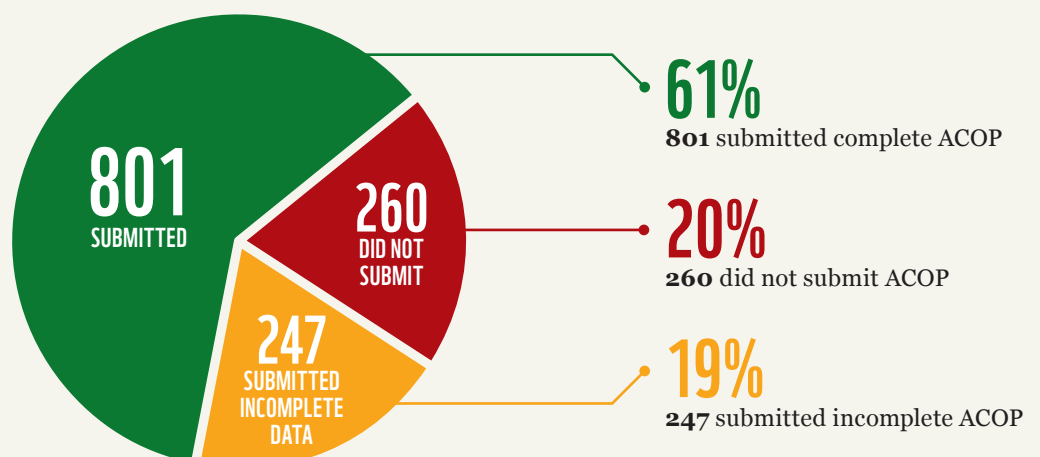
The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) unites thousands of stakeholders from across the palm oil industry to develop and implement global standards for sustainable palm oil. Ordinary and Affiliate members are required to submit an Annual Communication of Progress (ACOP) report each year to gauge progress towards the shared vision of “making sustainable palm oil the norm”. But an analysis of 2018 ACOP reporting by WWF and Zoological Society of London (ZSL) casts serious doubt over company commitments to produce, trade, and purchase sustainable palm oil.



### The analysis found that:

- Several companies have made pledges to source deforestation- and exploitation-free palm oil by 2020 including to become 100% RSPO certified, yet most of them are far from reaching their targets, and many other RSPO members have set far less ambitious targets.
- RSPO member companies are failing to abide by their membership obligations, with over a third of member companies either not reporting to the RSPO or reporting incomplete data in their ACOP reports. This lack of transparency prohibits accurate assessment of the RSPO's progress and the progress of its members against their commitments.
- Companies that are serious about their commitments to palm oil sustainability should report complete and accurate information in their 2019 ACOP reports.
- The RSPO must tighten and enforce requirements for companies to regularly report accurate information in their ACOPs.

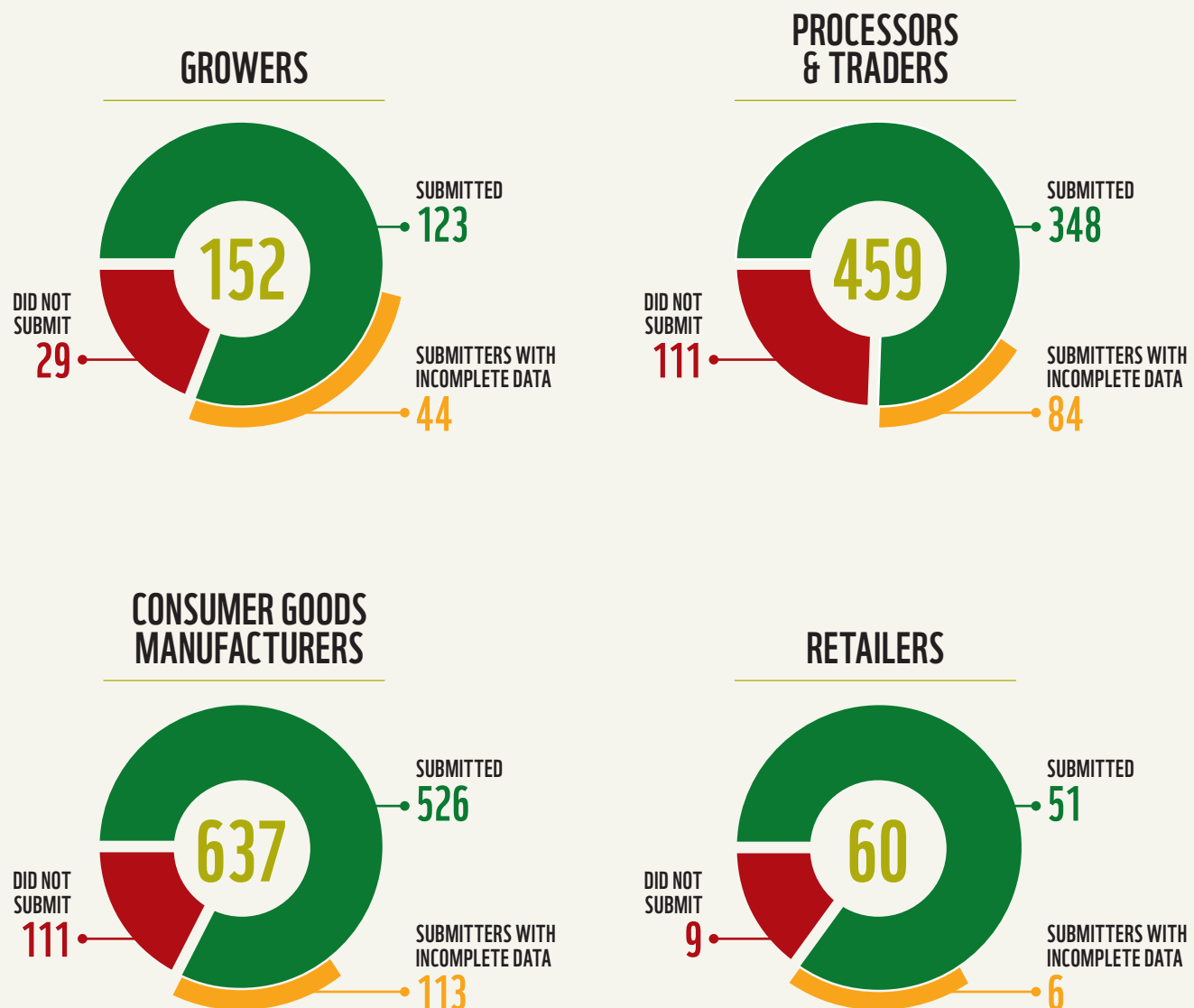
### 1308 RSPO company members were required to submit an ACOP in 2018:



## MISSING AND INCOMPLETE DATA IN ACOP REPORTS

A lack of robust reporting prevents accurate tracking of progress of RSPO company members:

- One in five RSPO company members did not submit their ACOP in 2018 for the reporting period January-December 2017.
- Of those who did submit an ACOP, almost one-quarter reported incomplete data.
- In 2018, the RSPO suspended 45 companies and terminated the membership of a further four companies for failure to submit their ACOPs.
- RSPO members are suspended for non-submission of ACOP reports for two consecutive years and terminated after three consecutive years, but this also effectively means that companies can “dodge” annual reporting and have shirked this responsibility without consequence.



## COMPANIES CURRENTLY 100% RSPO CERTIFIED

Progress towards 100% RSPO certification is variable across company sectors and difficult to verify:

- Less than one-fifth of company members claimed to be 100% certified by the end of 2017.
- Retailers are leading the way, with over half reporting 100% usage of certified palm oil for their own brand products, compared to one-quarter of consumer goods manufacturers.
- Upstream members report the least progress, where just 8% of growers and 9% of processors and traders report being 100% certified.
- A further 29 growers report a certified area that is greater than their total reported landbank. This discrepancy makes it difficult to confirm the accuracy of their reporting.
- Failure by members from all sectors to accurately report on volumes makes it impossible to assess whether actions to produce, trade and purchase by all sectors are commensurate.

### GROWERS

TOTAL = 152



**12** GROWERS  
100% CERTIFIED

### PROCESSORS & TRADERS

TOTAL = 459



**40** PROCESSORS  
& TRADERS  
100% CERTIFIED

### CONSUMER GOODS MANUFACTURERS

TOTAL = 637



**162** CONSUMER GOODS  
MANUFACTURERS  
100% CERTIFIED

### RETAILERS

TOTAL = 60



**31** RETAILERS  
100% CERTIFIED

## LOW NUMBER OF RSPO COMPANY MEMBERS WITH TARGETS TO BE 100% RSPO CERTIFIED BY 2020



## PROGRESS BY COMPANIES IN MEETING THEIR COMMITMENTS

The disappointingly low number of RSPO company members with targets to be 100% RSPO certified by 2020 or earlier, and slow progress reported against even these targets, calls in to question how RSPO company members will meet and verify supply chains as deforestation-free by 2020:

- Less than a fifth of member companies have commitments to produce and/or source 100% RSPO-certified palm oil by 2020 or earlier.
- Of the 43 growers with time-bound plans to produce 100% certified by 2020 or earlier, 44% report no landbank certified by end of 2017.
- Over one-quarter of processors and traders and one-fifth of consumer goods manufacturers that have a commitment to be 100% certified by 2020 or earlier report 0% certified volumes.
- Whilst only one in six retailers have time-bound plans to be 100% certified by 2020 or earlier, three-quarters of those with this target report certified volumes greater than 87% and the rest have made some progress.
- The remaining companies either have a target beyond 2020, no time-bound commitment to be 100% certified, or have missed but not updated their target date.

### ABOUT WWF

WWF is one of the world's largest and most respected independent conservation organizations with a mission to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

**panda.org**

The WWF Palm Oil Buyers Scorecard assesses manufacturer and retailer commitments and actions for sustainable palm oil and helps build a culture of transparency around palm oil use. **palmoilscorecard.panda.org/**

### ABOUT ZSL

ZSL (Zoological Society of London) is an international conservation charity working to create a world where wildlife thrives. **zsl.org**

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