

# RSPO Supply Chain Certification

Join the responsible palm oil market

There is an ever-urgent need and a growing global concern that palm oil is produced without causing harm to the environment or local communities.

The **Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) Supply Chain Certification** sets out requirements for responsible palm oil production.

It helps reduce the risk of contributing to deforestation and social injustice while creating access to a new market of responsibly sourced products.

With the RSPO Supply Chain Certification, your company **can join the responsible palm oil market**, so desired by consumers.

This pressure has also led to certification being a more common requirement in both public and private tenders.

## Certification throughout the supply chain



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RSPO certification helps supply chain companies demonstrate their **responsible commitment** to sourcing and producing responsible palm oil, along with promoting and selling certified products.

This applies to palm oil mills, crushers, farms, processors and traders, consumer goods manufacturers and retailers of palm oil products.

## RSPO supply chain models

RSPO-certified palm oil or palm oil derivatives can be sourced through four different supply chain models.

**Identity Preserved:** RSPO Certified Sustainable Palm Oil from a single identifiable certified source that is kept separately from ordinary palm oil throughout the supply chain.

**Segregated:** RSPO Certified Sustainable Palm Oil from different certified sources that are kept separate from ordinary palm oil throughout the supply chain.

**Mass Balance:** RSPO Certified Sustainable Palm Oil from certified sources that is mixed with ordinary palm oil throughout the supply chain.

**RSPO Credits/Book & Claim:** Manufacturers and retailers can buy RSPO Credits and RSPO Independent Smallholder Credits from RSPO Certified growers, crushers and independent smallholders. By purchasing RSPO Credits, buyers encourage the production of Certified Sustainable Palm Oil.

## Working with Preferred by Nature

We have a **track record of experience** in responsible sourcing, including expertise related to outsourced processes and multi-site and group certification, and can assist you in finding the right type of certification for your business. Preferred by Nature is a recognised RSPO Certification Body for RSPO SCC.



RSPO trademark enables consumers to easily identify those brands and products that are sourcing responsibly produced palm oil.



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## Your sustainability service choice

You can also choose **additional services** to underpin your corporate responsibility efforts.

Here are a few **options**:

- ✓ Understanding risks across supply chains. Our [Sourcing Hub](#) offers risk assessments for palm oil, free due diligence tools and other resources helpful in mapping and handling risks in your supply chains. Our risk assessments cover 82% of global palm oil production.
- ✓ Taking a stand for our climate with [Preferred by Nature Carbon Footprint Management certification](#). The integrated support approach to carbon footprint management provides the necessary knowledge, tools and methods required to help you better manage and verify GHG emissions across your business, products or specific projects.
- ✓ Elevate your commitment to responsible supply chains by combining your RSPO Supply Chain certification with the Rainforest Alliance and/or Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC™) Chain of Custody certifications.
- ✓ Seeking sustainable solutions? We offer expertise across various commodities and land use sectors. Our [Tailored Services](#) can assist your company at any supply chain stage, for any commodities or sectors, and throughout your sustainability journey.

## The Preferred by Nature Certification

The [Preferred by Nature Certification](#), based on the Sustainability Framework, draws from several existing international sustainability schemes and aligns with applicable aspects of the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) and the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

The certification consolidates the essential aspects of sustainability across commodities and landscapes,

offering a performance-oriented foundation for delivering real impacts.

Our methodology adopts a risk-based approach supported by commodity-specific guidance. Whether you are a small-scale forest operator or a large manufacturer sourcing palm oil, our framework is a building block for continuous improvement.

We offer certification options for Land Use, Chain of Custody and Due Diligence. Already certified against another scheme? Use Preferred by Nature Certification to complement your existing certification. With add-on certification options, our audit can integrate seamlessly with your current audits, reducing duplication and streamlining the certification process.

## Experience counts

Preferred by Nature is an international organisation working to support better land management and business practices that benefit people, nature and climate in 100+ countries.

For **30 years**, we have been working to foster sustainable land use and responsible trade in climate and forest commodities.

We have certified over **33 million** hectares of forests and agricultural lands and over **1 million** foresters and farmers.

We engage in comprehensive work within the palm oil sector, encompassing capacity building, risk assessments and certification. Our efforts are focused on facilitating the integration of producers into responsible supply chains, and upholding community and environmental standards.

Through certification and tailored services, we aim to harmonise palm oil production with sustainable practices that respect ecosystems and human rights.

Our commitment extends to advancing sustainable palm oil practices through collaboration with producers and industry stakeholders.

As an organisation, you can make an impact on reducing the negative social and environmental impact of conventional palm oil cultivation through producing and sourcing certified responsible palm oil.



## 5 steps to certification



In consultation with Preferred by Nature, you will define the scope of your certificate. An information pack will be provided to you by Preferred by Nature.



You will develop a Supply Chain procedure and ensure that your staff is trained and instructed to follow it.



A Supply Chain audit will be conducted, typically on-site. This involves interviewing your staff, reviewing documentation, and visiting your sites, production and storage facilities. Any identified non-conformities will be documented, and all non-conformities must be corrected before the certificate can be issued.



We will prepare a report summarising the audit findings, which will undergo a quality check.



Upon receiving a positive result, we will issue you a Supply Chain certificate, valid for a five-year period.

## RSPO Supply Chain Certification

### What is RSPO Supply Chain Certification?

RSPO Supply Chain Certification (SCC) is an essential part of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) scheme for certification and labelling of responsibly produced palm oil products. Its main purpose is to control the flow of certified products throughout the supply chain. As such, your auditor will focus on procurement, processing, volume accounting, sales and labelling of certified material to ensure the integrity of RSPO claims and trademark usage.

Preferred by Nature holds accreditation for RSPO Supply Chain certification and in the process for RSPO Principles and Criteria. Our accreditation scope is described [here](#).

### What are the key roles and responsibilities within the RSPO system?

The [Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil \(RSPO\)](#) is a global, multi-stakeholder initiative focused on sustainable palm oil. RSPO members and participants come from many diverse backgrounds and countries. They are plantation companies, processors, traders, consumer goods manufacturers, retailers of palm oil products, financial institutions, environmental and social NGOs. The RSPO vision is to "transform the markets by making sustainable palm oil the norm".

### What does the certification process entail?

A [certification agreement](#) must be signed before Preferred by Nature initiates the certification process. RSPO certificates are valid for five years. We conduct an initial assessment as a basis for your certification. Once you have signed the certification agreement with Preferred by Nature, you will need to [become an RSPO member](#) before you can proceed with the certification process. Following this, you need to prepare for certification by ensuring compliance with all the certification requirements. This includes assigning responsibilities, developing chain of custody procedures and training relevant staff. Preferred by Nature assigns a contact person who will be available to respond to your questions during the audit process.

We recommend that you submit documented procedures to Preferred by Nature for review before the main evaluation. After the audit, we prepare a written report describing the results. Any identified non-conformities are also described, and all non-conformities must be corrected within three months before the certificate can be issued; otherwise, a new audit will be required. The report then undergoes a quality review. Upon a positive certification decision, we will submit the audit report and draft certificate to RSPO for their review and approval. Following RSPO approval, we will send you the certificate and the [RSPO public database](#) will include your certificate data. Annual audits and a renewal of our annual licence are required to maintain certification.

### Which certification standards apply to my organisation?

The main [RSPO SCC Certification Standard \(RSPO Supply Chain Certification Standard version 1, February 2020\)](#) applies to all supply chain-certified companies and sets out general requirements for material handling. Within this main standard, individual criteria may or may not apply to every company, depending on the activities performed at each certified site. The [RSPO Rules on Market Communications and Claims Standard \(version 4, October 2022\)](#) regulates RSPO trademark usage and are mandatory for all RSPO members when making any communication about RSPO membership and the use of RSPO certified palm oil products.





### How can I maintain my active certification status?

During the certification validity period, you need to undergo annual audits where we verify your continued compliance. The annual audits will focus on any weaknesses identified during previous evaluations and on your fulfilment of the certification requirements.

Preferred by Nature and/or RSPO may conduct additional audits without announcements, for example if we have reason to suspect a major breach of the certification rules. In between audits, you need to notify us about any important changes in your organisation.

### How can I change the certification scope?

You need to notify Preferred by Nature in any of the following situations which may require formal changes in the scope of your certificate: additional product lines which you wish to sell as certified; use of new types of inputs not covered by your current certification scope; changes in the system used for controlling claims; and expansion or removal of sites or production area covered by the certificate. An additional audit is normally required for scope changes outside the scheduled annual/certification audits.

### When is a certification terminated?

Your certificate may be withdrawn for these reasons: failure to sufficiently address the issues leading to suspension within the suspension period; failure to undergo renewal assessment within the suspension period after addressing the issues leading to suspension; failure to address one or more major NCRs by the specified timeline; deliberate fraud or very serious breaches of the certification requirements; and failure to undergo renewed assessment prior to certificate expiration.

### What is the procedure for complaints and appeals?

For complaints management, all complaints and appeals will be processed using the Preferred by Nature's [Dispute Resolution Policy](#).

### What is the cost structure?

The total certification cost includes auditing services and the Preferred by Nature RSPO programme fee. Auditing fees vary based on company size and complexity, as specified in our proposal.

### Where can I find the rights and duties of Preferred by Nature and my company, as the client, related to the certification activities?

To learn about Preferred by Nature and Clients' rights and duties, please check the [Preferred by Nature Certification Agreement](#).

### Which trademarks can be used?

The RSPO logo and trademarks can be applied to certified products and used for promotional purposes if you are SCC certified and have signed an RSPO Trademark License Agreement. This agreement will be granted upon your acceptance as an RSPO member.

### What about impartiality and confidentiality?

Preferred by Nature's Quality Management System includes [several policies](#) that allow our organisation to provide assurance services credibly in compliance with accreditation requirements. These include the [Impartiality Policy](#), which ensures impartiality, transparency and independence in all of our activities, and the [Confidentiality Policy](#), describing our rigorous approach to safeguarding confidential data and information provided by our clients.



Get in touch with us

[www.preferredbynature.org/contact-us](http://www.preferredbynature.org/contact-us)

FSC™ A000535 / FSC accredited certification body

