



APSColombia, the best ally of the European Union in the implementation of the EUDR

Europe, May 2024, Fedepalma (National Federation of Oil Palm Growers of Colombia)

#countryvoluntarystandard #sustainablecolombianpalmoil
#eudrcompliant #smallholdersinclusion #accesstomarket

APSColombia, Sustainable Palm Oil from Colombia, is an initiative that contributes to consolidating our sustainable origin and making Colombia and the world aware of the efforts of thousands of palm oil producers who strive every day to bring out a unique and differentiated oil^{i,ii}.

Our ambition is for Colombian palm oil to be recognized and sought after, nationally and internationally, for its distinctive sustainability attributes.

¿Why is it relevant to the European market?

APSColombia is our national initiative based on the Colombian context and legal framework, incorporating high sustainability standards and requirements such as respect for the environment, communities, human rights, decent work, and property rights, among others.

It is the best path and instrument in Colombia to ensure compliance with our responsibilities to the planet and the aspirations of different markets and stakeholders.

¿How and when did it arise?

It is an initiative conceived by palm oil producers in 2018, initially as the Sustainable Palm Oil Program of Colombia, which later took shape and consolidated into a strategy aimed at ensuring sustainability at origin and differentiation in markets.

For this purpose, the 10 principles of Sustainable Palm Oil of Colombia were definedⁱⁱⁱ, a Sustainability Index was implemented as a measurement and monitoring mechanism^{iv}, and standards were developed to ensure compliance with sustainability practices in cultivation^v and processing plants^{vi}.

	<p>1 A productive, competitive, and resilient industry</p>		<p>2 Appropriate and efficient use of water, and energy</p>
	<p>3 Zero deforestation and no conversion of High Conservation Value (HCV) areas</p>		<p>4 Oil palm crops in harmony with biodiversity and natural environment</p>
	<p>5 Pollution prevention and mitigation</p>		<p>6 Value creation with oil palm biomass</p>
	<p>7 Decent work and respect for workers' rights</p>		<p>8 Responsible supply chains and inclusive business models</p>
	<p>9 Responsible community relations and protection of human rights</p>		<p>10 Ethical, legal, and transparent behavior</p>



Conozca los 10 Principios del Aceite de Palma Sostenible de Colombia



¿How have we implemented it?

The success of our initiative is based on the drive to do things right from the beginning, for our palm oil producers and extraction plants to adopt the best sustainability practices. To achieve this, we have strengthened our Technical Assistance, monitoring, and gap closure mechanisms.

The next step is the implementation of national standards and the voluntary third-party certification model, which ensures compliance with sustainability practices and legal requirements.

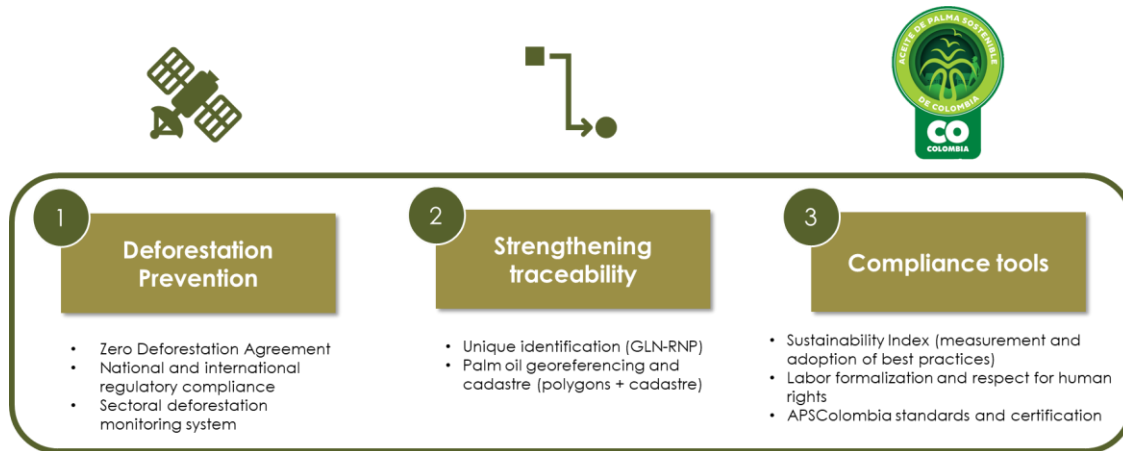
Colombian palm oil is recognized and sought in markets for its **unique sustainability attributes**.

Roadmap to sustainability



To achieve this, we promoted the creation of an independent organization, the **APSColombia Corporation**, with its own governance bodies and multi-stakeholder participation, which is responsible for administering the standards to ensure compliance third-party certification scheme was implemented, starting with ICONTEC (Colombia's standardization and quality institution), and additional certifying bodies, like Control Union since 2024, thus ensuring the independence and guarantee of our sustainability value proposition.

Finally, we are improving the traceability of the Colombian palm oil sector through the geolocation of all polygons of oil palm farms, not just palm plots, and the establishment of a satellite monitoring system for oil palm-associated deforestation with the Dutch firm Satelligence, as a complement to the efforts of Colombia's national environmental technical institution, IDEAM.



¿What is its affinity level with the EUDR?

APSColombia implements evaluation criteria and procedures that provide buyers with conclusive information that Colombian palm oil is free from deforestation and complies with national legislation, in accordance with Article 9 of the EUDR.

As a national initiative born out of and committed by producers, to consolidate the country as a sustainable origin, it aims for a low country risk rating for the palm oil supply chain.

APSColombia conducts legal and corporate risk analyses for each certified producer, facilitating the buyer's risk analysis in their supply chain.

APSColombia is a relevant, reliable, and inclusive pathway to ensure that small-scale farmers meet requirements and have access to markets.



EUDR Requirements

- Article 1. Definitions of forest and deforestation
- Article 3. Assurance of deforestation-free product
- Article 3. Assurance of production in accordance with the country's regulations
- Articles 8 and 9. Due diligence and information requirements





APSColombia Alignment

- 100% alignment
NE001 - Sections 3.6, 3.12, 4.3.1.2
NE 002 - Sections 3.4, 3.11, 4.3.1.1
- 100% alignment
NE001-Sections 4.3.1.1 at 4.3.1.3
NE 002-Sections 4.3.1.1 at 4.3.1.3
- 100% alignment
NE-001 y NE001-Principles 2, 3, 4, 5 y 10 (complete Principles); Sections 4.7.1.1 at 4.7.6.1; 4.8.1.1; 4.9.1.1 at 4.9.3.3
- Second and third-party evaluation and certification protocol:
 - Provides conclusive evidence and data of compliance with the mentioned requirements
 - Supports operator's risk assessment and mitigation

Delivered impact

- First productive sector in Colombia to sign a **Zero Deforestation Agreement** in the supply chain^{vii}.
- **Baseline of oil palm-associated deforestation** with official figures from 2011-2020^{viii,ix}
- **99% of palm crops are deforestation-free** from 2011-2023. First productive sector in Colombia with a deforestation monitoring system. Monitoring of >18.5 million hectares with Satelligence^x.
- More than 1,700 geolocated **polygons of 24% oil palm farms** (2023).
- **13%** (310 producers) **of CPO** (Crude palm oil) produced in Colombia Certified APSColombia in just over a year^{xi}.
- **20% of CPO** production certified under the APSColombia standard estimated by the end of 2024.
- **65% of certified producers are small-scale** (200 producers, up to 20 hectares), with 31% women.
- The **governance scheme** of the sustainable origin model includes different stakeholders: palm oil producers, NGOs, traders, industry, and research centers.

<p>Geolocated polygons Advance December 2023</p>  <p>24%</p> <p>100% total oil palm plantations to 2024</p>	<p>Goal: 7000</p> <p>Advance: +1700 polygons</p>
<p>100% oil palm crops deforestation-free</p>	<p>99% (December 2023)</p>
 <p>+5,000 producers certified (100% smallholders) under APSColumbia to 2026</p>	<p>310 producers certified under APSColumbia (December 2022 to April 2024)</p> <p>65% certified smallholders (up to 20 hectares)</p>

Challenges & Opportunities

- Ensuring the **inclusion and support of oil palm growers**, especially smallholders in the adoption of best practices. Without them, there is no relevant due diligence scheme, neither in Colombia nor globally.
- Ensuring the **certification of all smallholders** and their integration with due diligence processes and market access.
- Ensuring the **shared responsibility of other stakeholders** in the palm oil value chain for preferring, recognizing, and promoting the visibility of sustainable Colombian palm oil.
- **Guaranteeing the security and confidentiality of producer's information**, particularly in schemes like the EUDR, and harmonizing them with national data protection regulations.

¿Who are We?

Fedepalma is the National Federation of Oil Palm Growers in Colombia. It's a growers organization representing the interests of Colombian oil palm growers and extraction mills. Its main objective is to promote the sustainable development of the oil palm agroindustry in Colombia by encouraging good agricultural, environmental, and social practices, as well as research and innovation in the sector. Fedepalma also works to defend the rights of oil palm growers and promote public policies favourable to the industry's development.

Additional Information:

Fedepalma: <https://fedepalma.org/>

APSColombia Corporation: <https://apscolombia.co/>

Cenipalma: <https://www.cenipalma.org>

Presidencia@fedepalma.org



ⁱ Sustainability Report of the Oil Palm Sector 2018-2021:

<https://repositorio.fedepalma.org/handle/123456789/141555#page=1>

ⁱⁱ Key Sustainability Results of the Colombian Palm Oil Sector 2023:

<https://repositorio.fedepalma.org/handle/123456789/142879#page=2>

ⁱⁱⁱ 10 Principios del Aceite de Palma Sostenible de Colombia:

<https://repositorio.fedepalma.org/handle/123456789/141296#page=1>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GcVnuEE5rC4>

^{iv} Índice de Sostenibilidad y principios de la producción de aceite de palma sostenible en Colombia: chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.cenipalma.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/3.1-Alcibiades-Hinestroza_Ximena-Mahecha.pdf

^v Estándar de producción de aceite de palma sostenible de Colombia. Cultivo:

<https://repositorio.fedepalma.org/handle/123456789/142816#page=1>

^{vi} Estándar producción de aceite de palma sostenible de Colombia. Planta de beneficio:

<https://repositorio.fedepalma.org/handle/123456789/142817#page=1>

^{vii} Cero deforestación en Colombia: ABC de las cadenas cero deforestación de palma, cacao, carne y leche en Colombia: chrome-

extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.tropicalforestalliance.org/assets/Uploads/ABC-Cadenas-0-deforestacion-Col_FINAL.pdf

^{viii} Línea base de la deforestación 2011-2017 cultivo de Palma de aceite africana: chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://archivo.minambiente.gov.co/images/BosquesBiodiversidadyServiciosEcosistemicos/pdf/Acuerdo_cero_deforestacion/L%C3%ADnea_base_deforestaci%C3%B3n_PPT_rev_dic2020.pdf. <https://repositorio.fedepalma.org/handle/123456789/141364#page=1>

^{ix} El sector palmicultor NO es un motor de deforestación en Colombia: <https://repositorio.fedepalma.org/handle/123456789/141559#page=1>

^x Monitoreo nacional de deforestación en Colombia asociada a palma de aceite a partir de sensores remotos: chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.cenipalma.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/3.-Monitoreo-nacional-de-deforestacion-en-Colombia-a-partir-de-sensores-remotos-Stephania-Zabala.pdf

^{xi} Since December 2022 up to Abril 2024.